

DOMINION OVER THE WEATHER

The Power of Prayer Can
Calm the Raging Waters
and Still the Violent Storm

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This transcript is based on the Christian Science textbook
Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures
by Mary Baker Eddy
Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science.

Unless otherwise noted, the quotations in this transcript are from
the writings of Mary Baker Eddy.

All quotations from the Bible are from the authorized King James version.

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INTRODUCTION

In the Scriptures we read: “And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and woke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”

Christ Jesus’ dominion over the raging storm would appear to be a spiritual gift, uniquely his own. However, he told his followers, “The works that I do shall ye do also.” Christian Science fulfills this prophecy in regard to the weather, for Mary Baker Eddy has given us a scientific means for overcoming all adverse weather conditions and natural disasters. She herself proved the power of divine metaphysics to handle the weather, and she taught her students to do so. Under her instruction, students overcame electrical storms, heavy snowfalls, cyclones, and drought.

Yet, there is almost no mention of the weather in her published writings. It is possible that she felt her words on this subject would be greatly misunderstood. Many in the world feel that adverse weather is God’s punishment for mankind’s sins, and attempting to affect the weather through prayer would be going against His will.

However, Mrs. Eddy understood how collective emotionalism or intentional mental work by malicious minds, focused on a specific place, could cause extreme weather conditions. Therefore, she was very cautious about instructing others on the mental causes behind adverse weather, for this knowledge given to her students for preventing destructive weather, could be perverted and used by evil minds to cause extreme weather conditions.

However, with her trusted students, she gave many lessons on the need to handle the weather. Her remarks were recorded by them, and today these records are very timely in view of the many floods, droughts, hurricanes, blizzards, and tornadoes that have come about in recent years.

Dominion over adverse weather and natural disasters is a power greatly to be desired. Christian Science gives us this power. This collection on the weather is intended to open up the possibilities of demonstrating this power. The first two articles tell how it is possible to demonstrate this power. The third article explains how to do this prayerful work.

These articles are followed by Mrs. Eddy's lessons on the weather to her students. There appears to be no specific article written by her on the weather, but these extracts from students’ memoirs and diaries show her concern over the need for Christian Scientists to learn to handle the weather.

The collection closes with an article that lifts us above the turmoil that produces “bad weather” into the spiritual atmosphere where all events are governed by God. It gives useful ideas for handling every kind of adverse weather and natural disasters.

The power latent in Christian Science to demonstrate harmonious weather through scientific prayer has yet to be fully realized. This collection can serve as a small handbook in learning to do this much needed work.

A. B.

MAN CAN DEMONSTRATE DOMINION OVER THE WEATHER

by

Paul Stark Seeley

The word *weather* is used to indicate the states of the material atmosphere as to heat or cold, wetness or dryness, calm or storm, cloudiness or clearness. In recent times nations, recognizing the importance of weather in human experience, have sought to discover the physical factors and forces causing atmospheric change, and to anticipate and foretell weather conditions.

Even more needed is enlightenment as to what men can do to control and forestall those atmospheric conditions which are destructive and obstructive to right human activity, and cause to appear those more normal atmospheric conditions which contribute to the security and well-being of the human family. There is no bad weather in the kingdom of God, and we can now begin to demonstrate this. Because tornadoes, fogs, intense heat and cold, excessive dryness or wetness are not attributable to God, they must give way before a better understanding of Him and His spiritual forces.

Christian Science teaches that nothing is outside of, or beyond, God's control — not even the weather. If you have backed away from the thought of applying divine Science to demonstrate God's power to control the weather, remember that God is infinite; that the extensiveness of the outdoors is not the least formidable when considered in the light of Mind's infinite presence. God is honored when we realize that the harmony-producing forces of deific Mind are not active just somewhere, but everywhere, controlling every effect, and demonstrating the simple truth that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."

The material atmosphere has been described as "a heat engine of planetary proportions, with the boiler at the equator and condensers at the poles." Radiation of the sun's heat maintains an excess of thermal energy at the lower latitudes, and keeps the system constantly out of balance, and consequently in constant operation. In an effort to achieve equilibrium, a planetary circulation of the atmosphere is evolved which brings masses of cold air to the tropics in exchange for the warm air transported toward the poles. The conflict of these cold and warm masses causes storms.

This effort of physical force to produce an equilibrium between the forces of heat and cold is the physical explanation of all atmospheric disturbances. Physical forces are the materially mental forces of the basic error, mortal mind. These forces are subjugated and controlled to the degree we realize that because God, immortal Mind, is the only Mind, infinite and omni-active, there are actually no forces but the moral, spiritual, intelligent forces of this Mind, which produce only order and peace.

These positive forces constitute, maintain, and govern the universe, and all of God's ideas therein, in the atmosphere of intelligence and Love, wherein there are no opposing forces, but a universal constancy and equality of the one true force — Mind-force — which insures the security, harmony, and unhampered activity of all.

These are some of the truths which may be used to subjugate and make subservient, instead of dominant, the forces that produce weather conditions. Says Mary Baker Eddy in *Science and Health*, "Immortal Mind, governing all, must be acknowledged as supreme in the physical realm, so-called, as well as in the spiritual." Certainly this is what Christ Jesus did when he said to the winds and waves, "Peace, be still." Negative physical forces had no alternative but to yield to the infinitude of omnipotent Mind-force, confidently understood, and unhesitatingly trusted, by this spiritually-minded man.

Mortals have differing views about the weather. Some like it hot; some like it cold. An artist, a child, and a skier may like a heavy snowfall, while railroad men, bus drivers, merchants, and motorists may dislike it. Pilots dislike storms over the mountains, but farmers, needing water for irrigation, rely on these storms to fill their reservoirs.

What seems desirable weather for some, sets things out of balance for others. So, of course, one does not work with the truths of divine Science to produce weather to suit his own personal preference. He does not presume that his human performance has the authority of divine law. The Christian Scientist is not interested merely in bringing out conditions more satisfying to himself. His interest is, through an increasingly clearer understanding of the omnipresence, omnipotence, and omni-action of God, to prove the superiority of spiritual power over physical force, with resulting atmospheric and climatic conditions which are less and less destructive, and more and more constructive; which are less obstructive to right activity, and more contributive to the welfare of mankind.

Working from the basis of divine Science, which is the very atmosphere of God, he becomes more and more aware of the equipollence, or universal equality, of the spiritual forces of Mind, and the inevitable stability and balance resulting there from. The human needs of all climes and classes are serviceable weather, and will be met as the controlling power of omniscient Mind is realized. Under this all-knowing, all-loving, all-controlling power, groups and individuals will find their thought no longer disturbed by weather most needed by the greater number, nor will their normal activity be hindered thereby. Droughts will give way to necessary precipitation as thoughts look not to the sky, but to the Most High, whose adequate means for meeting the human need, no combination of physical forces or circumstances of any kind can contravene. The forces of evaporation and precipitation are all subject to His will.

We need not accept as final the predictions of a weather bureau. The meteorologists diagnose the physical conditions, and base their forecast thereon. They make no pretension to consideration of the supremacy of the forces of God. Only the Science of Christianity does that. Jesus saw that the phenomenon of the storm was, in the light of divine Science, as false as leprosy or paralysis. So we may properly realize that the prophecy of any phenomenon that would be contrary to the will of Love or the law of God, cannot eventuate. He who is All, accords it no substance, power, activity, or place.

