

FREEDOM

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It is important to know what freedom is and how it is accomplished. It is not just by the rejection of error, but to know a thing is not true. It is the individual alone who can make evil an unreality. Actually, freedom begins with the rejection of error. Freedom comes to the beholder first, and this is divine freedom -- the only freedom there is.

What is freedom? There are many opinions but Christian Science supplies the only answer. A Christian Scientist understands freedom. Divine Science interprets "I am free." It must be freedom, not license.

Thought, loosened from a material basis but not yet instructed by Science, may become wild with freedom and so be self-contradictory. (S&H 552:19-21)

Freedom is subjective, individual, divine reality, or God individually understood -- God expressing Himself. Because this individual is one with God, it is God individually appearing.

Paul said, I was free born. Mrs. Eddy says, He is my individuality and my Life. (Un 48:8-9) In Ezekiel we read, I will overturn, overturn, overturn it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him. (Ezek 21:27)

Freedom has come to the individual who is knowing that the I Am is his true individuality. We must establish it for the world. Freedom to be fact must be expressed. And God said: Let there be freedom and there was freedom. (A paraphrase)

Webster defines freedom as self-determination: spiritual fulfillment. Freedom is the determination, which recognizes God as the only I Am.

Freedom is positive. Never have freedom from something. Freedom from is human reasoning. Freedom as understood in Christian Science is to be free to think true thoughts, to express them and live accordingly. Freedom is not just to get away from sin, sickness, inharmony, but to express health, holiness, harmony. The determination to know as Mind does free the whole world. Voluntary action as Mind is freedom.

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth,

the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. And when they were past the first and second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. (Acts 12:5-11)

Now, the whole thing was Peter's recognition that he was free, - - recognizing Mind as his being. What is bondage? The opposite of freedom. Servitude to something outside oneself. The Outside, however, is really the inside pushed out. One is never in bondage to anything if he knows who he is.

Unlike mortal mind, which must be ever in bondage, the eternal Mind is free, unlimited, and knows not the temporal. (Mis 103:16-18) The lame, the deaf, the blind, the sick, the sensual, the sinner, I wished to save from the slavery of their own beliefs and from the educational systems of the Pharaohs, who today, as of yore, hold the children of Israel in bondage. (S&H 226:25-29)

The adult in bondage to his beliefs, no more comprehends his real being than does the child; and the adult must be taken out of his darkness, before he can get rid of the illusive suffering which throught the gloaming. The way of divine Science is the only way out of this condition. (S&H 371:14-19)

Even though you aver that the material senses are indispensable to man's existence or entity, you must change the human concept of life, and must at length know yourself spiritually and scientifically. (S&H 359:11-14)

We are not in bondage to anything we really know is not true. Ask yourself why are these so-called laws in effect on the outside? It must be something on the inside -- it must be that one has not let go of some false belief on the inside. Do you think this is not so? How about hate, resentment, sensitiveness, human will, worry, fear, criticism, and so forth. Have you dropped all of these?

Freedom is not having things your way, but Mind's way. When you must be positive concerning something, ask yourself, is this the will of God? Is this Principle? The power of the human will should be exercised only in subordination to

Truth; (S&H 206:4-5 to;)

Freedom is strong because it is the action of Mind, but not demanding. This idea of freedom takes tolerance -- knowing unreality of error -- remaining steadfast for the Truth and to stand for what is right.

Jesus wrought out in life practice. This calls for humility. Mind manifested is another name for true being or God's will done. It is the will of God understood. This must be our experience. All is the manifestation of divine Mind.

And I heard a voice of one that spake ... (Ezek 1:28) And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel. (Ezek 2:3) And the Lord spake unto him saying... I heard a voice behind me saying ... (Revelation)

These are all experiences of hearing the voice of God. In all these Bible experiences it must have been their recognition of the one Mind as their Mind which thought this. You and I, who have Christian Science, know that it is Mind speaking as the consciousness of the individual. Each individuality is Mind.

The following is a testimony from the C.S. Sentinel, June 2, 1945, by Roland H. Allen, West Newton, Mass.

On December 12, 1943, the first really cold day of the winter, I was working at my wartime job as a ship fitter at New England's largest shipyard. For several days I had been installing swash lids on the fuel tanks of a large combat vessel. The fuel tanks of warships are scattered along the bottom of the hull, occupying space not utilized for other purposes and separated from one another by bulkheads which are watertight and fireproof.

The most difficult and tiring part of my work resulted from this method of placement as it necessitated much crawling through cramped areas and numberless small openings known as escape holes. I had to pull an electric line of over 100 feet to many compartments where lids were required, to carry a welder's shield, an extension electric cord and a tool bag. On this particular day I thought I was going to finish the assignment by installing the last of thirty-nine lids, only to find when checking my work that somewhere I had missed one tank. This was very discouraging, for numb with cold from lying on the frigid steel, I was anxious to get through and so some other work that would allow me to stand up and move about.

