

## Stephen Learns to Use the Synonyms

Stephen had been looking forward to spending a happy Easter vacation with his grandparents. It was a long drive to get to their house, but Stephen didn't mind. When the time came for the family to go, he had an earache. It bothered him so much that his mother thought that maybe they had better make not make the trip. She called Stephen's grandmother and told her that she felt they should not come.



Grandmother did not believe in earaches. She knew that man, made in God's likeness, could not have an earache. Trusting God to take care of Stephen, she told his mother to come. She said she knew that he would be all right. When Stephen, his sisters, and his parents arrived, he was not his usual, happy self. He did not spend much time with his grandparents that evening because it was late when they got there. Stephen was very sleepy so he went to bed right away.

The next morning, when he and some of the family were sitting in the living room, he said that his ear was hurting him again. Grandmother spoke up and reminded Stephen that he had been taught that God is All, and He is everywhere. She asked him where the earache could be if God is everywhere. Stephen answered that it couldn't be anywhere, because God would be in the place where the earache was trying to say that it was.

Then, grandmother began talking about the synonyms. This made Stephen perk up a little because he had been learning the names of the synonyms and what they meant. He had memorized them, so he said them out loud so everyone in the room could hear them. God is Principle, Mind, Soul, Spirit, Life, Truth and Love. He knew that Mary Baker Eddy had given us the seven synonyms and that they help us know more about God. And the more we know about God, the more we know about ourselves as His children.

Grandmother began with the synonym of Love. She said that if God is Love, then Love, which is God, was right there now, filling all the space in the room where they were sitting. That means that there is no place for an earache to seem to be. Soon, a happy smile came over Stephen's face. He looked at his grandmother and told her that he understood what she had been telling him about Love.

Grandmother also said that if God is Soul, then Stephen reflected Soul, and Soul was in charge of him. Matter was not. As these Soul-filled thoughts took over Stephen's thinking, the error that said he was material disappeared. Happy and free, Stephen left the room to find his sisters that were outside playing in the yard.

The truths that Stephen knew set him free. He knew that he reflected all of the synonyms for God. He knew that he could only have the good that comes from God. He proved for himself that, by using the truths which he knew, he could heal himself.

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*John 8:32 "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."*

*S&H 273: 18 "Man is harmonious when governed by Soul."*

*S&H 477:7 "Soul, being Spirit, is seen in nothing imperfect nor material."*