Man, individually and collectively, lives in the atmosphere of divine Science, wherein all conditions of being are held in balance by Mind. The spiritual fact is that into this realm, mortal mind and its phenomenon have no entrance. Excluded from God's infinitude, they cannot threaten or endanger man's God-secured, God-embraced being, cannot encroach upon the continuous unfoldment of good in his life, cannot hamper or restrict his God-ordered activity.

God said of man made in His image and likeness, "Let them have dominion . . . over all the earth." Jesus proved that this dominion includes dominion over the atmosphere. So must we.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AND THE WEATHER

by

Richard Claude Haw

There is probably no topic more discussed than the weather, and it appears to have a great influence on the daily lives of mankind. In most areas of the globe, the weather evidences inclement extremes of one or other of its elements. Though some natural scientists feel that they have been able to influence rainfall to a limited degree, they are still far from being able to exercise any insignificant control over the weather.

Christ Jesus demonstrated the control of Mind over destructive natural events, or what are ineptly called by some people "acts of God," and so did his faithful follower, Mrs. Eddy. Over the years, many Christian Scientists have testified to the control of harmful manifestations of weather, or to protection from so-called natural calamities. We read in the eighth chapter of Matthew of a great tempest that arose on the sea, and of the disciples in great fear awakening Jesus to ask his help. And we are told, "Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm." The same power available to Jesus is revealed to us through Christian Science.

It is important, however, to realize that because God controls all, He alone controls the weather. Only as we acknowledge His absolute control over His universe, and His love and care for all His children, can we prevent or mitigate whatever manifestations of weather are not in accord with God's order.

Harmful extremes are contrary to the concord of divine law, but they may be outward expressions of extremes in mortal thought. Mortal mind is apt to manifest its own characteristics or thought in the experience of mortals. How often have we heard of winds of change, high pressure, storms, heat, cold, and atmosphere in connection with both weather and mental conditions! In a country well known to the writer, tornadoes were virtually unknown until about fifteen years ago, but there have since been numbers of destructive storms.

This new development parallels growing violence and dissension between peoples of that country. The writer has also observed unusual weather conditions coinciding with political upheavals. It is necessary that we deprive mortal mind of its claim to power as cause, whether overt or covert, and thus prevent it from expressing itself through inclement weather or in other ways. In the universe of Mind, which is the only real universe, all is perfectly ordered and peaceful; and man, God's idea, forever enjoys His tender care and love. In this universe, the atmosphere is represented by a state of consciousness pervaded by God's love and harmonious control. In this consciousness are no extremes, no violence or inharmony, and therefore the real man, who expresses the qualities of Mind, cannot be touched by any untoward conditions.

By replacing the material concepts of the weather's elements with the spiritual, we learn how to deprive them of their claim to produce harmful effects. According to

natural science, the sun is credited with being the main generating power for the earth's climate. Mrs. Eddy defines "sun" in *Science and Health* as "the symbol of Soul governing man, — of Truth, Life, and Love." Seen in this light, the sun cannot be the cause of any harmful extremes of heat, cold, dryness, or wetness; but rather it provides light and warmth, symbolizing Soul's love and care.

Heat suggests passion, violence, or incontinence, while cold suggests lack of warmth, or fear. The counterfact needed to destroy these beliefs is the understanding of Mind's loving control, which tenderly embraces and protects all creation. Heat and cold are elements of the counterfeit, mortal mind. Matter cannot feel either heat or cold. This feeling is in the minds of mortals.

Another element that may claim destructive power is wind. Our Leader gives both the spiritual and the mortal mind aspects of wind with her definition: "WIND; That which indicates the might of omnipotence and the movements of God's spiritual government, encompassing all things. Destruction; anger; mortal passions." (ibid).

When Elijah stood before the Lord upon the mount, "a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks, . . . ; but the Lord was not in the wind." God has no part in hurricanes or tornadoes, and through understanding divine Principle's perfect government of all creation, Christian Scientists will demonstrate God's law in dominion over destructive winds and all the elements.

In Deuteronomy, it is written, "I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil." There is no suggestion here that the rain may be too late, too much, or too little, but rather that it should be a blessing. And again we read, "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass."

As the Word of God is showered abroad and assimilated, so will there be evidenced a tempering of extremes, and the weather will tend to reflect the changed atmosphere of thought. Man's environment is in Mind. Consciousness in accord with Christliness is peaceful, joyous, contented, loving; and the atmosphere of divine Love in which we really live, can manifest no thunderbolts, no hateful shafts, nor any destructive element.

In *Miscellany* by Mrs. Eddy, it is recorded that our Leader responded to a request from the Boston Globe for a message on what the last Thanksgiving Day of the nineteenth century should signify to all mankind. After recounting some of the advances in practical Christianity, she said in part "that the atmosphere of the human mind, when cleansed of self and permeated with divine Love, will reflect this purified subjective state in clearer skies, less thunderbolts, tornadoes, and extremes of heat and cold." Mrs. Eddy closed her message with the words, "For these signs of the times we thank our Father-Mother God."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AND THE ELEMENTS

by

Ann Beals

Since time began, man has seemed to be at the mercy of the elements, including earthquakes and forest fires. Yet, Christ Jesus exercised dominion over the raging storm with a single statement, "Peace, be still." In view of recent natural disasters and adverse weather conditions, we should ask ourselves, "How did he do this? What did he *know* that he had such control over the winds and waves?"

Power to demonstrate over destructive weather and forces of nature is possible in Christian Science, as Mrs. Eddy proved many times. She exercised the same control over the elements that Christ Jesus did. She also expected the workers in her home to learn to handle the weather. She once told them, "Sickness is a belief of mortal mind. Now what is a storm? Is it not a false claim of material law? Is there any such thing as material law? Then if bad weather or lightning is an erroneous concept of mortal law, can't you break it up? Now I want you to prepare yourselves to do this. I remember once when we were having a terrific storm, and the lightning was around the house like chains, the students were with me and I declared to them that there was no surplus electricity, and in a few minutes the whole storm disappeared. Now, you know there are no thunderstorms in divine Mind. No lightning in heaven — so prepare to break up these violent storms. There is *no need* for them."

Dominion over the elements is not a mystical gift, but a form of divine intelligence. Because of the extreme weather conditions taking place in this decade, we need to press much deeper into Christian Science and learn how to demonstrate this dominion.

The increase of abnormal weather conditions and natural disasters throughout the world, could be attributed to the fact that the truth is far more active in world consciousness than it has ever been. As truth is poured into the general mental atmosphere, it produces a chemicalization, bringing to light and destroying many hidden forms of animal magnetism. This purifying process is extremely disturbing to mortal mind. As animal magnetism aggressively resists its own destruction, collective mental turmoil manifests itself in many kinds of discord, including extremely destructive weather conditions, earthquakes, and even volcanic eruptions.

Christ Jesus warned his disciples of these latter days: "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famine, and pestilence, and earthquakes, in diverse places."

Extreme weather and catastrophic "acts of God," as they have been called, are the effect of widespread disturbed human thought and emotion. Just as sickness and disease are mental states objectified, so extreme weather conditions are a visible indication of the emotional climate in any given place.

The darkened material mind believes unpredictable weather and natural disasters are due to *physical* causes; the spiritually enlightened mind understands all weather to be the effect of *mental* causes. The more clearly we discern this fact, the more successful we

will be in preventing forces of nature from inflicting hardship, suffering, and destruction on ourselves and others.

If all effects have a mental cause, then “bad weather” is the same as “bad health.” The elements cannot malfunction of their own accord, any more than the body can become sick or diseased of itself. Disease does not aggressively attack us and make us ill. There is always a mental cause for every negative experience.

