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## Receptive hearts and hearts healed

By Janet Clements

**A paean** of praise to the dear lady who saw my mother as a receptive heart! She didn't really know my mom, who had just finished college in a small Iowa town and moved to Chicago to start a new job. But a day after offering her a room for rent in her home, this woman invited my mom to a church service and shared with her a copy of the book that was read as part of the sermon, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy.

This woman was unaware that my mother had been diagnosed with an enlarged heart, thought to be the effect of numerous childhood illnesses. My mother's doctors had told her she would have to take a year off from school and be medicated for the rest of her life. They also said she would have to live a quiet life, free of physical exertion.

Mom took the heart medication for several years, but when she graduated from the university, she felt intuitively that there was a better way to handle her health problems. Having attended church as a child, she had always believed in God, but didn't know much about how prayer could heal. However, before she moved to Chicago, she recalled having "a little talk with God." She told Him that she didn't want to live a life enslaved, and that no matter what the medical verdict was, she wasn't taking any more pills.

After going to that church service in Chicago and reading *Science and Health*, my mother was ecstatic! She told her new landlord that everything she had heard at church and everything that she had read in the book was what she had always believed.

As she studied *Science and Health*, my mother began to see that it revealed God's laws of health—laws she could live by—and that these laws operated as an irresistible force for harmony and health. She saw that she was related and connected to God and His law. Hebrew Scripture says it this way: "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts" ([Jer. 31:33](#)).

No wonder Mom later told me that everything in the book was what she had always believed—it had already been "written in her heart." She said she found the ideas in *Science and Health* practical, illuminating, and instructive. *Science and Health* states that "it is our ignorance of God, the divine Principle, which produces apparent discord, and the right understanding of Him restores harmony" ([p. 390](#)). Messages like this were dissolving ignorance of God's nature and revealing to her the fact that God actually defines and orders our true being and action as His children.

Mom was saved from a life of invalidism. She was completely freed from the dire medical predictions—her heart became normal. A physical exam showed no evidence of the heart condition—only normality in size and function. In addition, her normal energy level was restored. She got married and had three children. I recall her showing boundless energy even when she was faced with enormous tasks.

So I'll never forget what it means to have a receptive heart, and how one person can help others find a life of health. My mom's healing also helped bring freedom to my son, her grandson, years later.

When I was expecting this child, my husband and I arranged to have the birth at home. It came so quickly that the doctor did not arrive in time for the delivery, but a Christian Science nurse was there to support the family through prayer. It was just a few days before Christmas, and we felt so grateful for the holy presence of the Christ-spirit in our home. The birth was painless, and we were happy with how quickly and effortlessly our new little one had arrived. We attribute the almost effortless delivery entirely to prayer. My husband and I, the nurse, and a Christian Science practitioner, all were praying before and during the birth.

When the doctor came to our home a short time later, he, too, acknowledged that it had been a smooth delivery. But after examining the baby, he said that he detected a possible heart defect and urged us to come to his office for a complete examination, which we did.

After the exam, he told us that our son had a severe heart condition and that he might die at any moment. He said our son needed to be hooked up to electronic monitoring equipment and that other medical procedures were necessary. He emphasized the consequences of not taking the procedures he'd recommended. We understood his sincere concern for the baby and knew that he was motivated by his desire to serve the best interests of our son. And we thanked him.

I told the doctor about my mother's healing of a heart condition, and assured him that we, too, wanted the best care for the baby. We said that we had had clear proofs of the effectiveness of prayer to bring out God's law of health and harmony in our lives. The doctor gave us time to think things over, and to pray.

After leaving the doctor's office and taking our son home, we spent the entire afternoon praying. My husband and I had devoted the previous nine months to cherishing and praying for this new child. Prayer, in one sense, is striving to see things as God made them, and our prayers had opened us up to seeing this child as having his origin in divine Spirit. His individuality was not material, determined by genes and DNA, but spiritual, determined by the law of the all-harmonious God, who is our Life.

Some of the ideas we prayed with that day were: This child's appearance, form, and color weren't defined by the chance arrangement of matter. He was a Love-composed combination of spiritual qualities and ideas, held in perfect position, action, and function by divine law. In fact, the law of God was his life force, forever. From a spiritual viewpoint, the action of the heart wasn't the movement of a muscle, but the active expression of God's almighty love.

I reached a point in my prayer where there wasn't even a bit of doubt. Jesus was our example. He said, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" ([Mark 11:24](#)). I knew in my deepest being that all was well with our son. I humbly accepted, as a present reality, his God-given spirituality and perfection.

That same evening, we felt it was right to go to the hospital and have our son examined again. A heart specialist examined the baby to his satisfaction and said that not only did he have a normal heart, but that it was an "exceptionally perfect one." You can imagine how we felt.

Maybe now you can see why I send a paean of praise and thanksgiving to the lady who saw my mother as a receptive heart and shared *Science and Health* with her. That woman's lovingkindness bridges generations and continues to bless our family and others.

In my own spiritual healing practice, I've been thinking about receptivity and asking myself, "Am I receptive to the fact that God's law is already written in the hearts of all His/Her children? Do I accept the fact that Christian Science is the law of God, and that the full statement of God's law is found in *Science and Health*?" If I can answer, "Yes," then I'm cherishing everyone as my mom came to see herself—as a receptive heart, as already, having the law of God's love tenderly written in her heart.

## **About the author**

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