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that “feels” and “knows” that God is here.

Then is His Voice heard within the soul.

---Elsie MacKay

# SPIRIT in ACTION

A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter  
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Mary Eckard, Secretary

## September 2006

### *What My Religion Means to Me*

Elsie Mackay (early worker in Divine Science)

“Do you believe that Divine Science is a higher religion than any other,  
and that eventually all religions will come to see and accept your religious beliefs?”

This question was asked in all sincerity by a friend who knew very little about Divine Science but who “liked the way” we pray. My religion, I began to see as I tried to explain what I felt, was a *result* of Divine Science rather than a body of religious beliefs as such. In other words, Divine Science was providing the vehicle, as it were, to help me discover my religion.

What happens to most individuals when they begin to study Divine Science? The gradual awakening that occurs can be likened, perhaps, to reaching the kernel within the wheat, or, in the term used by Jesus, tasting the “meat” of religion. Jesus said, “*I have meat to eat that ye know not of.*”

Through the study of Truth we touch the kernel of Truth within us. “*Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness.*” Judges 14:14

Out of the one who finds the core of his religion comes his own strong faith. In trying to understand and assimilate the teaching of your church, you reach the Truth in your heart and your faith blossoms. Life, indeed, becomes sweet for him who is established in his own strong center of faith.

“Whether religion has real meaning,” says Dr. Edmund Sinnott in his book, *The Biology of the Spirit*, “or is but wishful thinking, depends on what we believe about the spirit of man.”

What do we believe about the spirit of man?  
Do we believe that the spirit of man is part of the Spirit responsible for this universe?  
Do we believe that infinite Spirit is all-wise and that man may be guided by its wisdom?

“We are hungry for this food of the spirit as we are for bodily nourishment,” says the distinguished biologist, Dr. Sinnott.

“Faith in *something* is a vital necessity, and in the direct contact with reality itself which man makes through the avenue of his spirit, he finds the surest foundation for a faith.”

Just holding membership in a particular religious body, or even being an active worker in a church, then, does not reach deeply enough into the soul’s experience. It is this “direct contact” we want. Our church and its teaching must awaken something within us that “feels” and “knows” that God is here. Then is His Voice heard within the soul.

“Differ though men may in their interpretation of what this inner voice reveals,” Dr. Sinnott points out, “it still remains the only monitor when reason can go no further.”

Truth is infinite and each individual must touch it where he/she is. In this sense there is no higher or lower religion. Each one must feel the desire to know God as the driving force in his life; then all that matters is to get to the kernel of Truth in his own heart. When each one is willing to apply himself to the study of his religion, even if it means giving up many other interesting and attractive pursuits, he reaches the kernel of it --- and “stirs up the gift of God” within his own soul.

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee,” says Paul ... then the only thing that remains is to “stir up the gift of God which is in thee.” It is your response to the Truth within your soul that becomes your religion.

Only when we experience our religion in this way --- touch the gift of Truth, the kernel of it --- feel it, taste it, and find it sweet beyond any description, do we know what we want from our religion, or what our religion can mean to us. Browning must have realized this when he wrote:

“Truth is within ourselves; it takes no rise  
From outward things, whate’er you may believe;  
There is an inmost centre in us all,  
Where truth abides in fullness; and to know  
Rather consists in opening out a way  
Whence the imprisoned splendor may escape  
Than in effecting entry for a light  
Supposed to be without.”

Our religion, our faith, is really that “imprisoned splendor” and our teaching/church should help us to release it. This gift of God within the soul, once touched or glimpsed, begins to unfold. It is a tender, delicate seedling which must be turned to the light in order to strengthen its fragile, searching stem. The light I need comes through Divine Science. Members of another church find light through some other teaching. When you have found the right teaching for you, you will know it; stay with it until you find its real nourishment.

The study of Divine Science has helped me to glimpse this kernel of Truth: *God is present within His creation, within you, within me.* Divine Science has taught me how to pray and how to live that I may feel God’s presence, closer than breathing--- fulfillment for an inner longing that cannot be put into words. All the wonderful benefits of association with inspired teachers and ministers, with others who have been drawn to this teaching; a new love for and understanding of the Bible; and the Truth of God’s nearness made clear and livable by people who have put it to the test --- this is what my religion means to me; this, and something more.

Divine Science has opened a door in consciousness to something exquisitely beautiful and profoundly desirable in life, something within that I want to express more than anything else in the world. The kernel of Truth is real, inexhaustible, all-satisfying --- it is a glimpse of the Christ life, God’s Spirit in man. I realize how often and how greatly I fall short of living the fullness of the Christ life that is possible to each individual, but this does not keep me from trying to do better today than I did yesterday. Each morning is a new opportunity, each moment a giant possibility for drawing me out of the shell of past mistakes into the freedom that conscious oneness with God can mean.