Therefore, when the earth does quake and the forests catch fire, when hurricanes and blizzards rage, we must look *through* them, and see behind them malicious animal magnetism hypnotically suggesting that it can cause such violence and destruction. We can diagnose them as “diseased weather” or “sick physical phenomena,” and treat them as such, for the forces of nature appear to be in need of healing — in need of a return to normal. In *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy tells us, “Erring power is a material belief, a blind miscalled force, the offspring of will and not of wisdom, of the mortal mind and not the immortal. It is the headlong cataract, the devouring flame, the tempest’s breath. It is lightening and hurricane, all that is selfish, wicked, dishonest, and impure.”

Jesus controlled the winds and waves because he knew they were the effect of mortal mind reacting to the truth he was bringing to mankind. With his command: “Peace, be still,” the sea was calm. He could command the elements to return to God’s control, and they did so.

Human will and emotions cannot and do not control the weather. God controls it. Because the weather is part of God’s universe, we can demonstrate over the suggestion that the weather is controlled by mortal or material forces. No belief of earthquake, tornado, or destructive lightning can enter a consciousness filled with Truth and Love. The main point to keep in mind is that it is not our responsibility to control the weather. The visibly disturbed weather, however ominous it may seem to be, is animal magnetism claiming to handle the elements. Our work is to realize that God controls His universe, and does so harmoniously. This reduces the work to a reasonable assignment.

Weather Subjective

If extreme weather conditions and other natural disasters are the result of universal chemicalization, and the cause is mental, then we can then handle them metaphysically, as we would all other claims.

The darkened mortal mind sees the natural elements as mindless forces controlled by electromagnetic, gravitational, and nuclear fields. This concept of the universe is materialistic. It imagines every kind of danger and threat coming from these godless forces. Extreme weather conditions and natural disasters appear to be caused by mindless physical forces, controlling atomic behavior in a violent and destructive way. But in the light of Christian Science, we see that natural disasters are really animal magnetism claiming to have power equal to or greater than God.

Because the weather appears to be a phenomena *outside* of consciousness, we may feel helpless in the face of such overwhelming physical forces, and incapable of handling them with our present understanding. But actually, *we are not in the weather; the weather is in us*. The weather is *subjective* — a mental image or experience taking place in individual consciousness. It is included in our mental concept of the universe. Therefore, we handle bad weather and other abnormal conditions subjectively, just as we would any false claim. We can exercise dominion over them, as we do over all aspects of

our life — by overcoming the mesmeric suggestion that the physical forces can act apart from God’s control.

Destructive weather, earthquakes, fires, all are the effects of the prevailing *mental* climate. If human minds collectively are in a state of great conflict and disagreement, if they are filled with hatred, anger, violence, malice, revenge, fear, and rage, this abnormal state of mind will bring on diseased weather conditions, tornadoes, hurricanes, extreme heat or cold, blizzards, and deep snows. When this happens, as in sickness, the abnormal weather will usually wear itself out in time, and things will return to normal. Meanwhile, extreme conditions cause great hardship and destruction.

As Christian Scientists, we cannot afford to view abnormal weather as beyond our control, and stand by as though nothing could be done about it. Above all else, we must not be made to believe that such threats by the elements are inevitable — especially when Mrs. Eddy gave us the Science that will enable us to demonstrate over them. Quite often even one dedicated Scientist, handling the weather, can overcome a serious condition for all who are being threatened.

Translating the Elements

In Christian Science, we learn to translate the underlying cause of all that is real from a material to a spiritual basis, and this includes the elements. The fact is, we live in a benign environment. We are in the spiritual universe here and now. There is not one negative, harmful, or destructive element in it. We do not deny the existence of natural phenomena — the atmosphere, the seasons, wind and rain, sun and snow. Rather, we see them as the harmless manifestations of the one Mind. The weather and all natural elements are a fundamental part of a universe created and controlled by God.

Mrs. Eddy once remarked to a student, “The weather is in reality the atmosphere of the Mind that is God. It is His idea. God and man are not two, but one, in the sense that Principle and idea are one. That is why we handle the weather of mortal belief, just the same as we would meet a case of rheumatism.”

Not one atom in the universe exists or acts apart from the governing direction of the one Mind. In *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mrs. Eddy writes, “Atomic action is Mind, not matter.” The elements, being atomic form and action, are in and of Mind. The earth and its atmosphere are the manifestations of Mind. They are the substance of Spirit, Soul, and are always governed and controlled by the divine Principle, Love. Our work for the weather is not to control it, but to understand that it is created and governed by the one Mind. Once we see that weather is a mental concept within consciousness, we can spiritualize our concept of it by looking *through* the visible manifestation, and seeing behind it the intelligence of Mind, and the harmony of Love as the cause or origin of it. The one Father bestows on man a glorious environment, filled with ever-changing beauty and goodness; the weather is part of His gift to us.

Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, “The material so-called gases and forces are counterfeits of the spiritual force of divine Mind, whose potency is Truth, whose attraction is Love, whose adhesion and cohesion are Life, perpetuating the eternal facts of being. Electricity is the sharp surplus of materiality which counterfeits the true essence of spirituality or truth, — the great difference being that electricity is not intelligent, while spiritual truth is Mind.”

Where the darkened material mind believes itself at the mercy of unpredictable weather and natural disasters, the spiritually enlightened mind understands the weather to be the effect of the intelligence and love of God. The more clearly we discern this fact, the more successful we are in preventing destructive forces from seeming to materialize in the earth's atmosphere.

Treating Diseased Weather

The weather is governed by the intelligent forces of divine Love, and not by the emotions of animal magnetism or the mindless forces of matter. Therefore when diseased weather confronts us, our work is mainly in the handling of animal magnetism, rather than confining it to abnormal weather or other forces of nature. The disturbance seems to be originating in a disturbed universal mental atmosphere, which is imaging forth its destruction in adverse conditions. Having recognized the mental cause of the problem, we can go beyond the handling of disturbed physical elements, and treat a disturbed, chemicalized mental atmosphere, and deny animal magnetism itself.

To do this requires a steady commitment to Christian Science. Through dedicated study, faith in Christian Science becomes spiritual understanding. God's presence and power becomes real to us. The scientific fact that God is All-in-all, and evil is an illusion, becomes a concrete conviction. The stronger our conviction in this truth, the more effective our metaphysical work.

Prayerful work for the weather is no different than prayerful work to meet any claim of evil. It is based on the prayer of affirmation and denial. This form of prayer is a prayer of action. With it, we take the initiative and argue for the presence of normal weather, and *against* abnormal, diseased weather. We are not trying to control the elements, but to free them of destructive physical forces that seem to be under the control of animal magnetism.

In this work, vehemently deny that animal magnetism has any law, power, intelligence, or energy to disturb the elements. Deny that evil can produce a state of hate or fear in world consciousness that can cause abnormal physical conditions. Demand that it stop claiming to handle the weather. Address animal magnetism directly, and with spiritual dominion and strength, take the stand that it cannot disturb the weather, cause earthquakes, fires, or floods, or extreme heat or cold, or storms. Know that disturbed weather is a lie about God's weather, and cannot continue its claim to harm or destroy. Earthquakes, fires, and floods are a lie about the earth and are not real. Refuse to accept such things as inevitable, for they are not beyond God's power to prevent or control. Be very strong in your denial of animal magnetism.

Having denied animal magnetism's claim to control the elements, we then affirm the spiritual facts about weather. Again, looking through the visible weather, translate it back into its spiritual state by seeing that underlying it, there is the presence and power of the one Mind. Then know that the weather and nature are governed by divine intelligence and love. God is infinite, and so the elements cannot act outside of, or apart from, the power and presence of divine Love. In reality, the weather and all physical phenomena are perfect, harmonious, and benign, governed by the one Mind. They can no more rage out of control, than God Himself, for God is the only cause, and they are the perfect effect of this one and only cause.

