



I have always liked science. I like that it is based on a definite set of principles. Sometimes the interpretation of those principles change as more understanding is gained, but the purpose of science is to understand how things work. The basic tenet in Christian Science, where Joel and Virginia received their training in metaphysics, and how I was brought up, is to understand how the Christ works. Mainline Christian churches often use Jesus and Christ interchangeably as the same thing. I was taught that the Christ is the universal presence of God indwelling every individual and that Jesus embodied that Christ consciousness more fully than any other person in history.

Mary Baker Eddy wanted to know what the principles were that supported the healings attributed to Jesus. Just labeling his healings “miracles” was not satisfying. Was it only Jesus who healed, or could anyone who knew the principles also heal?

My family practiced spiritual healing. We were not always successful, but the more we studied and understood the principles, the more we lived without pain and suffering. I saw the work that this took from a young age – the daily study, the keeping your mind stayed on God, the vigilance of interpreting evil as erroneous and without power. Physical healings were the most dramatic, but overcoming fear was the bedrock of the practice.

The mysticism in Christian Science is hidden. At that time, when Mrs. Eddy formed her church, mysticism was analogous with the occult. Many of the religious communities in America viewed the occult – witches, magic and such – as evil. Those views were mistaken. Mystics have graced Christianity from the beginning and have kept alive the idea of oneness to this day. Mrs. Eddy wanted an institution that would benefit people in a practical and positive way, so she emphasized the mind and how the mind influences matter over the pursuit of mystical oneness. Mind over matter became a popular practice in the early 20th century, with many leaders touting its effectiveness. But true spiritual healing, healings that nullify the concept of the problem instead of just changing the appearance, is an experience of the Christ, an experience in transcending the material illusion and experiencing the divine. That type of healing goes beyond the mind into the spiritual nature of being. The great healers of the early Christian Science movement, Bicknell Young, Dr. Hendrik Jan de Lange and Joel S. Goldsmith knew this secret. They

also knew the metaphysics necessary to mentally handle a problem, thereby allowing the Spirit to work. The above-mentioned Christian Scientists were my mother's teachers. All of them were lecturers and they were all marvelous healers.

When I was in junior high school, I developed a skin problem that was quite apparent and not pretty to look at. It bothered my mother greatly and she was determined to heal it. Every time she saw it, she would turn away and pray. I wasn't that bothered by it, but somehow, she took offence that the disease wasn't healed immediately. What was she doing wrong? I heard her and my dad talking about it and trying to figure out what the error was in their thinking – my dad was just as involved in the healing as my mom. Together, as a family, we would read the daily lessons before work and school.

My mother asked me why I wasn't doing the work as diligently as she and dad were. I told her that the condition didn't bother me and that it wasn't worth all the effort. I knew it would eventually go away. My attitude wasn't what she wanted. For her it was all hands-on deck and let's get this problem solved.

I told her it seemed to be more her problem than mine. Then, during one of the daily lessons, we read the Biblical passage; "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit." Something clicked for her with that passage. She asked Dad to read it again, "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit."

"That's the secret," she said. "I've been trying to heal something and in Truth there is nothing to heal." She then turned to me and asked to see the condition she was trying to heal. It was gone.

From that moment on, she never sought to heal a disease. She had experienced the great healing principle that nothing is power in this world in the presence of spiritual realization. God is the only power. By giving attention to the symptom, she was in fact empowering it. By trying to change "bad" matter into "good" matter, she was giving power to an illusion.

I was indifferent to the problem. I realize now that all of the work my mother and father were doing gave me the freedom to let the appearance go and not give it any attention. I was in a state of being that is termed Divine Indifference. It is like the idea of Grace. God's grace falls on the just and the unjust. Without knowing it, I was in a state of Divine Indifference. Being in that state allows the Christ to function without resistance. Once the mental activity of trying to change an appearance stopped, there was nothing to impede the functioning of the Christ, and whatever appearance had been evident, ceased to exist. My mother realized that principle when she heard that Bible statement, and that realization allowed the Christ to operate without resistance, restoring the body to its natural state of perfection.