I am convinced that this innate, sometimes entirely unconscious, desire to express the true nature --- the wisdom we feel within, for instance, that once tapped flows into our lives in rich experiences; the goal of wholeness that expresses in health and 2

joy unending --- is the desire common to all people with results in the religions of mankind.

“Desires are not capricious preferences but evidences of goals set up within us that draw us toward them,” says Edmund Sinnott.

The sprouting of the spiritual seed, the awakening of this Christ goal or nature in man, is the important thing. Whatever word or example or church or teaching that can provide for you the right climate for the discovery and growth of the idea of oneness with God in your soul --- that is the right teaching, the highest religion for you.

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit,” says Paul. Unity is expressed in diversity. Since even the scientist recognizes that every person is unique, is it so amazing that the religions of man are numerous? The simplest forms of life are selective in their efforts to reach the goal of wholeness; this is a biological fact. “The humble amoeba thrusts out its strands of protoplasm toward certain substances and draws these into itself, but pulls back from others,” the biologist tells us. If God has provided this lowly form of life with selective sensitivity toward that which will promote its development, is it too much to believe that such an “Inner sensitivity” guides man? It is not an accident then that your friend goes to his church, and you and I go to ours; that this teaching attracts one, and that teaching another.

Our teaching is providing the right climate for our unfoldment or we would not be led to study it. Each one should be able to say that his church has led him to something within that is infinitely more than the teaching itself. Because Divine Science has done this for me, I have the deepest sense of gratitude. I am thankful for all the dedicated souls who have helped to build this disseminating center of Truth --- this effective vehicle for discovering and unfolding the divine idea in man’s soul. I am thankful that reverence for God is in the very air, and I can feel the strength of many souls drawn together by a bond of faith and vision of Truth greater by far than I could experience alone.

The vivid examples in this century of what a society without churches can mean make me profoundly grateful for the many religions we have. We are all benefiting from such a society. When we see this we can be doubly grateful for the opportunity to give our support, regularly, to the church of our choice --- not only that we and others may grow

spiritually, but that God-fearing nations may endure.

Like a mountain climber on a steep cliff who has found a solidly implanted piton in the rock above him, I know that the help I need is here for me because others have climbed this peak before. I feel the confidence gained as I keep a firm grasp; and automatically as I find a solid footing I want to ensure, as they did, that the piton remains, that the grasp of Truth is perpetuated. The only way I can be sure that Divine Science will be here for others is to give it my support. ...

More and more, in studying Divine Science, I am made aware that the time given to prayer and meditation, along with the effort to make the Truth real in experience, is the most vital part of life for me. In this sense, then, Divine Science is for me higher than any other religion --- at my place in unfoldment it is the highest religion for me. And whether or not other teachings and their members will understand and accept the Truth that Divine Science stands for, depends on how much of the Truth *shows* in my life.

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The purpose of prayer or meditation is not to petition or to invoke God to act in our behalf, but to become aware of what is already so.

The sun may be shining, but if our eyes are closed to it --- if we have shut ourselves away from the sunlight --- it is as though there is no sun.

Spirit has endowed us with all that it is; all that God is. God is wisdom, power, life, love --- His nature is already centered in us, expressing through us in flesh and affairs when we are receptive.

What we know to be so in essence becomes so in fact. Our work is to know.

Just as a child’s awareness of the world around him increases as he contacts that world, so our awareness of God-Life behind and within us increases as we maintain our contact with it.

The more aware of our Source we become the more real and effective does Spirit become in our experience.

We move from revelation to revelation as we meditate.

Truth reveals more and more of itself to us as we contemplate it.

---Edward W. Hagen, former Minister  
Divine Science Church, Pueblo CO 3

The literal interpretation of the Bible has done much toward driving thoughtful minds into unbelief. Knowing as we do that the oriental language abounds in symbolism, it should be easy for us to understand that we cannot insist upon the literalness of this book, which comes to us from the Orient (in ancient times those lands east of the Mediterranean Sea). Many things in the Bible show in themselves the impossibility of being rendered literally, and if *any* part is admitted to be figurative so may other parts be. Then we do well to remember, as one has said, that the Bible does not make Truth any more than books written on electricity make electricity.

