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SOUL AND ITS ATTRIBUTES

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"**Knowing** that Soul and its attributes were forever manifested through man, the Master healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, feet to the lame, thus bringing to light the scientific action of the divine Mind on human minds and bodies and giving a better understanding of Soul and salvation," writes Mary Baker Eddy on [page 210](#) of "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures."

What are Soul and its attributes? Theologians and philosophers, poets and thinkers, of all times have attempted to define, or explain, Soul; and many and very differing opinions have resulted. Today Christian Science gives us a simple, scientific, and demonstrable understanding of the meaning of Soul. It defines Soul as God; and of man's relation to Soul, Mrs. Eddy says (*ibid.*, p. 477), "Soul is the substance, Life, and intelligence of man, which is individualized, but not in matter."

Soul is God. Soul is not a portion of God, or of immortality, within a human body, as many of us for many years believed. Soul is God, and man is His image and likeness, even as the Scriptures state ([Gen. 1:27](#)): "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Throughout her writings Mrs. Eddy speaks of the goodness of God and of His creation. She accepts the Scriptural word ([Gen. 1:31](#)), "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." This is indeed the very basis of Christian Science teaching. Mrs. Eddy has made many great and wonderful contributions to humanity, but none is greater or more wonderful than this: the absolute assurance of God's omnipotent, ever-present goodness and of the manifestation of this goodness, through Christian Science, in human experience.

Mrs. Eddy defines God as Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love. Each of these terms adds immeasurably to our understanding of God and of man, too, for man is the reflection, or expression, of Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. She also explains the attributes of God—the intelligence of Mind, the infinity of Spirit, the unchangeable law and order of Principle, the vitality of Life, the integrity of Truth, and the loveliness of Love. But what does she tell us of the attributes of Soul?

"I know so little of the real significance of Soul and of what it means to me to be the reflection of Soul," a young Christian Scientist once thought to herself. She knew quite clearly, she felt, what the other synonyms of God meant, but Soul had always seemed obscure to her, even a bit mysterious. So she decided to study everything Mrs. Eddy had written on the subject. It was a most rewarding study. In it she found that our Leader speaks of the harmony, beauty, joy, the sinlessness or purity, the grace and gentleness, the radiance of Soul. She saw that these attributes of Soul were indigenous to the healing ministry of Christ Jesus and of Christian Science. And very humbly she began to put them into practice in her daily living.

A copy of *The Christian Science Monitor* brought her one morning this quotation from the great American theologian, Henry Ward Beecher: "There are persons so radiant, so genial, so kind, so pleasure-bearing, that you instinctively feel in their presence that they do you good; whose coming into a room is like the bringing of a lamp there."

In the young woman's home there had seemed to be for a long time much darkness and fear, much misunderstanding and unhappiness. She had tried humanly to quiet the troubled waters; she had advised, entreated, and talked much concerning what she believed to be right. She had wept, too, over the situation—not once, but many times. Could she now, in her better understanding of Soul and of herself as actually the reflection of Soul, bring the lamp of Soul into the darkened rooms of the home? "Knowing that Soul and its attributes were forever manifested through man," Jesus had healed the sick, her Leader had said. Could she go and do likewise? Yes, she could; but she must first recognize that the attributes of Soul were being manifested

not only through her own true being, but through that of the other members of her family as well—through all true individuality!

Her whole attitude concerning the home changed as daily she put into practice the beautiful healing qualities of Soul. In "Miscellaneous Writings" ([p. 354](#)) she found Mrs. Eddy's statement, "A little more grace, a motive made pure, a few truths tenderly told, a heart softened, a character subdued, a life consecrated, would restore the right action of the mental mechanism, and make manifest the movement of body and soul in accord with God." This she took for her guide. And slowly but surely the tightened, tangled relationships were straightened out and harmony—movement in accord with Soul—was demonstrated.

There was yet another lesson that this young Christian Scientist learned during the experience, and that was that the healing of the nations can be brought about in the same way. The recognition that the attributes of Soul were everywhere and "forever manifested through man" became a constant challenge. Certain characteristics which she had so often and so thoughtlessly affixed to different peoples—aggressiveness, stubbornness, avarice, superstition, laziness, and limitations of various kinds she saw were characteristics of evil, not of man individually or collectively. In her thinking and in her conversation she began humbly and honestly to separate evil from a person and from a nation.

There is no time in world history in which the living of the attributes of Soul is more needed than today. Through such living, wars will cease, poverty, misunderstandings, and injustices will be eliminated, and the brotherhood of man will be established. We are in reality all the children of God, the expression of Soul. The prophet Malachi asks ([2:10](#)), "Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother?"

Let us, then, have a little more grace, analyze our motives more carefully, and see that they are "made pure." Let us share more tenderly the truth we know; let our hearts be softened with love and forgiveness—forgiveness which means truly

forgetting, eliminating from consciousness every memory of the wrong which necessitates the forgiveness. Let us consecrate our lives to the living of love. Let us heed the words of a hymn (Christian Science Hymnal, No. 217),

Then, brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother,
For where love dwells, the peace of God is there:
To worship rightly is to love each other;
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.