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Our healing mission

Lynn G. Jackson

WHEN I was a young child, some simple words I spoke to a dearly loved man healed him of the smoking habit. I don’t remember, word for word, what I said to him, but I remember the love I had for him. It was clear to me then that such a wonderful individual couldn’t possibly have to smoke, or want to. I could readily separate the habit from him. In my own simple way, I had seen something of his real nature as God’s image and likeness. And he was healed.

It’s been said, many times, that children have such a wonderful sense of purity, innocence, and love. As the turmoil of the world wears upon us, however, we may tend to lose these child-like qualities. But this isn’t necessary. Rather, these qualities can be cultivated and preserved by understanding that they are inherent within each of us as God’s beloved child. They are beneficial to us and others and are essential in following Christ Jesus and in practicing Christian healing.

We maintain these qualities through prayer and a humble effort to do, to be, and to see good. In fact, these are qualities of God, infinite good, reflected in man; and this is why they are actually inherent in us.

Prayer utilizes the God-derived power of purity, innocence, and love, establishing them in thought and nurturing their expression in our lives. Purity characterizes man’s origin and life because he is God’s reflection. As our thought is kept at one with God and we cherish man’s true nature, we manifest more of His goodness in our daily experience. This innocence is a spiritual foundation on which we can base our reasoning and trust in God,

good. Instead of being naiveté, true innocence involves the scientific understanding of God's perfection and of man as God's perfect likeness, which enables us to love unconditionally. These qualities of God, held within thought, open our eyes to the correct

view of man, the God-inspired view, which heals.

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The book of Mark records that while Jesus was teaching, young children were brought to him to touch him, but his disciples were unwilling to have the Master disturbed. They rebuked those who interrupted Jesus. Jesus responded, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (10:14). Jesus then took them in his arms and blessed them. He saw each child as belonging to God—and he welcomed them into his healing mission with open arms. They must have been naturally drawn to his unconditional affection, extended to everyone.

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 In recognition of humanity's need of God's power to heal and redeem, Mary Baker Eddy, who discovered and founded Christian Science, describes childlike qualities as central to an effective healing mission, writing: "Beloved children, the world has need of you,—and more as children than as men and women: it needs your innocence, unselfishness, faithful affection, uncontaminated lives. You need also to watch, and pray that you preserve these virtues unstained, and lose them not through contact with the world. What grander ambition is there than to maintain in yourselves what Jesus loved, and to know that

your example, more than words, makes morals for mankind!" (*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 110).

Our desire to maintain uncontaminated lives, unstained by the harshness and carelessness of the world and its elements, will guide us toward healing for ourselves and others. And whether we are answering a specific call to heal through prayer or we are responding to the demand to reflect God's love in our daily general contacts with people, we all have our healing mission to accomplish, letting our light of purity shine unreservedly on all.

Recently, on my way to catch a plane, I was suddenly aware of little arms hanging on to me. I knelt down to see the child who had come to hug me. I didn't know her, but we hugged like long-lost friends. Then her grandmother properly introduced us. The little girl looked up at me and said, "I love you." We hugged once again before saying goodbye. The incident reminded me of how unconditional is the love God expresses in us. Those who sat at Jesus' feet and those healed by him must have felt the tender touch of Spirit, the gentle presence, the firm embrace, the deep love fearlessly expressed, which signal the power of God demonstrated. We, too, can express this power as we daily cultivate our purity, innocence, and love. Here is a strong beginning to our healing mission. ■

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In next week's SENTINEL

God is always in control
 Provision that's not a matter of luck

A clearer view
 Spiritual perception

For young people:
 Clearing the smoke