When bad weather threatens us, we can know that perfect weather still exists intact and undisturbed in God, and as such, it must manifest itself in normal conditions — just as sickness temporarily hides the permanent condition of health, until we meet the claim, and health becomes evident.

Preparation through Study and Prayer

If we want to exercise dominion over the weather, we should prepare to do so. The most effective work comes as the result of daily study and prayer. Our declarations of Truth and denial of animal magnetism must be with spiritual understanding and conviction, if our work is to be effective. In other words, we should not wait until a flood or hurricane is upon us to begin handling the weather. Each time we prove to ourselves through healing of any kind that God is all and evil is nothing, the stronger becomes our conviction in handling all forms of animal magnetism. When we include the weather in our daily metaphysical work, we become experienced in handling it.

Prayerful work in all avenues of life — including the weather — is quite simple. We can study Christian Science diligently, and pray the prayer of affirmation and denial. Mrs. Eddy has given us the spiritual means for healing “sick weather,” and we need now to develop our mental strength and confidence to the point where we can carry out this work to a satisfactory end. As we do this, we develop an advanced form of intelligence that we can call on at all times.

Overcoming the Adverse Effects of Normal Weather

We can begin demonstrating dominion over the weather, when we handle the false laws about weather that affect our day-to-day health and comfort. The claim that ordinary weather makes us ill, uncomfortable, chilled, over-heated; that it can cause suffering or accidents; that it can threaten our health or life — these false beliefs disappear as we see that the weather is a manifestation of Love. How could God create atmospheric conditions that are harmful to His idea, man? How can we fear or dislike that which Love has given to bless us, and bring variety and beauty into our experience? Reasoning from a spiritual basis about the weather; we come to translate it back into its true spiritual state. And so we become less and less fearful of weather conditions.

This work has a profound effect on our own personal experience with the weather. How often do we blame illness on the weather? Cold, stormy, disagreeable weather is supposed to cause colds and flu. It seems to make us depressed and gloomy. We believe we suffer from extreme heat and humidity. *These so-called laws regarding weather are in us, not in the weather.* We become a law of suffering to ourselves, when we believe bad weather can affect us.

But as we see the weather as originating in God, we realize that there are no harmful effects in daily weather conditions. When we can face any kind of weather *without fear*, we stop suffering from the weather. We become less conscious of it, and increasingly unaffected by it. We do not feel the heat and cold as intensely as we did. We stop having colds and flu. We do not worry about being out in bad weather. There is great freedom in being able to go through all types of weather without fear, knowing it cannot affect us.

If our first attempts to handle the weather seem to meet with little or no success, we should not be discouraged. The use of scientific prayer in handling the weather is a new adventure for most of us. But we can begin, here and now, to practice overcoming our belief and fear in the power of weather and natural forces to act apart from God. If we do, we gradually gain dominion over the false laws attached to them.

Handling Abnormal Conditions

As we demonstrate over the belief that we suffer from normal conditions, we are then able to face abnormal conditions — blizzards, electrical storms, fires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters — with less and less fear, because we have learned not to make a reality of them. We can handle them intelligently, competently. We do not experience harm or loss from them, as we become increasingly certain that God controls all physical phenomena. We find that we cannot be frightened by the presence of threatening natural disasters. Our daily work brings us protection and delivers us from bad weather, if we refuse to make a reality of it. We are safely hidden from harm, and supplied with every need. We do not suffer physically or mentally from these experiences.

As we progress further in this prayerful work, we come to the understanding wherein we can actually prevent or reverse adverse weather conditions and natural forces that are threatening extensive damage to life and property in our community and our country. Again, our initial effort at such an undertaking may not seem to reap results, but we gather confidence and experience as we continue to work. Handling the weather is like all forms of accomplishment. We start where we are, and then do the best we can. And we continue practicing until we have such confidence in our work that we see definite results from it.

Specific Causes to Handle

It helps to handle specific causes that seem to be the source of threatening elements. There are local and national events that stir people so deeply that they become emotionally irrational — political campaigns, issues, or exposes; visits by unpopular foreign dignitaries; labor disputes and strikes; anti-abortion and racial demonstrations, etc. Collective confrontations and controversies can stir up such emotionalism that they produce adverse weather and other natural disasters.

There is also Satanism, occultism, black magic, voodoo — especially arising from the Caribbean — which could account for the many hurricanes along the Atlantic Seaboard.

As part of this work, we should handle witchcraft, theosophy and Oriental witchcraft. Mrs. Eddy was known to attribute electrical storms that occurred at Pleasant View to the mental work of theosophists, who were antagonistic towards Christian Science. The power of secret hypnotic work, which has become more universally understood in recent years, has long been known in the Orient and in India. There is the claim that collective work of trained mentalists or hypnotists can affect the weather. The weather in this country and in Europe comes from the far East, moves across the Pacific to the West Coast, and then across this country to Europe.

Mrs. Eddy once made the statement. "The weather manifests God's government, and no evil doers can change this fact. The devils of human thought - all the powers of many minds, are powerless in Love's presence. God is *All*. God is *Mind*." With great spiritual discernment, she overcame electrical storms and other weather abnormalities by handling the mental work of enemies of Christianity and Christian Science. We should carefully consider her insight regarding these mental forces, and work to realize that Orientalism has no power to disturb or control the weather, for God controls it, and He is the only power. Any mental force claiming to handle the weather is godless. Such an unseen force cannot manifest itself in God's universe, and therefore it must return to nothingness, for God alone reigns and is All-in-all. No mind trained in malicious malpractice can work to destroy the prosperity of this or any country by handling the weather.

Today's Challenges

Our work for the weather is urgent, as the weather conditions grow increasingly extreme. Once Mrs. Eddy said that malice would burn up the world. Could this indicate that malice world-wide — hatred, violence, war, crime, murder, revenge, etc. — that this raging atmosphere would generate such heat that it would destroy humanity?

This should not happen, yet the animal magnetism buried in the hidden recesses of mortal mind is being brought to the surface to be destroyed. Many things are being presented to collective world thought which shock and enrage, and engender fear, hate, malice, and revenge; and such emotionalism is then manifested in discordant weather.

Because the world is entering this chemicalized state, we must use our spiritual talents in establishing the fact that God creates and governs man and the universe. This annuls the belief of many minds affecting the weather, and establishes God as the only governing power. If we do this work faithfully, we can help the world through this chemicalizing time, and prevent the suffering that comes from adverse weather conditions.

An Unpolluted Atmosphere

Atmospheric conditions and the weather will improve as our mental atmosphere reflects more of the divine Mind. We read in *Hints on Healing*, by Frank Mason, the following: "When a man can master in himself anger, malice, hate, lust, and so on, he will become master over the elements. Lightning, volcanoes, whirlwinds, and earthquakes are but intensified expressions of the individual evils enumerated. 'He that is faithful over a few things, I will make ruler over many.' A man is at the mercy of the material elements, so long as he has miniature ones in his thought."

Smog and all forms of pollution will disappear; abnormal weather and natural disasters will grow less and less, as the leaven of Truth works silently in the hidden recesses of world thought, bringing error to the surface and purifying world thought. As this chemicalization takes place, we should keep before us the promise given by Christ Jesus, for he said that this chemicalized stage precedes the coming of the man created in God's image. "Then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Don't be intimidated by the weather. Even neophytes in Christian Science have successfully handled it. Scientists have been able to overcome electrical storms, tornadoes, and other adverse weather conditions through prayer alone. They have been protected in snow storms and earthquakes and forest fires. As an ever-increasing number of Scientists do prayerful work for the weather, the collective power of spiritual goodness will reverse and overcome the collective disturbance of animal magnetism in world consciousness, and the weather will reflect this accordingly.

