



Standing on holy ground

Janet Heineman Clements

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The bush was ablaze, but it was not burning up. Moses intuitively turned to look at the remarkable sight. As he did, God instructed him, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."¹

The bush, untouched by the burning flames, illustrated the indestructible presence of Spirit. The holy ground upon which Moses stood—wasn't it the revelation that Spirit is the foundation of all true being? Through reverently standing on the holy ground of this revelation, Moses brought about the children of Israel's subsequent freedom from slavery in Egypt. Freedom comes to us all through the understanding that the foundation of our being is spiritual, not material.

Christ Jesus showed us so clearly the supremacy of Spirit. He stood on this holy ground, bringing freedom to those mired in the limitations of matter. He demonstrated that man is entirely spiritual. His healing works provided proof of the ever-presence of Spirit and the baselessness of matter.

A man at Lystra certainly experienced the healing power of the Christ, God's saving message, which proclaims the foundational supremacy of Spirit. In Acts we read that this man was a cripple from the time he was born; he had never walked. However, when Paul saw him, he discerned that the man had faith that he could be healed, and he commanded him, "Stand upright on thy feet." Immediately, the man "leaped and walked."² Paul proved that God, divine Principle, undergirded this man's being. That divine Principle includes the adhesion and cohesion of Mind and maintains man's perfect action, form, and function, causing him to be "fitly framed together."³ Not only did the man stand, but he was fully empowered to leap and walk with freedom.

That simple command, "Stand upright on thy feet," speaks to us today. It's a call to acknowledge that the basis of our being is divine Spirit, or Mind, not matter. To the degree that we discern this spiritual fact, we stand on holy ground.

The freedom that comes from this understanding was demonstrated in the experience of a woman I know who for a long time had a discomfort in one of her feet. The foot was not properly shaped, and at times it was difficult for her to stand for long periods. Once, while she was serving a term as Second Reader in her local branch Church of Christ, Scientist, and was practicing her Bible readings for the Sunday service, she found that she had to sit down during the practice. At that moment she had been reading a verse that said, "O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires."⁴

In praying for herself, the woman saw that the foundation of her being was Truth and Love.

As she prayerfully considered this citation, she saw that her real being did not rest on a pair of material feet but on the foundation of Spirit, of divine Truth. She realized that man expresses Truth, in which there can be no error, no material law of disease. Mrs. Eddy states in *Science and Health*, "The so-called law of mortal mind, conjectural and speculative, is made void by the law of immortal Mind, and false law should be trampled under foot."⁵

The woman also considered the description in Revelation of the angel clothed with a cloud, whose feet were pillars of fire.⁶ In the chapter "The Apocalypse," *Science and Health* states: "This angel or message which comes from God, clothed with a cloud, prefigures divine Science. . . . Its feet are pillars of fire, foundations of Truth and Love."⁷

In praying for herself, she saw that because the foundation of her being was Truth and Love, she could exercise the authority of Truth in her experience. In her thought, she thoroughly dismissed the false claim that action and substance are in matter, and she affirmed the supremacy of Spirit. She declared that Spirit's action is free and strong, and that no disease, pain, or malformation can exist in the substance of Mind's formations. She knew that through the understanding of man's oneness with infinite Spirit, the suggestion that evil is a claim or a claimant is silenced.

She also saw the need of denouncing the serpent, corporeal sense. This false sense has never had a foothold in the man of God's creating. She knew that in reality her being did not dwell in matter, nor did she perceive reality through material sense. In truth, she had no material sense through

which to be cognizant of pain or malformation. As God's spiritual reflection, she had spiritual sense, the means by which to perceive spiritual reality. Spiritual sense perceives forever the perfection of being, which includes no evil.

Science and Health states the importance of turning away from the material sense of things: "If Enoch's perception had been confined to the evidence before his material senses, he could never have 'walked with God,' nor been guided into the demonstration of life eternal."⁸ Spiritual sense is a fundamental element in standing with Truth and advancing spiritually. The woman planted herself squarely on the foundation of Spirit and on spiritual sense. She stood with the allness of Spirit, and this brought freedom. The physical symptoms dissolved, and the foot regained a normal shape. She was once again able to stand and walk with firmness and balance.

Mortal theories, appearing as material laws, promote beliefs that would fetter man's freedom to stand upright. But we, as the children of God, are not rooted in matter, in laws of heredity or disease. Our being is established in Spirit. Consequently, error of any kind has no place in our being. Knowing this, we can stand up straight and free, on holy ground.

¹ [Ex. 3:5.](#)↑

² [Acts 14:10.](#)↑

³ [Eph. 2:21.](#)↑

⁴ [Isa. 54:11.](#)↑

⁵ [Science and Health, p. 229.](#)↑

⁶ see Rev. 10:1.↑

⁷ [Science and Health, p. 558.](#)↑

⁸ [Ibid., p. 214.](#)↑