

Cough Drops Are Not the Answer

One day, Peter came home from school at noon. He always ate his lunch at school so it was unusual for him to be home. He walked into the kitchen where his mother was and sat down on a stool at the counter. His mother could see that he was very sad and upset. He said, "I have been coughing this morning at school and the teacher said I can't come back this afternoon unless I bring some cough drops. Will you please let me get some?"

Peter's mother laughed and put her arm around him and said, "But sweetie, you are seven years old, and since you were two, you have been relying on Christian Science to work out your problems. Now, all of a sudden, you are asking me for cough drops. Do you really think that if you put those little things in your mouth and swallow, that they will keep you from coughing?"

Peter had to laugh, too. "No" he said, I don't believe it, but the teacher does and she won't let me come back to school if I don't bring them."

"I don't think that the teacher cares whether or not you take cough drops back to school with you. But I do think that your coughing bothers her and the other children. It is a form of error which shouldn't be there, should it? The teacher is right in wanting to make the coughing go away, but we have a better way of doing it than taking cough drops. Can you tell me what it is?"

Peter said that the answer was to turn to God and declare the truth about himself. He went into his room while his mother made him some lunch. He sat down at his desk and opened the Bible to Genesis. He was just learning to read things in the Bible. He found the first sentence in the first chapter. It said, "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." He was so excited that he yelled out to Mother that he could find things in the Bible by himself, without any help. Also, Peter had been learning that God only created good things, and since coughing was a noisy error and not a good thing, than God must not of made it.

While Peter ate his lunch, his mother sat next to him. She told him what Mary Baker Eddy said in *Science and Health* about him being God's reflection. She said that as God's reflection, he could never be separated from God. Soon, it was time for Peter to go back to school. He asked his mother what he should tell the teacher when she asked about the cough drops. His mother said, "If she asks, just tell her that you don't need them. And remember, while you are in school this afternoon that God is right there with you taking care of you."

Peter got to school in time to go to gym class. It was one of his favorites. He did not cough while he was playing kick ball, and he didn't cough in the classroom. When he got home, he told his mother the good news about not coughing. Before Peter went out to play, he and his mother thanked God for always being there to help.



S&H 329: "A little understanding of Christian Science proves the truth of all that I say of it."