

**PRAYER AND HEALING: HIS PRESENCE,  
EFFECTUAL PRAYER, UNBELIEF AND  
FAITH, NEITHER LAPSE NOR RELAPSE, THE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST;  
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# PRAYER AND HEALING

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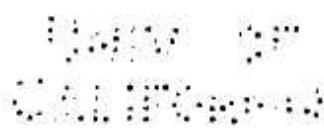
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## PRAYER AND HEALING

### HIS PRESENCE.

**I**N "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 512, we read that "Spirit is symbolized by strength, presence, and power." When Moses was called to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt he asked whom God would send with him. The answer which he received was, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." The psalmist sang, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy."

Christian Science is teaching us the nature and character of God's presence and bringing that fulness of joy which comes from a realizing sense of His nearness. It teaches us that God's presence is always with us; that wherever we are, whatever our burdens may seem to be, God's love sustains us. Love alone is the nature of the presence which never leaves us nor forsakes us. Because the spiritual presence of God is ever with us, here and now, there is nothing material or

mortal with power to make or to mar our happiness. Until we learn this we shall be in cruel bondage, like the Israelites of old, ever struggling against weakness, pain, or fear, looking either backward with regret, or forward with forebodings. From the inspired writings of Mrs. Eddy Christian Scientists are learning how to apply in daily life Jesus' command, "Take no thought for the morrow." We are learning that only the present is ours and that our duty is to rightly improve each present moment, to keep ourselves busy striving to realize God's presence now. Doing this, our recollections of the past are filled with gratitude and our anticipations of the future with the loving trust which knows no sense of anxiety.

If we are God's children—His image and likeness—today, then in reality we have always been the object of His tender love, from which nothing can separate us, even though this likeness doth not yet appear. That which we really reflect can never be taken from us; otherwise we should lose our identity as God's children. This abiding consciousness of God's loving presence lifts the burden imposed by envy, jealousy and kindred traits resulting from a belief of partiality—a belief that God has given to some of His children gifts and blessings which He has withheld from others.

As we assimilate the teachings of Christian Science we find that our sense of a limited supply



in any direction is the result of a lack of understanding. It results from ignorance of the fact that supply is really spiritual, even when manifested materially to the human senses, as was the case when Jesus fed the multitude with the few loaves and fishes, thus proving God's presence then and there.

Through a careful study of the Psalms in the light thrown upon the Scriptures by our text-book, we see what it meant to the sweet singer of Israel to dwell in the sacred presence of the most High. He knew that God can furnish a table in the wilderness, and every Christian Scientist is learning, perhaps slowly, but always surely, that divine Love through its ever-presence is meeting "every human need" (*Science and Health*, p. 494).

## EFFECTUAL PRAYER.

**T**HE effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man," wrote St. James, "availeth much;" and James was a follower of him who said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." It is to be noted that this apostle saw not only the power of true prayer, but that he discerned as well the reasons for unanswered prayer: "Ye lust, and have not," he declares. "Ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." This is an arraignment which brings the mortal face to face with himself upon this whole question; a charge which exposes self-interest, dishonesty, greed; an analysis which lays bare the whole human deflection from God-likeness. The inspiration of righteous communion and the vanity of perverted petition were alike evident to this clear-eyed disciple; and they

can be equally plain to the men and women who attain today a like measure of spiritual understanding.

"Ye worship ye know not what," said Jesus to the woman of Samaria; "we know what we worship." And then he defined God as Spirit, and declared, "They that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." The worldly-minded have long prayed to they "know not what." The revelation, however, of all that is true about God, unfolded by Christ Jesus and again set forth in Mrs. Eddy's teaching of Christian Science, shows the Christian Scientist more of what he worships and helps him to pray with growing sincerity and grace. Christian Science elevates prayer, and will continue to uplift and enlarge it until it becomes that fervent and effectual thought-process of "a righteous man" which does avail. Christian Science holds for the world a crystal-clear perception of prayer, and makes possible such prayer by revealing spiritual man, the likeness and image of God, as thinking no thoughts of his own but as always reflecting the divine Mind. To reflect divine Mind is perfect prayer.

Concerning this question of prayer, Mrs. Eddy has written on page 20 of her book "No and Yes": "Ever-Present Love must seem ever absent to ever-present selfishness or material sense. Hence this asking amiss and receiving not, and

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