Man discovered Truth and then wrote what he knew about it. In the Bible is recorded simply what men have learned about Truth. Truth never destroys Truth--- the fuller vision includes all the lesser that has proceeded. Throughout the ancient writings we have messages from all stages of spiritual development, from primitive man to man in the highest plane of unfoldment. We find in these writings the lisping of babes and the utterances of the fully developed or the wise man. "The first man (infant or first view of man) is of the earth earthy; the second man (truer understanding of man) is the Lord from heaven."

As long as man invents systems of Truth they will prove to be limited and partial visions of the Whole Truth, which is known only as we understand the Omnipresence of God. This, Omnipresence of God, means literally the omnipresence of *all* that God is; Love, Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Power, Life, and Joy.

Our faith must be logical to be scientific, and it must be scientific to be intelligent and reasonable. Truth is changeless, only opinions of Truth change.

The Bible was written by persons like ourselves, whose greatest claim was not so much that they knew God as that they longed for Him, and so longing, spoke out of their best and deepest understanding.

Whatever our forefathers saw or received we may see, and surely after these years of opportunity, we should be able to receive, see, or perceive a deeper, broader, clearer vision.

One says, "All times are Bible times, sacred times; all events are Bible events; all individuals are Bible individuals; all said in the Bible is a constant process."

So while Truth, the Inspirer, must be infallible, the words that express it are but faulty media of human thought. The Idea is heaven born, but the words are man-made.

These words are just like scaffolding which support the workmen while they build a tower. It does not support the tower, neither do words support Truth, they help man to express or build up what Truth sees; and just as the scaffolding rises higher as the tower progresses, so as Truth grows in man's thoughts, does he speak higher words concerning it. At last when the tower is finished, the scaffolding is removed, that the building may be seen unobstructed by the temporary framework. So, too, when Truth is fully realized, the tangle of words is not needed, their work is done.

The finishing touch has been put on Truth's temple, not by words, for these only served as stepping stones to its highest pinnacle, but by unfoldment into consciousness. The completed Truth has been reached by man's thought.

When we hear Bible criticism of today, we have no anxiety; it is just the work of tearing down the scaffolding upon which men have stood to reach the heights of Truth, and now the completed temple can do without the scaffolding. There is no danger that the building will fall when it is removed, for we know that Truth never rested upon words, never depended upon any human concept. "When that which is perfect is come, then that which was in part shall be done away."

Let us tear away the scaffolding, and look at the beauty of the perfect building in the new light of today. Let us put the thought of man's early spiritual experience into the "new tongue." ...

In the study of Divine Science all avenues of thought are considered willingly and lovingly. We believe that the person, who denies the existence of anything beyond the horizon of his understanding, because he cannot make it harmonize with his accepted opinions, is as unstable as he who believes everything without any discrimination.  
...

It is our high hope that the simplicity ... will be the means of tearing away forever the ecclesiastical bandages that have been bound about the man Jesus, hiding from the longing hearts of men the Truth of his loving message.

**GETTING ACQUAINTED with the  
LANGUAGE of the BIBLE**  
Joseph Murphy

**The Two Sides**

It is said that there are two sides to every question, but only one right side. You must learn what the right side is in order to know the Truth.

Emerson said, in his essay on Compensation: " ... for inevitable dualism bisects all nature, so that each thing is a half, and suggests another thing to make it whole: as, spirit-matter---man-woman---subjective-objective---in-out---upper-lower---motion-rest---yea-nay."

There are light and darkness, ebb and flow, in and out, sweet and sour. Darkness is absence of light. There is heat and there is cold, but from the standpoint of absolute Truth, there is no cold. All opposites are reconciled in the Absolute. There are health and sickness, but in the Absolute all is wholeness, beauty and perfection. The positive value is light, health, and love. The opposites are portrayed in our experiences so that we may learn the significance of the positives. Without the opposite or negative to background the positive, we would not become aware of the latter in its true significance.

When people ask the question:

Why did God create us?

so that we could err? make mistakes? become ill?

Why good and evil?

Pain and sickness?

The above is the answer. We know things by contrast, by comparisons. How would we know what joy was unless we could shed a tear of sorrow from time to time?

We are sentient beings, and we recognize colors because of their different light vibrations. Infinite differentiation is the law of life. True scientific knowledge recognizes the opposites in life. The good has its opposite in order that we may choose the good and reject the negative. To choose and understand the good in life is called wisdom. Wisdom knows what is right and what conforms to universal truth.

