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Love's Pathway

By Bernice Doane

I'm going to read the theme that was chosen for this year's Annual Meeting since my talk is based on it.

Heaven's signet is Love.

... let us work more earnestly in His vineyard, and according to the model on the mount, bearing the cross meekly along the rugged way, into the wilderness, up the steep ascent, on to heaven, making our words golden rays in the sunlight of our deeds; and "these signs shall follow them that believe; . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Christian Healing p. 19

Mrs. Eddy's loving instruction inspires us to strive to embrace Heaven's signet of Love, to spiritualize our thoughts, our motives, and our endeavors. Let's start with spiritualizing our thoughts.

Regardless of the struggle that is indicated in this journey, we know it is divine Love that is leading us all the way, and the demonstration of Love's allness is well worth the sacrifice to arrive at heaven's door. Mrs. Eddy tells us "Jesus' teaching and practice of Truth involved such a sacrifice as makes us admit its Principle to be Love." *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures p. 26* This spiritual journey lifts our consciousness to the understanding that there is no mortal mind—no matter, and no material sense testimony in ourselves or in anyone we hold in thought. To realize that all is thought—that nothing exists outside God's pure, perfect idea—opens the pathway to healing. This is our work in God's vineyard as we follow Jesus' footsteps all the way.

As Mrs. Eddy tells us... "The footsteps of thought, rising above material standpoints, are slow, and portend a long night to the traveler; but the angels of His presence—the spiritual intuitions that tell us when 'the night is far spent, the day is at hand' — are our guardians in the gloom." And the marginal heading for that thought is "Rise of thought" *S&H p. 174*

So our desire to work in God's vineyard surely demands a diligent, steadfast determination. God has planted His vineyard with every right idea that we need for this journey. His work is done, and our work is to demonstrate the Truth that continuously blooms and glorifies His vineyard. Our goal is to spiritualize our thought—to rise to the understanding that all is God and His idea—

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“...the spirit of Christ’s charity.”*

*Science and Health
with Key to the Scriptures
by Mary Baker Eddy, p. XII*



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LOVE’S PATHWAY CONTINUED

there is nothing unlike His allness. In Psalm 91 we read, “Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;” because we are making God our habitation—working in His vineyard is where we desire to be.

If every morning we persistently allow our consciousness to dwell in His vineyard—under His total care we will be well on our way up that rugged pathway, through the barren wilderness of fear, doubt, discord, and all sense of self. We will be rooting out all the false mortal beliefs along the way, allowing our inspired thoughts to reflect and glorify Him. We will be practicing Mrs. Eddy’s plea for us to “Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts.” *S&H 261:4*

She also tells us that “Jesus demonstrated Christ, he proved that Christ is the divine idea of God—the Holy Ghost, or Comforter, revealing the divine Principle, Love, and leading into all truth.” *S&H 332:19*

As he meekly pursued his journey up the steep ascent, bearing the cross of envy, disbelief, anger, hatred, and revenge, he never yielded his thought to mortal mind’s persistent, evil attempts to stop him. Even his disciples doubted him on occasion. But Jesus was totally confident of the source of his understanding, and of the power of that source to guide and carry him up that rugged pathway, healing so many along the way. There was never a question or doubt about the understanding of man’s real being as God’s image and likeness, nor about God’s purpose for revealing the Christ through Jesus, to demonstrate that reality. It was

his innate desire to love God supremely, and to trust that God would reveal the exact truth to heal the disturbed thought wherever it was needed and accepted.

Everyone is really already in Love’s pathway, because in reality there is nothing but God and His idea—there are no thoughts outside divine Love. Mrs. Eddy tells us that “All that really exists is the divine Mind and its idea, and in this Mind the entire being is found harmonious and eternal.” And she adds, “The straight and narrow way is to see and acknowledge this fact, yield to this power, and follow the leadings of truth.” *S&H 151:22* Yielding to this power is spiritualizing our motive—our need and desire to grow in our understanding of divine Science, to reach out to the world with the scientific truth that blesses and heals.

The real spiritual idea is always present. We just need to turn and let the Christ Truth lift our thought out of the false trials and burdens that seem to restrict our upward progress. Jesus said, “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” *John 12:32* The Christ will lift us. Mrs. Eddy followed Jesus up the steep ascent to discover Christian Science for all who are seeking this journey. The disciples and prophets were led in their journey up to the Christ, Truth to guide them in their healing experience for themselves and others. Even Zacchaeus reached up to get a better glimpse of the Christ, and was recognized by the Christ, and his life was immediately changed. He became a better man, who then desired a better understanding of God’s promise for him. *Luke 19*