As we see through the mist of matter into the realm of Love, we will express such spiritual love that we, too, will look into the clouds and winds and waves, and think, "Peace, be still," and silence the raging storm.

MRS. EDDY'S LESSONS ON HANDLING THE WEATHER

Students who served Mrs. Eddy in her home at Pleasant View or Chestnut Hill received specific lessons on handling the weather. They kept records of her instructions which have come down to us through their memoirs and diaries. The following are extracts from these records.

* * * * *

Gilbert C. Carpenter, Sr. spent a year at Pleasant view as assistant secretary to Mrs. Eddy. Included in his duties, he was expected to do metaphysical work for the weather. Gilbert C. Carpenter, Jr., later published a book of the short prayers given by Mrs. Eddy to the mental workers in her home. These were called *watches*, because the students were watching or standing guard metaphysically, handling many of the mental challenges related to the Cause and its Leader. In the book, titled *Watches, Prayers, Arguments*, Mr. Carpenter writes in his 'Introduction':

In reading these watches, one wonders at Mrs. Eddy's insistence on students handling the weather. Gilbert C. Carpenter reports that she kept Laura Sargent working on the weather much of the time, even while she had other students working on specific problems that needed attention . . . If a student should become fixed in the notion that the entire mission of Science is to heal mankind, it would help him to read these watches, so that he might learn that in Mrs. Eddy's eyes it was no misuse of Truth to apply it to the weather and other general discords. The task of the working Scientist must include correcting the sense of weather, if it violates the law of harmony, as well as to work on whatever else comes to his notice in the world that calls for divine help. On page 427 of the textbook [*Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*] we read: "Immortal Mind, governing all, must be acknowledged as supreme in the physical realm, so-called, as well as in the spiritual."

The following extract from the diary kept by Calvin Frye tells an interesting story: "August 6, 1900. When Mrs. Eddy was out on the swing this morning, she told me to go and tell Joseph Mann for him and me to constantly hold the thought, the sun will not

appear for three days and three nights, and there will be a constant rain; the clouds will be continually replenished. It was a very hot sunny day. Suddenly at 10 o'clock tonight, a severe thunder shower came up with almost a cyclone. Mother told me to tell Joseph, there is no cyclone. We united in that thought, and in less than five minutes the wind (which was filled with water like mist) came down to a gentle breeze. Mother then told me to tell Joseph, no thunder and lightning, but continuous gentle rain. In a few moments the thunder died away in the distance, and there was a steady gentle rain. Today, Aug. 7, there has been a gentle rain most of the day without thunder. . ."

One of the 'watches' given by Mrs. Eddy to the workers is as follows:

WATCH - Love controls the weather.
No electricity of mortal mind.
No thunder; no high winds to blow.
Divine Mind governs all.

* * * * *

In his book, *Memoirs of Mary Baker Eddy*, Adam Dickey gives a very detailed account of the work done for the weather while serving Mrs. Eddy as assistant secretary at Chestnut Hill. In 1908, he was asked to come to Chestnut Hill. In the following excerpt, he tells of his arriving one morning in February, following a snowstorm which had blanketed much of the East Coast. With his very first meeting with Calvin Frye and other members of the household, he learned of Mrs. Eddy's dedication to having the workers in her home prevent and overcome adverse weather conditions. He writes of this experience:

After meeting Mr. Frye, I was introduced to Mrs. Laura Sargent, whom I already knew, and to three other members of the household, including the gentleman who was serving temporarily as secretary to Mrs. Eddy.

During this first breakfast, conversation turned on my trip eastward, and I learned that I had been expected to arrive the day before, Mrs. Eddy having been caused some concern over the delay. They asked me in rather a pointed way if we had encountered much snow on the trip. I explained that the whole country was covered with a blanket of snow, which was responsible for my delay. Mr. Frye at once said, "We must tell Mother about that." I wondered at the time what there was in that little discussion that could interest Mrs. Eddy. I afterward learned that she had an aversion to heavy snowfalls, and that they were the damaging results of error and ought not to be tolerated. It seems that this particular snowfall had been the cause of considerable damage, and the workers in her household felt that they might be excused for their failure to control the snow, if Mrs. Eddy were informed that the storm was almost country-wide and not confined to New England.

Each mental worker in the home occupied his own room, which was large, airy, and comfortably furnished, with private bath connected. The injunction, "Never forsake your post," was one that was strictly obeyed by every mental worker in our Leader's home. Each was always to be found in his own room, and when a change was proposed in the line of mental work to be taken up, Mrs. Eddy would give her secretary the language of the 'watch,' or perhaps it would be sent to his room by Mr. Frye, Mrs.

Sargent, or Mrs. Eddy's maid, whichever one happened to be convenient when the inspiration reached our Leader. Carbon copies were made of these 'watches,' and one was taken directly to the room of each worker, as a guide to him in his mental work. The subjects covered by these 'watches' were endless in their variety. One thing in particular that our Leader requested her workers to care for was the weather, and this was done in addition to the work of the committee in Boston appointed for that special purpose. During some of the severe New England winters, when a greater amount of snow than usual was falling, our Leader would instruct her workers that they must put a stop to what seemed to be the steadily increasing fall of snow, which she looked upon as a manifestation of error. She had an aversion to an excessive fall of snow. She considered it as an agent of destruction, an interference with the natural and normal trend of business. We are quick to recognize the fact that an unusually heavy fall of snow in any community is a disastrous thing. It clogs the wheels of commerce, interferes with traffic, interrupts the regular routine of business affairs, and breaks in upon the harmony and continuity of man's peaceful existence. Millions of dollars are spent annually in many places to remove the effects of heavy snowfalls, and so this was one of the points that was covered by Mrs. Eddy's mental workers. One of the 'watches' issued January 15, 1910, requested her mental workers to "Make a law that there shall be no more snow this season."

When our Leader first came to live at Chestnut Hill in the spring and summer of 1908, thunderstorms and electric disturbances seemed to be unusually prevalent. This was another form of error which our Leader disliked very much. A gentle rainfall was a delight to her, but a destructive, electrical storm she abhorred. She evidently looked upon it as a manifestation of evil, and a destructive agency of mortal mind. Mrs. Sargent was the one to whom was especially assigned the work of watching the weather, and bringing it into accord with normal conditions. For the three years during our Leader's stay in Chestnut Hill, and for several years thereafter, the recollection of the writer is that there were fewer and fewer thunder storms, until they almost ceased to be.

