

Reprinted from The Christian Science Journal, October 2002.
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Come into God's castle

By Elise L. Moore

I've always loved castles. Castles with high towers overlooking lazy rivers and lush valleys, castles with spires like Cinderella's castle at Disney World.

Originally, castles were built to defend against invaders. Many castles had high stone walls and a deep moat. To enter this kind of castle, people walked across a drawbridge. When the drawbridge was pulled up, it closed the only entrance. So if an enemy came, people would run into the fortress and pull up the drawbridge after them. Although they might see the enemy on the field, the people were safe inside the castle.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a castle where you could go to be safe? If you were scared or didn't feel well, you could go into your castle and be safe from invaders or even from sickness. Actually, you do have a castle. It's not a physical place with high walls and a moat. God is your castle.

A man who lived long ago, and in dangerous times, wrote, "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust" (Ps. 18:2). God is so powerful that no enemy can attack Him. No army of fear or sickness can get through the castle of God to even touch you. You are safe within God, surrounded by a moat of spiritual strength.

So where is this castle of God? Well, God is everywhere. Wherever you are, God is. He knows you and loves you and protects you. God cares about you and wants to keep you safe from any harm. Actually, God surrounds you. You are living right now in God's love.

One of the names for God used in the Bible is Mind. What does Mind do? Well, Mind thinks ideas and knows everything. The Mind that is God thinks you and me. We are His ideas. And where do God's ideas live? We live in Him, in Mind. This is our castle.

This idea has helped me many times. Sometimes it seems there are dangers that could attack me or my friends or family. You know what I mean. Things happen at school or in your neighborhood or on the news and you start to worry. But worrying doesn't help. Problems just get bigger in your mind when you worry. So I pray instead.

Praying is like going into the castle. Everything you need is already there in I God. So you can pull up the drawbridge and feel that you are leaving the problem, outside. You are safe in God's care.

There are lots of ways to pray. You can say the Lord's Prayer and think deeply about what the words mean. Or you can remember what you know about God. You can ask God to give you wisdom and good thoughts, and then listen quietly. Just remember that God is surrounding you and protecting you like high walls and a deep moat. No arrow or bad thought can get through God to harm you.

One time I felt really bad. So I called a Christian Science practitioner to pray with me. As I told the practitioner how I didn't feel good, I also told him about a person who didn't like me. Actually, this person didn't think prayer healed. And he wasn't happy that I prayed to God when I was sick. I felt under attack.

The practitioner reminded me that I was safe in God. I didn't have to worry about what anyone else thought. Right then I remembered that God is a castle where I can feel safe always. When I hung up the telephone, I pictured myself inside a big castle with the drawbridge up. Inside the castle were all of God's ideas. Everything good was in God's castle. No one with bad or hurtful thoughts could enter. They had to wait outside until they gave up their arrows of anger or hate or fear. Once they surrendered their weapons and agreed not to war against God and His good ideas, then they could enter the castle too. No one was left out of God's castle, and nothing harmful was permitted to enter.

A feeling of peace came over me. I felt safe and protected in God. Just like arrows that fall harmlessly to the ground, no angry thoughts or words could hurt me. I fell asleep feeling surrounded by good and woke up less than an hour later completely healed.

If you ever feel sick or under attack, remember that God's castle is right where you are. You can enter the castle with prayer and feel God's loving power.