

decisions. And we can be also. Explaining the certainty of God's government of our lives, *Science and Health* gives this assurance: "All is under the control of the one Mind, even God." As we learn to accept God's control in our lives, we will find it easier to make truly inspired decisions.

*I wisdom dwell with prudence,
and find out knowledge of witty inventions. . . .
Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom:
I am understanding; I have strength.
By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.
By me princes rule, and nobles,
even all the judges of the earth.
I love them that love me;
and those that seek me early shall find me. . . .
The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way,
before his works of old.*

Proverbs 8:12, 14-17, 22

How we can pop the bubble

Even when problems seem to have us
surrounded or trapped,
the way out is near at hand.

Lynn A. Gray Jackson

RECENTLY I heard a professional storyteller tell a story of a bubble and a king. Briefly, the story relates that there once was a giant, beautiful bubble. All the townspeople were astonished at its grandeur. When the king came, however, he called the bubble "trouble." Immediately the bubble engulfed the king, and he couldn't get out. His three knights used their fearsome weapons to try to pop the bubble, but to no avail.

At last a little girl saw the bubble and walked up to see its grandeur and beauty. The townspeople warned that the bubble was "trouble"—the king had said so! But the little girl was not deceived by what others thought or feared. She replied to the townspeople, "It's a bubble, and if you treat it like a bubble, it will act like a bubble." She then touched the giant, beautiful bubble very softly—and it popped!

To the king the bubble was trouble. He saw it as trouble. He believed it was trouble. And hence, he experienced it as trouble. It was an impenetrable problem to him and to those who believed as he did. But to the little girl, who knew the facts and wasn't fooled by what others said and believed, the bubble was a bubble, and she proved this by popping it.

If there is some big "bubble of trouble" in our experience, we might ask ourselves if it's all that it appears to be. Does what

None else thinks make the trouble real, fearsome, unyielding? Is there a higher, holier, clearer way of looking at the problem?

What would help us to overcome it—to pop the bubble? To this latter question Christian Science answers “Yes!”

We seek to solve our problems from the basis of what God has made and creates, rather than from what medical theory, relations, co-workers, or friends say, we’ll find that these spiritual facts can burst the bubble of fear and suffering, setting us free. Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, “To be immortal, we must forsake the mortal sense of things, turn from the false belief to Truth, and gather the facts of being from the divine Mind.”

It is this gathering of spiritual facts that helps us to progress and proceed to diviner concepts of God and man. Yielding to the divine Mind, God, does not have to be burdensome, hard, necessarily time-consuming. Often the temptation is merely want to be free of the problem rather than to want to know the truth about God. This is when spiritual growth, unfeigned patience, and steadfast perseverance for good are needed. Yielding to the divine Mind is joyous work, not tedious, fearful, or debilitating. Why? Because as we yield the false concept of self for the truth of God and man, our character is renewed, redeemed, regenerated, and our lives take on lovelier hues.

Turning to Truth, to divine Mind, we begin to understand the simple spiritual facts of man’s existence as the child of God. If good, God never created anything unlike Himself. He never created man subject to matter, because He is Spirit. God never created a power to oppose Himself, because God is omnipotent and self-existent. These spiritual truths lift our thought and trust to God. Then we feel confident in going straight to God for guidance on what to do and how to do it.

Going to God, our Maker, means praying and listening to Him. It means expressing humility, patience, and confidence in His goodness. God sees and knows His creation as perfect, substantial, healthy, and upright. As we come to understand

these spiritual facts, we will understand God better, and these qualities will become more evident in our experience.

Growth in our understanding of Christian Science naturally causes us to drop the tendency to speculate fearfully about disease or abnormalities. Instead, we feel a growing desire to see and demonstrate the unreality of disease. Refusing to be influenced by others’ thoughts and concerns when they are based on material presuppositions, and turning to God and praying to Him to show us man’s real identity, which is spiritual, we feel confidence in the truth. We see that all inharmoniousness is a false belief, a misunderstanding of God and man; hence, the great need is to understand God and man correctly, clearly, spiritually.

Seeking human opinions about a physical problem only prolongs the false belief and tends to make it real to us. Mortal opinions tend to shut out the divine, spiritual facts coming directly from God to man. *Science and Health* wisely cautions, “A physical diagnosis of disease—since mortal mind must be the cause of disease—tends to induce disease.” But by turning to God we find just the reverse—the dismantling and falling away of disease and fear; as the Bible states, “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son.”

This is more than mere positive thinking, which only has a foundation in matter and its concomitants. God has predestined good for all His ideas, His children. He has established the kingdom of heaven within His image and likeness, man. These spiritual facts are the basis of healing in Christian Science. Positive thinking only has a foundation in matter, sensation, and self-hope; it does not acknowledge an all-governing God. Only close communion with God enables us to keep mentally awake and not be fooled by the physical senses.

Even though, perhaps, more than one member of a family has a particular problem or disorder and even though that disorder

Is there a higher, holier, clearer way of looking at the problem? One that would help us to overcome it?

der has been acknowledged by others, this does not mean that it is true, real, permanent, that is, based on Spirit, God. Each individual has the blessed opportunity to see the spiritual facts of creation for himself and be healed. Even though human heredity may claim it engenders legions of problems, each individual can turn to God for himself and learn the truth of his being—learn more of his God-given perfection and perfect parentage. Reliance upon God, Spirit, brings redemption from all sin, regeneration to life and body, and reformation to character.

The essential thing is to look beyond and above the material to the spiritual. Then we find the truth of our being—already established, undecaying, harmonious. It's not believing one thing over another based on willpower but understanding God and His creation that heals. We all can begin to understand God better and hence feel His presence and dominion. The dream of life in matter and its self-constituted, self-imposed laws of reality can't touch the man of God's creating. These spiritual facts, understood and demonstrated, can burst any "bubble of trouble" we may seem to be trapped in.

Somewhere in you

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain . . ."

(Deuteronomy 32:2)

Somewhere in you
it is raining
not a downpour
but a gentling
but a small rain
on the meaning
but a shower
on the grass.
There's a greening
in you as you
listen as you
feel the rain—you
taste the doctrine
of renewal
learn the raindrops
of the Word.

Somewhere in you
Christ is deepening
all the good
in you renewing
yes you freshly
yes you softly:
Christ is raining
in your heart.
Being cleansed by
what you love is
being Word-washed
soon of sinning
feeling Truth ful-
fill you simply
as the shower
on the grass.

Godfrey John