I was tempted to leave the one lid undone and let someone else do it when it was found incomplete. It was my habit, thought, to complete my assignments before asking for another job. So I explored the whole ship's bottom and found that the tank I had missed was the one I should have done first, situated away up forward near the bow of the vessel.

I started installing the lid which necessitated my getting inside the tank through the escape hole, an opening of 15" x 23" because the swash lids open downward into the tanks.

I had to weld the hinges on which the lid swung, to the interior of the tank and to the lid. In order to locate the hinge correctly and to allow the lid to swing freely when opening

and closing, I had been instructed always to bolt the lid in place with the thirty-six bolts required to hold it and then weld on the hinge.

I tried to put the first bolt in place while holding the lid on top of my head with one hand, but I was so numb with cold and so tired from crawling so far with my equipment that I could not accomplish this simple act until the eighth attempt. Finally, the threads of the first bolt caught and I soon had enough bolts to hold the lid in place. Then, when I looked for my wrench to tighten the bolts I discovered that somewhere along the way I had dropped it. I was faced with the choice of taking the lid down and crawling back through the inner bottom of the ship until I found the wrench or going ahead with the work by tightening the bolts as much as I could with my fingers and welding the hinge on. I decided on the latter course.

When the welding was finished, I was ready to leave, satisfied that the work was properly done. I found that the bolts I had put on with my fingers would not come out! The welding had caused a distortion of the steel which had added a strain somewhere and I was a prisoner by my own hand.

Instantly sensing the seriousness of my position I realized I had to demonstrate for myself the truths I had so often professed. Many aggressive mental suggestions came to my consciousness. I met each one with its counter fact. The first scientific thought that came to me was the subject of the Lesson-sermon to be read the next day, God, the Preserver of Man.

I never let go of that one fact, and I worked as I had been taught. When Satan whispered that I was alone and no help will come, I knew that God was infinite, ever-present, and that therefore, I was not alone. Again, the whisper came that it was four degrees above zero and now Saturday noon. If I didn't get out by 3 pm I'd be here until 7 am Monday morning. Could I survive? Then the truth came to my consciousness, God is your life; you cannot die.

A fierce mental battle was fought in my consciousness inside that cold tank. It was not ended easily or very rapidly. Aggressive mental suggestions sought to gain control over me by fear. Thank God I knew the counter facts of every lie!

All the while, I was striving to twist the bolts out with my fingers, working at one and then another to find one I could move. Picking up my electric light to examine the bolts, I saw threads of flesh clinging to the heads of the bolts. Looking at my fingers, I saw torn flesh. I had felt no pain. My fear of imprisonment was greater than my sense of pain and overshadowed it.

The devil prompted me to scream, to pound on the steel, to seek another opening, to use my welding rod to burn the bolts off; but I knew that no one could hear. Rivet guns were roaring down aft somewhere on the hull. I started to crawl into the other compartment of the tank, but my fear of leaving the comfort of my electric light and the knowledge that there was no other escape hole put an end to that temptation. Wisdom told me that I have never tried burning a bolt away. It has been done, but I didn't know how. If I fail to burn it through and add weld to the bolt, I would be welded in.

I was still striving to twist the bolts out. It finally came to me that I must stop my human efforts and trust wholly in God. It required an actual physical effort to take my hands away from the bolts. But I finally put them down in my lap and then I spoke to God. I said, "God, I am listening."

The change was wonderful. A message from an article written by Adam Dickey, God's Law of Adjustment, came to me. The statement was "If a man were drowning in mid-ocean with apparently no human help at hand, there is a law of God, which when rightly appealed to, would bring about a rescue."

With this thought came absolute calmness. a sense of peace, a certainty of God's nearness, a positive assurance of deliverance. I waited, and I heard the direction. "Take out the

pin in the hinge." Even as I moved to obey, the dark angel said, "What good will that do? The bolts hold the lid in the hinge." But there was no contest -- I knew the voice that I would follow.

I removed the pin from the hinge, dropped my hands into my lap and waited. Again the voice came, "Take out the bolt at the left." My fingers grasped the bolt at the left and strained to twist it. It moved. I took a new hold putting my whole effort into completing the turning until it came free. I continued removing one bolt after another until one remained that I could not move.

Again, I dropped my hands in my lap and waited. The words of a much loved hymn can best describe the amazement I felt as I saw my deliverance working out step by step -- I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou shouldst lead me on, I loved to choose and see my path, but now lead Thou me on.

The angel voice now said, "Pull down on the lid." The lid bent as I pulled with all my strength, so the hole was partly open. The impulse came to try to wedge my way through, but the right thought came in time -- "Don't try that. You will get caught part way and not be able to go ahead or back. Pull down again." This time there was more than the strength of muscles. The threads were stripped from the bolt, and the lid crashed into my lap. I was free! Looking out into the dark inner bottom of the ship I saw my welding line and extension light cord winding back the way I must go to get to the escape trunk and then up to the deck of the ship. I had felt the need to see that the way was unobstructed.