Upon one occasion after she had given her workers some instructions regarding the weather, and after we had all repaired to our several rooms to continue, a succession of taps on her bell called us all back into her sitting room, where, as was our custom, we arranged ourselves in front of her chair very much as the old-fashioned class in school arranged itself in front of the schoolmaster. Pointing with her finger to the first one in the class, which happened to be me, she said, "Mr. Dickey, can a Christian Scientist control the weather?" "Yes, Mother." To the next person, "Can a Christian Scientist control the weather?" "Yes, Mother." To the next, "Can a Christian Scientist control the weather?" "Yes, Mother." "Mr. Frye, can a Christian Scientist control the weather?" "Yes, Mother." To the next person, "Can a Christian Scientist control the weather?" "Yes, Mother." This question was put to each member of the class with the same reply. After we had all repeated our answers, an expression of rejection, not to say scorn, came upon her face, and she said with emphasis, "They can't and they don't." This brought a look of surprise to the face of each member of the class, for we had just been instructed, as we thought, how to take care of the weather. She repeated the statement, "They can't," but immediately she added, "but God can and does. Now," she said, "I want you to see the point I am making. A Christian Scientist has no business attempting to control or govern the weather, any more than he has a right to attempt to control or govern sickness, but he

does know, and must know, that God governs the weather and no other influence can be brought to bear upon it. When we destroy mortal mind's belief that it is a creator, and that it produces all sorts of weather, good as well as bad, we shall then realize God's perfect weather and be the recipients of His bounty in that respect. God's weather is always right. A certain amount of rain and sunshine is natural and normal, and we have no right to interfere with the stately operations of divine wisdom in regulating meteorological conditions. Now, I called you back because I felt you did not get my former instructions correctly, and I want you to remember that the weather belongs to God, and when we destroy the operations of mortal mind and leave the question of regulating the weather to God, we shall have weather conditions as they should be."

Every Christian Scientist will see the force of our Leader's instruction in this respect. Mortal mind's attempts to take out of the hands of the Creator of the universe His dispensation of weather, should be met and overcome through the realization of what really constitutes God's government regarding the weather. I have heard our Leader describe in a number of instances how she has dissipated a thunder cloud by simply looking upon it, and bringing to bear upon mortal mind's concept of this manifestation of discord what God really has prepared for us, and she illustrated this by a wave of her hand, indicating the total disappearance of the thunder cloud and its accompanying threat.

* * * * *

Lida Fitzpatrick was called to Pleasant view on three different occasions to assist Mrs. Eddy. Included in her "Notes on the Course in Divinity," are a number of lessons the workers had on handling the weather. She records them in Mrs. Eddy's own words:

May 18, 1903. I know what is coming. I dare not tell you what I know; you are young yet, and now is the time to experiment. You will know some day. We are told the world will be destroyed. How? By malice. By cyclones, electricity, and be burned up. What is a cyclone? It is a condition of mortal mind — malice; what burns up? Malice. We are told, like Mt. Pelee, there is an internal fire (malice) that will finally burst forth and destroy the world. It is all malice, and our textbook tells us, Christian Scientists will hold such things in check. God never made them, and they can be overcome just the same as sickness. It is all within. Now, when there is the claim that the weather is sultry, handle it, and you will see a breeze spring up; if it is cold, handle it; it is all in Mind, ever the same, harmonious. God did not make sultry weather, etc.; then if we through belief have made it, we must unmake it. When it looks like thunder and lightning, handle it; there is no sultry atmosphere to cause thunder and lightning. When I first came to Concord (before hypnotism and mesmerism joined hands to work upon me) there was no snow the first winter at all, and no thunderstorms the first year. When sultry, I would close my eyes for a moment, then open them, and the leaves would all be stirring; a breeze had sprung up. We make our own atmosphere. These things are easier to handle than sickness. I used to handle them until I forgot about it. Lately I have attended to the work, and only kept above the effects. When Clara was here I would speak about the thunderstorms, and she would work alone and they would all disappear. You can do this, and if you are not at

first successful, do not get discouraged; keep on trying. When you have the first indication — forestall it.

May 26, 1903. Mother's Lesson on Rain.

The gentle clouds and the gentle rain fall upon the just and the unjust; no electricity, no thunder and no lightning, no cyclone, no tornado, no destruction, for the dear Father's face looks out from the cloud in love and in harmony. No malice, and no hatred — for there is nothing to interfere with His government in Love. There shall be the gentle and beautiful rain upon the earth, to water the whole face of the earth.

May 27, 1903. Handle the thought of reversal. You can do it. The reign of harmony is the fact; you can make it rain; it can water the earth. Is there a devil that can reverse God's government? No. Then have faith as a grain of mustard seed. You can.

May 28, 1903. Do not take up, there is no thunder and lightning; know that God governs the elements, and there is nothing destructive or harmful. God sends the rain that watereth the earth. Human will cannot come in and govern.

You would not argue diphtheria if the case was consumption; neither do you argue thunder and lightning when it is sin (malice). If thunder and lightning come, then know forces are of God and not destructive. If too much rain, realize harmony; if drought — no drought.

June 12, 1903. In working for the weather, never say: there is no wind, there is no lightning, no rain, etc., for if you do it will act like mesmerism; it will break out in some other phase; but know the elements are in God's hands (His fists), they are not destructive, but governed by harmony, and express harmony. God gave us dominion over the earth, but it is His dominion; the loving Father gives us what is for us, and nothing else can; He is Love and Love controls the elements and all things.

August 1, 1903. Do not treat the weather as though a storm could go around and let our neighbor have it. When I take it up I face the clouds and see God's face, Love, shining right through; then the clouds scatter and there is no storm to break upon anyone.

September 15, 1903. The weather expresses our concept of it, and can be handled the same as any claim, if you do not hold it as something apart from you, governed by some other power or almanac, etc. God governs all; this is the way Jesus stilled the tempest. There is no person and no persons that have any control over us; that belief is all illusion; God is All; we must prove this.

December, 1903. You are not a Christian Scientist until you do control the weather.

December 26, 1903. Did God give you dominion over the weather? Yes. He gave you dominion over all. Then you can control the weather.

Your body is of the earth earthly, according to the Scripture; you have dominion over that; then you have over the weather.

May 12, 1907. Handle the weather just as you do any belief of mortal mind.

May 30, 1907. When I have made a storm disappear I did not argue, — ‘there are no clouds’; I said, ‘God’s face is there and I see it’; and the storm would break and disappear.

* * * * *

While serving Mrs. Eddy at Chestnut Hill, Martha Wilcox recorded the following lesson on the weather:

[Mrs. Eddy] talked to me about the weather, and when she had finished, I went to my room and wrote down as nearly as I could remember and had understood, some of the things she had told me. “God does not make sultry weather, and if we, through belief, make weather sultry, we must unmake it. God governs the weather. He governs the elements, and there are no destructive winds or lightning. Love always looks out from the clouds. Beliefs about the weather are easier healed than sickness.”

* * * * *

Dr. Alfred E. Baker records in his “Metaphysical Notes”:

When Mrs. Eddy dissipated a thunderstorm in my presence one day while I was in her study, I asked her how she did it. She replied, ‘I saw the face of my Father.’ This is an illustration of the Christ. Literally, they are living words, the Word of Life, that is, Words proceeding out of the mouth of God, which is God. Nothing to do with terminology.

* * * * *

The following statements by Mrs. Eddy and accounts of her demonstration over the weather, from *Divinity Course and General Collectanea*, were recorded by various students:

One time some of the workers at Pleasant view were sitting in front of a window working against a storm which was approaching; suddenly Mrs. Eddy came up behind them and said, ‘You are not meeting it because you are mesmerized by the appearance.’ Then she swept them aside, took up the case herself, and in a short time they saw the blue sky appear through the center of the storm cloud.

When I work for the weather, everybody wants fair weather, only they believe there will be bad weather, and I only have to overcome that belief; but when malice comes in and declares there shall be storms, then I have a task to overcome that. Now make real to yourselves: There is no envy, malice, hate, nor revenge; God is Love and Love is All. All is health and holiness. There is no opposite.

The weather is in reality the atmosphere of the Mind that is God. It is His idea. God and man are not two, but one, in the sense that Principle and idea are one,

inseparable. That is why we can handle the weather of mortal belief, just the same as we would meet a case of rheumatism.

