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Spiritual healing - it really happens

By Elise L. Moore

July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Years of preparation went into that momentous occasion. Millions watched the telecast, and millions more have heard Armstrong's historic words "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind."

But what if you lived in a part of the world where airplanes were unknown, let alone spaceships? It might sound impossible or ridiculous if someone told you that men had flown to the white ball suspended in the sky, walked on it, and flown back. Such an event being without precedent in your experience, it would require an open thought and a willingness to relinquish traditional beliefs before you could admit such a thing to be possible.

Isn't it often the same with accounts of spiritual healing? The Bible reports that Christ Jesus healed all kinds of diseases, describing specific cases in the four Gospels. Yet these healings are sometimes discounted as miracles or relegated exclusively to the era when Jesus walked the earth. However, Christians practiced spiritual healing for about three hundred years after Jesus, and today they are again practicing it in fulfillment of their Master's promise "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."

Unlike walking on the moon, which is an opportunity very few have had or are likely to have, spiritual healing can be experienced by anyone. It is the natural outcome of the action of spiritual law, redeeming us from so-called material laws.

To experience the healing power of God, a fundamental change in our understanding of God and man is required. Traditional religious concepts, which place God in a finite body or attribute human characteristics to the Supreme Being, obscure the divine nature and its healing power. In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself to Moses as I AM, as the Supreme Being, without physical form. Jesus continued this purely spiritual view of God when he said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Recognizing God as infinite Spirit helps us see the man and woman of Spirit's creating as purely spiritual. It is this tangible, spiritual individuality that Jesus was

referring to when he made that remarkable statement “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”

Discovering the scientific basis of Christianity, Mrs. Eddy learned that relinquishing the traditional view of an anthropomorphic God and physical man for a spiritual understanding of creator and creation was an essential element in the practice of Christian healing as taught by Jesus.

In the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy writes of events leading to her discovery: “The author became a member of the orthodox Congregational Church in early years. Later she learned that her own prayers failed to heal her as did the prayers of her devout parents and the church; but when the spiritual sense of the creed was discerned in the Science of Christianity, this spiritual sense was a *present help*.” It is this fundamental change in thought from the material to the spiritual that gives healing power to our own prayers.

Quite suddenly one morning I could barely see out of one eye. Large black spaces obscured my vision. Wondering if I had damaged my contact lens, I visited an ophthalmologist. After informing me that the lens was fine, he proceeded to diagnose the condition. The prognosis was that the ailment was permanent, not treatable with medication, and that surgery offered little hope.

Immediately on leaving his office, undaunted and unafraid, I called a Christian Science practitioner and asked for prayerful treatment. I prayed too. I firmly and regularly turned my thought away from the physical evidence to the spiritual view of myself as the very image of God.

One evening when I had to ask a friend to lead me back to my hotel room from a business meeting because I could not see the path, a deep need for consistency struck me. I had been praying to see God’s control manifested as clear vision; yet I had also been feeling frustrated, self-righteous, and fearful when business situations seemed to be out of control. If God truly was supreme over all, He was in control of not just me but everyone. I saw that I must embody more fully the essence of my prayer by striving to maintain a spiritual view of others, business associates included. I could face daily situations with the knowledge that God’s absolute government is being perfectly manifested in His spiritual creation, man.

I determined to stop paying attention to the state of my vision and to start paying more attention to the quality of my daily thought and experience. I began rejecting impulses of pride, fear, frustration, short temper, as uncharacteristic of my true, Godlike nature. In the midst of intensely busy days (rather than just during peaceful times at home) I labored to look consistently beyond the human

appearance until I could feel the nearness and omnipotent power of God at work. I became so absorbed in seeking the spiritual evidence that I cannot recall exactly when the physical healing took place. In less than a month, the “black holes” disappeared permanently. Work relations improved as well.

Spiritual healing really does happen. If you can acknowledge the veracity of just one incident as evidence of the healing power of God, you will have opened your thought to the infinite possibilities of divine healing.

What if a majority of the world suddenly questioned whether Neil Armstrong really walked on the moon? He and all those involved with the mission would know the fact. And so it is with Christian healing. Those who have seen or experienced the healing method of Christ Jesus know the truth of what they have witnessed. The blessing of spiritual healing is available to each one who is willing to take those first spiritual steps.