

**od (Poem)**  
Margaret Orton

**S**

**With**  
Our faith might seem small, but it's never insignificant.  
At least faith has power in its integrity.

spiritual initiative that we can seize, and that actually  
to escape the cruel threat of uncertainty.

**DREN**

**The jungle**  
Hanson Leith  
Better when you're lost? Running around or listening  
Thoughts?

**IES**

contemporary Christian healing. Individuals from  
life give specific examples of ways the power of Spirit  
physical healing, freedom, and greater commitment  
their lives.

**S AND NOTICES**

for issues proclamation  
Services Conference in Okinawa, Japan

graph: Cary Wolinsky/Stock, Boston.

1898 by Mary Baker Eddy, author of the Christian  
book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*

is *Sentinel* (ISSN 0009-563X). Published weekly by The Christian Science Publishing  
Way Street, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. 02115, an activity of The First Church  
st, in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. Second-class postage paid at Boston, Massa-  
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o all countries, one year, \$40.00; six months, \$20.00; single copy, \$1.25. To subscribe  
r the back of this issue.

Send address changes to Christian Science Sentinel,  
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[Printed in U.S.A.]

## Compassion

Many of us yearn to be of help  
to others in times of trouble.  
There's a practical, spiritual way  
to show our care.

Lynn A. Gray Jackson

**I**N this world of hustle and bustle, the treasured quality of  
compassion has become all too rare. We may have a special  
friend who expresses so much compassion and love toward us  
that the moments with this friend are very precious. Such com-  
passion warms the heart, and we may often find ourselves think-  
ing back upon those moments, wishing that we too could express  
this kind of warmth, care, and compassion.

Don't you think Christ Jesus must have been such a friend to  
his disciples? Indeed the Bible records that when Jesus appeared  
to two of his disciples as they walked to Emmaus after the resur-  
rection, they were deeply touched by his words. Having been  
downcast over the crucifixion, the two disciples had not at first  
recognized Jesus. Yet when they finally realized who he was and  
he departed, they said, "Did not our heart burn within us, while  
he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the  
scriptures?"<sup>1</sup> Even when these two disciples hadn't recognized  
him, they had still felt his great love and compassion.

Pure love is a spiritual quality that man expresses as God's  
reflection. Our compassion derives from this love. It embraces

the spiritual strength and spiritual authority that take form so naturally in healing. Christ Jesus' compassion was not just words or fine sentiments. It was expressed in deeds. He healed the sick, raised the dead, gave sight to the blind, fed the hungry. And he taught his followers to heal.

So why, we may be asking ourselves, does this quality of holy compassion seem so rare? Is it only "special" people who can possess and express it? Take heart. Compassion is natural to each of us, and our ability to express it can be developed.

Let's go back to the example of our Master and his disciples. Two of the other disciples, Peter and John, expressed true, healing compassion in an incident recorded in Acts. They were on their way into the temple when they were stopped by a lame man at the entrance. This lame man was accustomed to lying there to beg, and when he saw Peter and John he naturally asked them for money, just as he had done to so many others.

But Peter saw the man's great need, and he had sympathy for him—enough sympathy, enough true compassion, to turn to God and heal him. Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." The Bible continues: "And he took him by the

right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God."<sup>2</sup>

Now perhaps Peter and John could have found some money to give the man—it would have helped him to buy a meal or clothes, or perhaps to support his family for a while. But Peter's expression of compassion went so much further than any temporary solution. Peter not only healed the man's lameness, he changed his entire life!

The Scriptures gently teach us, "The Lord is gracious and

full of compassion."<sup>3</sup> And the Gospels speak abundantly of Jesus' compassion: "I have compassion on the multitude," "Jesus had compassion on them," "He was moved with compassion."<sup>4</sup> And today the genuine Christian Scientist—like all Christians—strives to follow the Master's example and cultivate such healing compassion. Each of us can do this because true compassion has its source in God. It's a quality that is given not to a chosen few but to all—all who genuinely want to accept and to learn the healing compassion of Christ Jesus.

Expressing our feelings of love, joy, and comfort is natural and proper. And our tender compassion, backed by an understanding of the power of God, divine Love, can bring needed healing. Mary Baker Eddy, who discovered and founded Christian Science, writes in the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: "If we would open their prison doors for the sick, we must first learn to bind up the broken-hearted. . . . The tender word and Christian encouragement of an invalid, pitiful patience with his fears and the removal of them, are better than hecatombs of gushing theories, stereotyped borrowed speeches, and the doling of arguments, which are but so many parodies on legitimate Christian Science, aflame with divine Love."<sup>5</sup>

Apathy, coldness, indignity, insensibility, are not qualities derived from the all-loving Father-Mother God. As we pray to outgrow these qualities, we are able to express a larger, more inclusive concern and love for others. And right where there seems to be evil surrounding us, right when darkness, apathy, coldness, and sorrow seem most tempting—right there we have a choice. We can choose the way of divine Love that uplifts thought to God and heals, adjusts, and provides. We too can be moved with compassion and heal.

<sup>1</sup> Luke 24:32. <sup>2</sup> Acts 3:6-8. <sup>3</sup> Ps. 111:4. <sup>4</sup> Matt. 15:32; 20:34; 9:36. <sup>5</sup> *Science and Health*, pp. 366-367.