Don't argue there is no rain, or drought will set in. Watch the clouds, and if a bad-looking cloud is gathering, scatter it and allow the rain; but no cyclone or tornado or dangerous lightning does God send; hence you can know it does not come.

God governs all, is All-in-all. God is our constant Guide and Guardian. No mortal thought, known or unknown, seen or unseen, can interfere with the manifestation of Love's presence with us. The weather manifests God's government, and no evildoers can change this fact. The devils of human thought — all the powers of many minds — are powerless in Love's presence. God is All. God is Mind.

(March 30, 1908 or 1909) Now the season of storms is coming on. The enemy — mesmerists — claim they can do what they want to the weather — as they claim they can do as they will with sickness. You all know you can control a headache or a belief of dyspepsia, and you are not afraid of it.

Sickness is a belief of mortal mind. Now what is a storm? Is it not a false claim of material law? Is there any such thing as material law? Then if bad weather or lightning is an erroneous concept of mortal law, can't you break it up? Now, I want you to prepare yourselves to do this. I remember once when we were having a terrific storm, and the lightning was around the house like chains, the students were with me and I declared to them that there was no surplus electricity, and in a few minutes the whole storm disappeared. Now, you know there are no thunderstorms in divine Mind. No lightning in heaven — so prepare to break up these violent storms. There is *no need* for them.

September 24, 1907. Terrific clouds all over the sky changed instantaneously by me, and a gentle rain and *rainbow* appeared.

[The following books mentioned in this selection are available from The Bookmark: *Watches, Prayers, Arguments; Memoirs of Mary Baker Eddy; Divinity Course and General Collectanea*, which includes Lida Fitzpatrick's "Notes on the Course in Divinity," Dr. Alfred Baker's "Metaphysical Notes," and also a large selection of the material included in the book *Watches, Prayers, Arguments*.]

ATOMIC ACTION

by

Stanley C. Morgan

The world has advanced into an atomic age. Christian Scientists are fortunate in having a definitive statement on atomic action by their Leader, Mary Baker Eddy. In *Miscellaneous Writings*, she states: "Atomic action is Mind, not matter. It is neither the energy of matter, the result of organization, nor the outcome of life infused into matter: it is infinite Spirit, Truth, Life, defiant of error or matter."

Atomic action, being infinite Spirit, thus wholly good, is not then to be feared, but rather to be properly understood, to be loved and demonstrated.

Jesus promised that the Comforter would come and reveal the actual truth regarding all things. Christian Science is the Comforter, which makes clear that mortal existence is not the everlasting, perfect, immortal existence that God, Mind, created, and that at this very moment is the only real existence. The so-called physical senses, which are themselves part and parcel of mortal existence, cannot inform us what is real and what is unreal. Christian Science, through spiritual sense and spiritual understanding, alone can do this.

“Atomic action is Mind.” Since Mind is God and God is All, all action in reality is atomic action. Atomic action, therefore, is not separate from, but synonymous with, omni-action, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, the one and only God, to whom all things are possible. Whatever is true of God is true of atomic action, or Mind. Whatever is not true of God is not true of atomic action. Atomic action is infinite Spirit. Spirit, God being All, has no opposite. Therefore matter, the supposed opposite of Spirit, has nothing whatever to do with atomic action, and atomic action has nothing whatever to do with matter.

Atomic action is Truth. Therefore error, the supposed opposite of Truth, has nothing whatever to do with atomic action, and atomic action has nothing to do with error. Atomic action is Life. Therefore death, the supposed opposite of Life, has nothing to do with atomic action, and atomic action has nothing to do with death. Matter, or evil, can neither help nor hinder the perpetual harmony of atomic action; nor can it interfere with its demonstration.

According to mortal belief, the atom is the basic brick out of which are built all material things. Chemical force and physical energy result from the action and interaction of atoms. Energy of an enormously greater magnitude is pent up within the atom itself. Nuclear physicists have discovered how to release and utilize this enormous reserve of energy. Inventions resulting from this discovery will harness atomic energy to useful purposes. They will provide greater warmth and comfort to greater numbers with reduced physical toil and labor. They will provide means for better, quicker, and more efficient transportation. The result will mean considerable advances in industry, in agriculture, in the supply of power, and therefore in our living standards.

Our Leader refers to human progress out of self-imposed limitation where she writes in *Science and Health*, “We welcome the increase of knowledge and the end of error, because even human invention must have its day, and we want that day to be succeeded by Christian Science, by divine reality.” Human inventions resulting from an increased knowledge of atomic action will have their day. Like other modern inventions, they will be temporary blessings which lessen human drudgery. Until mankind learned and accepted the fact regarding the shape of the earth, they were subject to the limitations which a flat earth would have imposed . . . Similarly, until mankind learn and accept the facts regarding atomic action, they will be subject to the generally accepted beliefs regarding it — namely, that it is a great force which can be used by mortals for good or evil.

Mrs. Eddy also says in *Science and Health*, “The material so-called gases and forces are counterfeits of the spiritual forces of divine Mind, whose potency is Truth, whose attraction is Love, whose adhesion and cohesion are Life, perpetuating the eternal

facts of being.” Mind, real atomic action, provides mortals with all the good they have. Moreover, atomic action, Mind, is always harmless, always useful, always available. Scientifically applied to human problems in a Christly manner, it is absolutely effortless. Every so-called miracle, or wonder, recorded in the Old and New Testaments and every Christian Science healing, is an example of the toilless operation of Mind in the affairs of mankind.

Consider the wonder recorded in the twenty-first chapter of John. The disciples, dazed by the crucifixion experience, had returned to their fishing. They had toiled all night and had caught nothing. At dawn, someone standing on the shore told them to cast their nets on the right side. They did so, and their nets were filled. Then they recognized their risen Master, and when they got ashore they found a meal of bread and fish awaiting them.

The Christ, Truth, through Jesus’ spiritual understanding of Mind, the real atomic action, provided that morning meal. No toilsome plowing, sowing, harvesting, no transportation was required to produce the bread. No fisherman toiled all night to net the fish. Time and growth to maturity from seed and monad were not necessary, and no one toiled to fetch fuel for the fire. The human need for proper food was completely and instantly met.

And Mind, atomic action “defiant of error or matter, “ supplied the need. Physical scientists, theologians, politicians, and statesmen, all greatly fear the abuse of what they believe atomic action to be, and with one accord they aver that, if unleashed, atomic energy could destroy our civilization. Therefore, mankind is in great need of understanding the saving power which accompanies the true concept of atomic action. Truth is not affected by false beliefs, but false beliefs are radically affected by Truth, which destroys them.

The facts regarding real atomic action, or Mind, faithfully held to in thought, replace the fables regarding it, and will counteract and neutralize the fearful belief of counterfeit atomic action. Such scientific right thinking is Christian Science treatment, or prayer, which can heal and protect nations as well as individuals.

Jesus said, “He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” Students of Christian Science go to the Father, Mind, for the truth regarding all things. As they utilize their understanding of atomic action as Mind, they become the instruments through which Christ, Truth, operates, enabling them to keep atomic energy within the bounds of usefulness, and avert any blow aimed at the destruction of mankind. May not this be one of the greater works which the ever-present Christ will do in and for this age?

The statement that is quoted at the beginning of this article is the complete and final truth, and is the basis of all right thinking regarding atomic action. Whenever atomic action is referred to — over the radio, in conversation, or in the press — let us vigorously deny aggressive mental suggestions of destructive power, and affirm the omnipotence of Truth. Isaiah states: “Therefore shall the strong people glorify thee . . . For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.”

