



THE FRUITS OF GOD'S HANDIWORK

JANET CLEMENTS

THE BIBLE LESSON THIS WEEK, titled "God the Only Cause and Creator," speaks of the glorious fruits of God's handiwork. Beginning with the Golden Text and the Responsive Reading, this Lesson praises the supremacy of God's goodness made evident in nature, in all people, and indeed in all of Creation!

An early citation from *Science and Health*, "Nature and revelation inform us that like produces like" ([p. 276](#), Section I, citation 2), reminded me of the tall, beautiful apricot tree that grew near the back fence of our yard when I was growing up. Its branches blossomed in the spring, and in mid-June I could pick its delicious fruit. I never doubted that the fruit from that tree would be apricots. I wouldn't expect apples or cherries or peaches—just apricots. Similarly, this week's Lesson makes the point that the fruit of God's work is undeniably Godlike.

This premise is confirmed in citation 1 by the Glossary explanation in *Science and Health* of Creator, which reads in part, "God, who made all that was made and could not create an atom or an element the opposite of Himself" ([p. 583](#)). Then, moving to the latter part of citation 2, we read, "Divine Science does not gather grapes from thorns nor figs from thistles" (p. 276). I ask myself, How could God's creation express the opposite of His perfection any more than the apricot tree could produce tomatoes? Where would the opposite come from, if God is the only Cause and Creator? And isn't it natural, then, to see that God is causing the whole of creation to express—in infinite, individual ways—His boundless good qualities?

Throughout this Lesson, there's plentiful evidence that God made us all to be fruitful and prosperous. We have a mission—even an obligation—to bring healing insights to the issues of the world (Sect. V, Bible cits. 19–21), rooting ourselves in this assurance: "... nations that knew

not thee shall run unto thee because of the Lord thy God" ([Isa. 55:5](#), cit. 22). Each section of this Lesson invites readers to see how they can find healing in relation to their health, their interaction with nature, their political environment, their communication.

For instance, Section II focuses on a woman seeking healing of an incurable disease (see Luke 8:43–48, cit. 7). Making her way to Jesus in the crowd, she believed that if she just touched the border of his robe, she would be healed. And indeed, she *was* healed—instantaneously. Jesus made it clear, though, that it wasn't the physical touching of his clothes that brought about the healing. It was the woman's heartfelt conviction of the power of God and his Christ. Citation 11 in *Science and Health* states: "Hold perpetually this thought,—that it is the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ, which enables you to demonstrate, with scientific certainty, the rule of healing, based upon its divine Principle, Love, underlying, overlying, and encompassing all true being" ([p. 496](#), Sect. II). Like that woman, you and I can turn our thought from the material to the spiritual cause, and experience healing.

This week's Lesson also explains that the droughts, untimely frosts, blights, and floods in nature are clearly not part of God's creation. Viewed spiritually, nature is governed by divine laws that hold every aspect of creation in perfect harmony and beauty (see Sect. III, *Science and Health*, cit. 13). Knowing that the only cause is God—good alone—we can find protection from discords in nature that would impact us individually, as well as globally.

Moving on from the subject of nature's instability to that of political instability, Section IV offers clear ideas with which to pray for those in authority and for those rising into leadership positions. Because God is the source of all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, such qualities are natural to us. Not only can we expect to have wisdom in choosing elected officials, but we also can expect those who are elected to express integrity, honesty, insight, compassion. In the Bible, the book of James leaves us in no doubt that the fruits of right thinking and acting are justice and peace (cit. 18).

No matter what we may face today that is unlike God, we can pray with grateful expectation that He showers blessings upon everyone—just as certainly as we can expect apricots from an apricot tree. css

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