In my introduction to Christian Science,

I was fortunate to experience this lifting of thought by the Christ. I was having a deep mental struggle handling a very difficult physical prognosis we had received concerning our infant son. My husband was concerned, and suggested that I talk with a Christian Science practitioner. Though I knew practically nothing about Christian Science I agreed, and I started attending church, studying the Weekly Bible Lesson, and talking with the practitioner every day. About a month later, I was reading the pamphlet by Adam Dickey, *God's Law of Adjustment*, when my thought was flooded with this question. "Do you really believe that the Christ is governing every aspect of your being?" Well a powerful "YES" came right on the heels of that question, and immediately I was filled with a total sense of freedom and joy such as I had never known before. It was truly a holy experience, and was overwhelming! So it seems almost impossible that a short while later I tried to smoke a cigarette which had been my habit for many years, even though I had tried so many times to stop. I could not smoke it because it tasted so terrible, but I did keep trying. When I called the practitioner later that day she said, in a rather firm voice, "You cannot fight the Truth." I thanked her and hung up the phone. I'm not sure I felt any connection with that command at that moment, but much later I knew that I was completely free from that addiction that had held me captive for so long. There was no desire—not even any thought—about that habit. The spiritual power behind that command, "You cannot fight the Truth," had cut right through that last resistance to Truth in my thought, and had truly set me free. It was like the mental problem had never been any part of my being, and of course in reality, it had not. As we read in Psalms "I have seen the wicked in great

power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found." *Ps 37:36-37* And as Mrs. Eddy puts it "it will vanish into its native nothingness." And it surely had! *S&H 365:17* It was such an immediate transformation of thought! The healing always takes place in thought because this is where we are really working and living—this is His vineyard! What a joy it was for me to grow in my understanding to see all the activity in the Bible stories in their spiritual sense. The spiritualization of thought that was taking them up the pathway to divine Love, opens those stories to become a spiritual guide for all to follow in our desire to let the Christ lift us to a better understanding of God and His idea—of "perfect God and perfect man." Mrs. Eddy tells us "The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect Principle and idea,—perfect God and perfect man,—as the basis of thought and demonstration." *S & H 259:11* "The Christlike understanding"—seeing ourselves and everyone in their true mental, spiritual reality.

How about Joseph—talk about a rugged pathway! His physical pathway was surely one of struggle and danger, but he stayed the course through his understanding and trust in God's purpose for him. He surely was dwelling in that "Christlike" understanding of God's constant presence and power to protect and guide him all the way.

To spiritualize our endeavors we must take up the cross and follow Jesus for the purpose of blessing all mankind, and

proving to all that Christian Science does heal. The demonstration of the Christ is truly our goal in our daily work in God's vineyard, as it was for Mrs. Eddy all her life—even before she discovered Christian Science. Her supreme love for God guided her all the way, as it did Christ Jesus. So we are reminded, that, "To have one God and avail yourself of the power of Spirit, you must love God supremely." She also reminds us to "accept the 'glorious liberty of the children of God,' and be free! This is your divine right." *S&H 167:17; S&H 227:24* And this is our spiritualized endeavor.



Bernice Doane

What a glorious lesson we can learn from the theme of this meeting! We can rise a little higher each day through our study and practice of Christian Science, until we can see the Christ—the perfect man—everywhere we look mentally—and we will be lifting the Christ from the earth to bless ourselves and all those we hold in thought—thus demonstrating our great love for God, and helping others to be inspired to start their own journey up Love's Pathway.

I know we all give our heartfelt love and thanks to the Christian Science nurses for their dedicated journey up Love's pathway, for their tender care and pure thoughts of Love that comfort and bless so many. And we must surely give a special thanks to the Christian Science visiting nurses who never question the call to drive several miles to work in His vineyard—caring for His loved ones.

I'd like to end with a thought Mrs. Eddy gives us from *Miscellaneous Writings*. "Beloved students, you have entered the path. Press patiently on; God is good, and good is the reward of all who diligently seek God. Your growth will be

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LOVE'S PATHWAY CONTINUED

rapid, if you love good supremely, and understand and obey the Way-shower, who, going before you, has scaled the steep ascent of Christian Science, stands upon the mount of holiness, the dwelling-place of our God, and bathes in the baptismal font of eternal Love. As you journey, and betimes sigh for rest 'beside the still waters,' ponder this lesson of love. Learn its purpose; and in hope and faith, where heart meets heart reciprocally blest, drink with me the living waters of the spirit of my life-purpose, — to impress humanity with the genuine recognition of practical, operative Christian Science." *Mis 206:24*

Surely this "lesson of love" inspires us to be ready and willing to take that next step up Love's pathway, "into the wilderness, up the steep ascent, on to heaven, making our words golden rays in the sunlight of our deeds;"

**To reach a visiting Christian Science nurse,
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