

Excerpts from inspirational talk given at Annual Meeting

Infinite Spiritual Sense by Elizabeth Kidder, C.S.



Daystar is a location where abundant healing takes place! So let's begin with an example of Christian Science healing.

Once when we were moving from a house in the country into a rather small apartment, I was feeling very ill. There were big adjustments taking place. For some reason our bedroom didn't yet have a bed and, therefore, I was lying on a camping mat on the floor while the resettling took place. I was not capable of any clear praying for myself. The Christian Science practitioner who was praying for me, came to visit me in our new apartment. I was relying solely on Christian Science treatment, through prayer, for healing.

I remember little about his visit, but I do remember vividly what he said as he left the bedroom. He paused in the doorway, a towering figure to someone lying on the floor. He spoke firmly and clearly. "You do have your spiritual sense!" Then he left.

"YOU DO HAVE YOUR SPIRITUAL SENSE!" This truth penetrated my foggy thinking. I began to accept this fact that I did have my spiritual sense. I felt assured that I had my spiritual sense. The healing ensued quickly.

Our Church founder, Mary Baker Eddy, says, in *Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures*, "It is the province of spiritual sense to govern man" (206:6-7).

I'd like to share three points about spiritual sense, that Christliness in each of us, which have been helpful to me recently. 1) Because man is the reflection of divine Spirit, spiritual sense is universal, innate. 2) We must really desire spiritual sense. 3) We can cherish our spiritual sense better.

Holiness, spiritual knowing and feeling, are especially important to Christian Scientists. Our Leader says, "Spiritual sense is a conscious, constant capacity to understand God." "SPIRITUAL SENSE IS A CONSCIOUS, CONSTANT CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND GOD" (S&H 209:31-32).

Universal Spiritual Sense

A young man in New England used to drop his girlfriend off at the Christian Science church services and wait for her elsewhere. After some months, like a scared kitten hesitant at first to come through the door, he came to one service. Then he attended another. Having overcome his timidity, he voiced this statement, "This is the first church I have been in, that when I enter in, I don't feel guilty, I don't feel like a sinner."

Now what was he feeling? His own innate spiritual sense was awakened by the Science of Christianity, expressed and practiced by the members of that church. Our Leader says, "The Principle and proof of Christianity are discerned by spiritual sense" (S&H 210:5-6).

A Christian Science nursing facility, like Daystar here in Florida, shares an abundance of spiritual sense, spiritual knowing, and spiritual discovery. At Daystar the door is closed to world beliefs and holiness abounds. All involved are like Moses, sandals in hand, standing on holy ground. This is a tangible, secret place of the Most High. Even if we are not availing ourselves of actual nursing care we all need the example Daystar sets, providing the practical and legal protection for knowing and loving Spirit better.

Do we really desire spiritual sense?

On occasion, we might be tempted to believe that we don't really want to know existence as completely spiritual. Who wants to be holy if it means giving up what we are used to, or being separated from that which we love? Subtle arguments may claim we would rather be a "regular person." Perhaps, we all need to face our ambivalence. How much do we hunger and thirst for righteousness? Do we trust we will be filled in a truly satisfying way?

Hatred of Truth would pervert the teachings of Christian Science, claiming it lacks relevance, attractiveness, comfort. We needn't fear losing good if we become more spiritually minded. Why? Because getting to know God better is going to be infinitely better! A full knowledge of Spirit is definitely better than a partial view of reality! The anti-Christ cannot coax us, intoxicate us, frighten us, to slow down and hang on to mortal experience, and not be so interested in working out our salvation.

We may need to trust more that we will be filled, blessed, blissful in Spirit. Mrs. Eddy promises us, “Each successive stage of experience unfolds new views of divine goodness and love” (S&H 66:14).

Cherishing our Spiritual Sense

How might resistance to spiritual progress clothe itself?

One big arguer might be “lack.” Lack of money, lack of qualified staff, lack of endurance, lack of expectancy, delayed healing. No! Right where the “lack beliefs” seem to be, right there, is where the teachings of the Holy Bible answer our needs. The Bible gives us innumerable examples of the abundance of God’s love to supply whatever is needed. In fact every victorious individual in the Bible that I can think of, contests and overcomes the belief of lack in some way.

Let’s consider world beliefs about caring institutions. Mortal mind claims miscommunication between care givers and patients, between staff, between families and facilities. No! We know that “the intercommunication is always from God to His idea, man,” as *Science and Health* puts it (284:31). How could there be miscommunication with God’s Christ as the communicator?

What about all the jokes about institutional food?

Supposedly it has to be bland, uninspired, limited by diets, personal tastes, costs. No! I am sure that Jesus’ provision of the morning meal, or feeding of the 5,000, or Moses’ manna and quail, were gratefully received, beautifully presented, and inspiringly prepared.

What about fear of liability?

Do care facilities have to be haunted in their decision-making by fear of mistakes and legal reprisals? No! Our Leader reminds us, “right motives give pinions to thought, and strength and freedom to speech and action” (S&H 454:19-21).

What about the argument that institutions are strangled by government restrictions?

Medicare or Medicaid might be examples. The Bible promises us that “the government shall be upon his shoulders...of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end” (Isaiah 9:6,7). Jesus knew and proved the authorities had no real power over him.

What about superstitions?

Does unvoiced lack of expectancy of healing claim Daystar may be our last stop? No! Our Christian Science hymnal tells us we are “cared for, watched over, beloved and protected” (Hymn 278). Our spiritual knowing knows our God is God Almighty!

What I am getting at is our attitude. Is it spiritually tuned, knowing the universal truths about even the littlest aspects of caring, or is it absorbing general views, material sense testimony? We don't have to act out the rampant beliefs about care facilities, Christian Science or not.

When we visit a Christian Science nursing facility, we yield to nursing as provided by the Manual of The Mother Church, and we expect a fuller understanding of divine Love's universal caring, free from the problems which material sense wants to impose on nursing institutions.

As visitors, patients, or staff, we enter the doors of Daystar fully spiritually aware. We participate with our “conscious, constant capacity to understand God” (S&H 209:31-32). Let's exercise and protect our spiritual sense. We know that spiritual understanding results in permanent healing.

In closing I'd like to reiterate. 1) We realize that spiritual sense is universal. Man, as the emanation of Spirit, expresses spiritual sense, his or her innate Christly nature. 2) We want to be sure we actually desire the fullness of God, Spirit. 3) Finally, we can all do a better job of recognizing and correcting the subtle, and not so subtle, errors which would undermine our communing with Spirit, would demoralize our beloved nursing institutions, and denigrate all compassionate, worldwide, efforts to care for the ill.

In Mrs. Eddy's interpolation of the 23rd Psalm we are assured, “Divine Love is my shepherd...Love restoreth my soul (spiritual sense....)” (S&H 578: 5 & 8).

It is a sacred promise. We **DO** have our spiritual sense!