We might say that there are two languages. The Bible is written in a secret language of parables, allegories, metaphors, and figurative language. The world speaks another language, and millions take the Bible literally. Laws of the country are written in English, but there is constant controversy among lawyers as to what they mean. The Supreme Court is divided as to the meaning of parts of the Constitution, yet it is written in English. The politicians in California say the tide is turning 5

He taught us to say "our Father," and we find in Jesus' life the mightiest influence to lift our aspirations to his Father and our Father, his God and our God, as well as the revelation of peace, hope, and immortal life needed by us all for the perfect unfoldment of our being. Through this understanding of his mission the most barren life catches a glimpse of that great immortal life that is ours *today*.

It is only when we comprehend how deep, rich, and full are the utterances of Jesus that we begin to recognize from what a deep consciousness they must have come.

The marvelous beauty and power of Christianity can be truly realized only when Jesus' teachings are regarded as statement of Truth *to be lived now*; not as prophecies relation to some far-off spiritual existence.

"The kingdom of God is within you," is the truth he sought to impress upon man. We are designed to live the spiritual life now, and to reap its harvest of power and happiness, *now*

In Jesus the perfect ideal has forever become the actual; the exhibition to the world of a perfect humanity in Jesus. Life has taught one lesson which our systems of theology have overlooked. It has demonstrated that sin and disease are no part of man, they are not constituents of human nature; that health and harmony are the sure results of Law *understood and obeyed*.

Jesus compassed the length, breadth, depth, and height of Life. He saw Life steadily and saw it whole, and in his presence and at his word the water of Life, in all its vessels of love and labor, culture and religion, became wine. And today the spirit of his great love is drawing the world to God.

...

---A. B. Fay  
**Divine Science Bible Text Book**

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We get into heaven not because of our  
works  
but because heaven is our home;  
**we are there**  
and we must learn to realize  
the presence of God everywhere.

for them. They do not mean that literally, although I suppose some may take it that way.

There are two languages in the Bible, and this results in endless confusion and misinterpretation. You must learn the meaning of symbols in order to understand the Bible.

Paul speaks of ... *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

Colossians 1:27

Christ is not a man. The statement means the Presence of God in every person. When you begin to use this Power, you come into a new understanding of yourself.

Christ is called the wisdom which Jesus (as human) found enabling him to do great things. This knowledge is the producer of health and happiness. When you know that thoughts are things and that whatever you think and feel to be true is expressed in your life, and when you know that whatever you imagine you become, you then possess a part of the wisdom called Christ.

The Christ in you simply means the practice of the Presence of God. It has nothing to do with personality. The God-Presence is no respecter of persons. The average man does not know about this Divine Presence within himself and believes that external things affect him and influence him without his consent. This attitude is called the son of perdition in the Bible, which means a sense of loss and limitation.

Knowledge is what a man knows, and what man in general knows is, unfortunately, not the Divinity within. God is a synonym for good, and the contemplation of all things good brings health and happiness.

Ask yourself if that which you fear is real or illusionary. When you claim right action, beauty, love, peace, and Divine inspiration and harmony, and when these truths, powers, and qualities of God are functioning in your life, that is called the Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Someone asked me what Paul meant by:

... *The day of Christ* ... II Thessalonians 2:2

Paul is not talking about a millennium when all men will be suddenly and miraculously transformed by the Light from On High. Illumination does not come that way. It comes to individuals through meditation, prayer, and mystic visioning. No one can give it to you. It is not something that can be conveyed to you apart from your mental participation and attention to the eternal verities of life.

There must be, as Paul says, a falling away first, which means the falling away and eradication of all false beliefs and erroneous concepts before the Presence of God is felt in the heart. As long as you

are convinced of powers outside yourself that condition your life, you are full of the world's beliefs and knowledge. If you want the knowledge and wisdom called Christ in the Bible, you must give up false religious beliefs and the propaganda of the world and accept the gift of Truth in your heart now.

Paul says: ... *Except there come a falling away first* ...

II Thessalonians 2:3

This means that when the popular theories and dogmatic beliefs of the world knowledge are revealed to your mind for what they are--- thieves and robbers of your happiness--- then the day of Christ, or awakening to the Truth, will come to you.

It is useless and foolish to say you believe in God and at the same time believe in a power to thwart the action of God. There must be no compromise, equivocation, or vacillation on this point. Externals are not causative. To believe that others may mar your happiness or to accept the fact that you have an incurable condition is to foster a belief that is a thief and a robber, depriving you of health and happiness.

### **The Average Belief**

It seems very reasonable for the ordinary man to believe that the things, which cause sickness, are outside and the things, which heal, are also outside. In this way he has developed the idea that he catches a "disease," not realizing that disease is an emotional disturbance which manifests itself on the flesh.