Then I saw back in the tank and silently praised God, rejoicing that Christian Science had given such power to man. I reviewed my many blessings and counted not least among them the class instruction I had received. My gratitude to Mrs. Eddy was profound and beyond words.

I installed the lid properly on the hinge and left the ship. When I arrived home, my wife met me and said, "I have been working all day for you to come home safely." She had felt my need and supplied it by right knowing and persistent declarations of the truth about me. I was so overcome with gratitude that it was hours before I could speak of what had occurred.

No other experience has given me the sense of nearness to God that I gained from this one. I felt His presence and followed his angel voices. I believe I have learned to recognize divine guidance.

And God spake all these words saying, I am the Lord thy God which have brought thee out. (Exodus 20:1)

There are three aspects to complete freedom:

First purify thought, then put thought into words, and words into deeds. (Misc 341:6-7)

Know the truth about person, place or thing. Know as Mind. Live and act as Mind. Train your thought to be conscious of who is talking (speaking) when we speak true ideas. Cease thinking of yourself or others as human beings. Know as Mind. Evaluate as Mind. There is no matter or material sense.

There are no restrictions; only one consciousness. It is infinite. Form this Truth into words.

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:14) For he taught them as one having authority and not as

the scribes. (Matt 7:29)

Saw ye my Savior? Heard ye the glad sound? / Felt ye the power of the Word?

T'was the Truth that made us free / And was found by you and me / In the life and the love of our Lord. (Poems 75)

The power of words expressing right ideas is dynamic, atomic. It is authority. Felt ye the power of the Word?

Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. (John 12:28,29)

We must understand the Voice. The power is knowing what it is that states it. Nothing can stop the life and vitality of Jesus' words. Freedom is the nature of Truth. Truth is the nature of Freedom. They are inseparable.

A few immortal sentences, breathing the omnipotence of divine justice, have been potent to break despotic fetters and abolish the whipping-post and slave market; but oppression never went down in blood, nor did the breath of freedom come from the cannon's mouth. Love is the liberator. (S&H 225:16-22)
And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32)

Let your life be the form of these subjective ideas. Let your body be the form of that idea of health. Home must be the form of the idea of harmony. Beauty the form of Soul. Church, business, practice, government -- all must be the form of these subjective ideas. This is expressing true freedom. It is the natural being of Mind, uncontaminated by error. Freedom of thought as Mind on the inside is expressed on the outside.

Immortal and divine Mind presents the idea of God: first, in light; second, in reflection; third, in spiritual and immortal forms of beauty and goodness. (S&H 503:20-22)

First: as light. The freedom as a divine idea. Second: expression of it. Third: the form appears. Each one's life is a monument to himself.

To discover Truth is a divine necessity. To discover God as the only Mind is a divine necessity. To discover our Mind is not human is a divine necessity. To discover that our outlook is always out from Mind is a divine necessity. To discover the reality of divine ideas is a divine necessity. Now, this is only half of the proposition. It must also be founded.

That which appears as a Christian Scientist is engaged in founding as well as discovering.

Infinite progression is concrete being, which finite mortals see and comprehend only as abstract glory. (Mis 82:20-21)

Concrete (Webster) not abstract or ideal, but real. (For example: health is real; that Lazarus was raised was real.)

Founding the divine ideas, which are revealed, seems to be the most difficult task. Discovery is beautiful. Founding does not seem as joyous.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. (John 16:12)

Keep founding in line. Keep up your vision. Unfold to see these mental collisions as unreal. Many left Jesus because the founding of what they had learned of Truth cost too much. They did not want to be persecuted for righteousness sake. The founding is my subjective being appearing.

How important are the tenets too you? Read carefully the fifth tenet:

We acknowledge that the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection served to uplift faith to understand eternal Life, even the allness of Soul, Spirit, and the nothingness of matter. (S&H 497:20)

You cannot run away from your consciousness. Don't leave an unfinished proposition. It will always be there until you solve it. If eventually, why not now? Sometimes this means waiting.

There is no freedom outside the Christian Science Movement.

And he went a little farther and fell on his face and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt. (Matt 26:39)

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)

The fifth tenet would do it. This action of thought may be termed crucifixion. It can be painless. To be able when necessary to lay down a false sense of friends, or of the C. S. Movement, or whatever the situation says, -- is Love -- laying down our life for our friends, but not necessary to suffer. It is a suffering sense that makes you want to run away. Drinking, smoking, sleeping pills, dying (or dieting?) -- all are efforts to get away.

Freedom to be whole means subjectively to know Mind, to know as Mind, to speak as Mind, to act as Mind.

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