

## TEACHING CHILDREN TO HEAL

Mrs. Eddy tells us that "it is possible--yea, it is the duty and privilege of every child, man, and woman---to follow in some degree the example of the master by the demonstration of Truth and Life, of health and holiness (Science and Health, p.37)." It is interesting to note that she mentions a child first. We might take this as a clear indication of the importance of teaching children to heal. There are three main points that the wise parent includes in the spiritual education of his children.

***First the child should be taught to love God supremely.*** By loving God, the child will naturally turn to Him in every situation. Guiding children to rely completely on God enables them to grasp the truths of health and holiness. This reliance gives them spiritual power and freedom to solve their daily problems.

A child's understanding of God should include a simple, beginning understanding of the seven synonyms for God. It will be helpful for children to know that these seven ways to know God are always ready with power to help them when needed.

***Second, a knowledge of Christ Jesus helps children understand how to heal.*** They learn that to heal they will be following what Christ Jesus wanted everyone to do. The Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and the Lord's Prayer, as found in the Sermon on the Mount, will be the foundation for their beginning understanding.

***The third important point is for a child to understand God as infinite good and Christ Jesus as the one who shows them the way to practice Christian Science.*** Mrs. Eddy stays, "Children should be taught the Truth-cure, Christian Science, among their first lessons, and kept from discussing or entertaining theories or thoughts about sickness (Science and Health, p. 237)."

It is highly important that the child himself, in his formative years, should learn how to apply Christian Science. As a parent trains him to know that God's presence is everywhere, the child gains spiritual confidence. He realizes that he is always in his heavenly Father's house, whether he is at home, in school, or with friends.

Turning to God and His Christ enables the child to feel continual protection. Therefore, when he is confronted with mortal mind suggestions of fear or sickness, he has the proper tools to correct the situation instantly.

A deep love for and appreciation of Mrs. Eddy as the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science are essential. Alert parents will see that a child is thoroughly familiar with the life of Mrs. Eddy. They will help the child to understand her mission.

Whatever the problem seems to be, it can be met and mastered through the teachings of Christian Science. A child who is taught spiritual truths and who demonstrates them himself will not turn away in later years, for his understanding will be spiritually provable, not mere blind faith. The Bible informs us, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

With all of the above three points in mind and addressed whenever possible, a child will be better equipped to practice the healing power of Christian Science.

---