I have frequently referred to your subconscious mind, which faithfully records all your emotions. Your body is the plastic disc upon which the result is recorded. The body has no power in and of itself, but it faithfully reproduces whatever is impressed upon it. Anything you believe is indelibly written in your subconscious mind and appears in your body and affairs.

All this is a part of the wisdom called Christ. There is a science of the mind which distinguishes between Truth and error, and when you come to a definite conclusion in your mind that there is only One Power, wonder will happen in your life.

### **The Serpent**

The serpent in the Bible represents the five senses and the judging according to appearances. The seed of the serpent is fear and false knowledge. The serpent comes quickly and noiselessly; and before you are aware of its presence in the jungle, it strikes quickly. The suggestions and false beliefs of the world mind leave a sting in the undisciplined mind and bring on all manner of trouble.

## The Answer to All Problems

The answer to all the problems of the world is to follow the injunction of the Bible:

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

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### SCIENCE and SUCCESS

Harvey Hardman (former Minister of the Denver Church)

*"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*

*Joshua 1:8*

Prosperity! Success!!

These are words that have a magic appeal to every human heart. While they have different meanings for different people, to each and all they mean the attainment of the object of the heart's desire. No one wants to be considered a failure. And the words of the text assure us that there is a way to become prosperous and successful--- a way that is sure--- a science of success.

But naturally, the goal cannot be attained unless we follow the way. In short, no one can find success for another. Each must "observe to do all that is written therein," that is, in "the book of the Law." *It is not enough simply to meditate, or to know what is in the book. Knowledge alone is not enough. Practice is essential to success. Knowledge and practice are the two plies, which, when connected, complete the circuit of power.*

Our text is taken from the Lord's instruction to Joshua upon his accession to the position that Moses had occupied as the leader of the people of

Israel. He knew the trials and the problems of his predecessor. And he knew too, that the worst or the hardest part of the work of civilizing a people who had been slaves for centuries, and of establishing them in a new country that was at that very time occupied by a well organized and thoroughly trained people, was still to be done. The responsibility demanded power and real leadership.

While the reference to "the book of law" is undoubtedly to the laws that Moses gave to the people of Israel, we know that much has been added to that body of knowledge since the time of Joshua, even as much has been added to man's knowledge of natural laws. And the important thing is that we now realize that the Law is not in a book at all, but in the soul of man. All is contained there, in the mystic, unseen soul, and our charge is to read the hidden meaning and find out wherein is the answer to the problem of prosperity and success.

If we were to translate the instructions to Joshua, we would say that Joshua was "treating" (building into his consciousness the ideal of the thing he wanted to make real in terms of experience) for prosperity and success. An occasional repetition of a good treatment is not a treatment at all. One might compose the most wonderful statement of truth, and repeat it verbatim many times a day, but unless his feeling was touched by it, unless his imagination was stirred by it, the treatment would have very little effect.

There is no doubt that Joshua had a deep feeling as to his work. Also his imagination was at work thinking of all he was facing in the way of danger, and the big job he had on his hands. Day and night were literal terms in connection with his meditations. Many a night he probably lay awake thinking about his work, which he wanted to be a success, which he was treating to make prosperous.

The essence of his realization was the constant presence of the Lord. The fact that his faith in the Lord was based on the conception of the tribal deity Jahveh, did not affect the results. An intense faith in God, even if the conception be erroneous, puts the mind in touch with power. ... How much greater then, the enlightened faith that is based on the indwelling God as revealed by the teachings of Jesus.

Divine Science is simply a systematic statement of the Principle enunciated by Jesus. It shows how the inner consciousness manifests outer conditions and affairs. ... the Law is perfect. It is our work to live with it "night and day" until we know it and trust it with the same kind of faith that we have in nature's laws.

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## **SEPTEMBER 2006**

**A Divine Science Federation International Newsletter**

**L** ove  
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**We Welcome You!**

... Those who find God, who attain even a small measure of understanding, have wealth that neither time nor circumstance can affect. ...

Let us not be satisfied with an abstract God, a God whom we call by name and yet--- with whom we have no conscious relationship. If God is the only reality of our being, can we any longer delay real acquaintance with Him? To know Him aright is Life eternal. To understand Him is to know the security and peace "that passeth understanding."

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found."

God is not found in names or statements of Truth.

"He is in the midst of thee" ---

"He is closer than breathing" --- yea, He is not in the physical sense of life, but is found in the stillness of your being--- when thought is tranquil. ...

---Joel S. Goldsmith (Excerpt)  
*Spiritual Interpretation of Scripture*