GOD'S ORBITS

by

Julia M. Johnston

God's universe with its scientific order is becoming more apparent to men in these times of research, invention, and religious progress. As human thought breaks away from false beliefs about matter, time, and space, wider spheres of perception and action are unfolding. This earth is not the horizon of knowledge. Wisdom about the heaven's hosts is multiplying. Deeper attention is being given to the spiritual account of creation in the first chapter of Genesis.

As the student carefully searches this initial chapter of the Holy Bible and its scientific interpretation in *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy, two facts stand out which are appropriate to the present space age. First, God, supreme Mind, is the sole creator; then, with the conception of each idea, there is the launching of it into eternal purpose.

God's creating of ideas of existence, if without accompanying purpose and control of them for eternity, would be fruitless functioning. There must be continuing usefulness for all that God brings forth. Since creative Mind is the origin of the universe, it must be the ultimate, the all-inclusive. This implies that ideas emanating from the divine Mind eternally remain within the orbits of God's intention for them.

Every true identity, from the most minute to immensity, lives and moves in accord with God's law of changeless perfection. The law of spiritual attraction makes impossible any power that could pull these emanations out of their God-given circuits, as permanent parts of the endless universe of good. Their status is fixed, and cannot be invaded. Error could not live in the atmosphere of Spirit, but God's ideas drink in its holy essence, and thrive upon it. Launched successfully in Mind's ultimate purpose for it, every divine idea keeps an unswerving course. Throughout all aeons, it persists in its God-ordained and directed career.

The propulsion of every divine concept along the paths of Mind, the reaches of infinity, is accomplished by the energies of Spirit. These forces are indestructible, never permitting the work of the Creator to fall short of its goal, to lack essential sustenance, nor to be nullified. The divine order throughout the scope of Mind never reaches a final stage, but ever unfolds the circle of celestial events.

Mind's launching of its ideas is never experimental nor faulty. The first chapter of Genesis states in no uncertain terms, "God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." This accomplishment has lasted from beyond the history of humanity till now, and has within it the elements of endless continuance. Since the earth and moon are unswervingly kept in their courses, is it strange to assume that man, God's paramount world, must be held in forever unfoldment of the divine dominion bestowed upon him?

Mrs. Eddy, in writing of Mind's control of all that really exists, says in *Miscellaneous Writings*, "This Mind, then, is not subject to growth, change, or diminution, but is the divine intelligence, or Principle, of all real being; holding man forever in the rhythmic round of unfolding bliss, as a living witness to and perpetual idea of inexhaustible good." In this statement of the divine origin and ultimate of man is indicated the predestination of his forever unity with God.

God's orbits are not limited channels wherein His ideas are confined, but divinely outlined opportunities for reflection of Mind's infinitude. Scientific security of procedure permeates their atmosphere. Mind cannot send forth its ideas into surroundings unlike itself in essence, to wander erratically through time, but steers them precisely through eternity. The Master, Christ Jesus, spoke of his spiritual identity as coming from the Father, doing always those things that pleased the Father, and returning to the Father. God's offspring do not dash headlong into self-destruction, but move in accord with their Creator's foreknowing. They cannot stray into misguided paths, because they are never separated from the will of God. The first chapter of Genesis is as true an account of creation today as when it was first written.

Today's attempts to launch vehicles into new scopes of exploration signify closer approach to discoveries of the divine order. But neither modern inventions nor human propulsion into space, can of themselves sufficiently interpret the infinite. Unknown heights, depths, and distances of matter can never reveal primordial Truth. Only divine Science really can traverse immensity, and report the presence of the kingdom of heaven throughout all space. Through purification of human consciousness, thought is lifted into the atmosphere of the primitive and ultimate — the eternal All.

St. John, on the Isle of Patmos, wrote of seeing "a new heaven and a new earth," and of what was going on in them. He evidently beheld more of the nature of reality than human knowledge through the later centuries has been able to explain. And Mrs. Eddy, in speaking of her discovery of divine Science, writes in *Retrospection and Introspection*, "The divine hand led me into a new world of light and Life, a fresh universe — old to God, but new to His 'little one.'" Later she amplified this statement with the following prophecy in *Pulpit and Press*; "Who lives in good, lives also in God, — lives in all Life, through all space."

Humanity has been trained for centuries to believe that man has fallen away from God into mortality. There he is supposed to move in orbits of his own making, experiencing uncertainty, failure, sin, suffering, limitation in every direction, and death. All this is false assumption, for there can be no existence apart from God, who is infinite Life. Christian Science has come to restore to all men the realization of the ever-continuing coexistence of God and man. Giving heed to this revelation of Truth, human consciousness wakes to the possibility of moving beyond the atmosphere of matter into the awareness of spiritual existence.

Recognition of man's existence in accord with Mind's purpose for him, embraces humanity step by step in this truth's own demonstration of immortality. The awakened human thought will find itself released from so-called laws of matter, mortal mind and evil, from the seeming pull of animal magnetism and the hypnotism of aggressive mental suggestion, and held in laws of supreme Life and Love.

An illustration of this may be found in the life of the Master when he walked upon the sea. Because Jesus knew and accepted the supremacy of Spirit embracing the universe and man, he was released from the false assumptions of mortal mind, and held in the divine demonstration. Neither the human Jesus nor the Christ, his real self, sank in the waves. Jesus was not left a victim of the accepted laws of gravitation, danger, or destruction. The human was not ignored, neglected, or abandoned to death. As Jesus trusted the truth of man, held in Life's ultimate intention for him, he was kept with the Christ in security, dominion, and freedom.

How undeviating was the Master's way divinely and humanly! Because he knew, and had resort to, his true selfhood as the Son of God, his human experience triumphed over every attempt of error to involve him in discord or disaster. This spiritual wisdom prevented him from making mistakes, from wasting time in fruitless pursuits, from failing in his highest mission. Always the truth of man's moving within the scope of God's purpose, carried him to the summit of demonstration over all material sense. Nothing could rob him of his divine birthright or destiny. He came to show us how to follow the same purposeful path.

Waiting at our doorsteps are spiritual methods of existence, experience evolving from infinity, freedom rising from an understanding of matter's unreality. Today offers men opportunities to lay off many earth weights, to exchange ancient beliefs for spiritual realities. The potency of divine Science is expressed through spiritual laws. As true ideas which come to the surface through study and revelation are proven, the vanguard of divinely prepared scientific exploration reaches beyond materiality's atmosphere to touch the realm of immortality.

The earnest student of mathematics regards arithmetic as only the first step in his study and practice. So the Christian Scientist aspires to achieve and demonstrate more and more of the calculus of the infinite. Every new view of divine order, enables him more clearly to know his identity as the Son of God. Then the struggle of following self-outlined paths begins to cease, along with their disillusionments, disappointments, and thwarting limitations. Instead, there glows the presence of divine Love, which has never left man to make his own life, but has planned and preserved the functioning of the kingdom of heaven within him forever.

To be aware of divine purpose, guarding and guiding man's progress, enables men to cease believing in chance, human will, evil destiny or personal sense as the arbiters of anyone's experience. It brings a deep peace, confidence, and receptivity to divine control, which works out far grander achievement than mortals can possibly accomplish. Taking away fear, hopelessness, or resignation to fate, such awareness reveals the glory of celestial existence, here and everywhere. Man, moving in God's orbit of ultimate intention for him, is never alone. He is conscious of Principle's activity with him; he feels the animation of immortality throughout his identity; he reflects divine purpose as the innate pulsing of his being. He is conscious with omniscience, active with omnipotence, and existent with omnipresence.