



# CHRISTIAN SCIENCE Sentinel

## Home: a spiritual concept

The answer to our search for home is found in the consciousness of our unity with God.

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**An** essayist wrote in *The Christian Science Monitor*: "Most of us spend our lives searching for the place, the house, the country, where we ought to be. ... This search for our place is something most of us share, otherwise why would we keep buying houses, moving, looking for the 'perfect' house? There is no perfect house except in the country of the heart and, there, you alone may find it."

Home, one of the most cherished concepts, is, as the writer above brings out, far more than a house, far more than the traditional definition of "dwelling place." Home has definite spiritual meaning; real home is found within, in our consciousness of God's presence.

What did Christ Jesus teach us about the real nature of home? Where did he find his home, since he apparently had no permanent place during his public ministry that he called "home"? Jesus found everything he needed in his knowledge of his oneness with God. And he taught his followers to seek the kingdom of God within their own thinking. He said, as Matthew's Gospel records, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Jesus proved that in looking to God alone we find everything we need humanly.

How do we follow the Master's instructions to seek first the kingdom of God? We humbly, prayerfully strive to express more of the divine nature, to do His will, to further our understanding of God and of our own genuine, spiritual nature as His image. Our real selfhood, our individual being as God's offspring, is perfect because God is perfect. It's inseparable from imperishable good. Only the limitations of a mortal, fleshly view of ourselves prevent us from experiencing more of God's goodness here and now. As we gain clearer glimpses of our oneness with God, we find the kingdom of heaven within our own consciousness of Him. And we find wonderful spiritual concepts, such as "home," appearing in a progressive, tangible way in our experience.

Jesus' sublime, unwavering assurance of his unity with God meant that he lived in God's house, the kind of house the Psalmist referred to when he wrote, "And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." As Mrs. Eddy writes, when showing the light that Christian Science sheds on these words, "...and I will dwell in the house [the consciousness] of [LOVE] for ever."

Home, then, in its real definition and essence, is a spiritual concept, found in our consciousness of God. We can never, in reality, be separated from home, from the consciousness of divine Love. As we more clearly understand home in its spiritual meaning, we see that it has nothing to do with a material structure, with a certain place, with material possessions, even with certain people. Home is never outside us, never something from which we can be separated.

The qualities we associate with home, such as joy, security, care, companionship, comfort, are already within the consciousness that God, divine Mind, causes us to have as His expression. As we understand the spiritual nature of home, our life invariably improves. We find healing answers in situations that involve locating an appropriate place to live.

A hymn from the *Christian Science Hymnal* poignantly describes the sorrow many have felt at times: "The night is dark, and I am far from home, / Lead Thou me on." At such desolate times, isn't it clear that what individuals are reaching for is a spiritual concept of home, a consciousness of oneness with divine Love? Earnest, humble communion with God reveals that each one is already within the Father's house, already at home in the eternal abiding place of his unity with God. Such prayer inevitably brings right answers to one's needs.

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Searching for and finding home as a spiritual concept, already within our God-given consciousness, leads us not only to the right spot to live but to happier and more orderly dwellings. Our home, regardless of location, size, whether we live alone or with family, is governed by what we know and understand of God and His kingdom within us. Finding real home, then, results in a fuller manifestation of Godlike qualities where we live: beauty, harmony, dignity, cooperation, kindness, unselfishness, order. The "night" of mortal thinking cannot cause separation from God and His qualities, because no matter where we are, within our own hearts, within our conscious unity with God, we are safe in our true abiding place in divine Love.

As we discover and prove more about the nature of real home, we can help mankind solve some specific problems that seem prevalent in today's society. For instance, the observation is often made that human lives are so busy and pressured that home is becoming mainly a place to eat and sleep, and family members merely pass one another in their crowded schedules. The right nurturing of children seems especially threatened by this limited sense of home. Such hurry takes away from the comfort and security traditionally associated with home and suggests rootlessness, a lack of warmth, an erosion of even the basic amenities.

In our prayers we can meet and overcome such suggestions both for ourselves and for society. Our knowledge of the spiritual facts of home governs our present sense of that concept, bringing to light God's qualities of peace, order, security. This can't help blessing all who enter our homes. They will feel the spiritual concepts we are entertaining, and thereby be helped and comforted.

In June 1903, Christian Scientists were invited to Pleasant View, Mary Baker Eddy's home in Concord, New Hampshire. As Mrs. Eddy stood on a small balcony and welcomed her visitors in the yard below, she said, "Welcome home! To your home in my heart!" (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*) Each of us can prepare a home in our hearts where family members feel treasured and neighbors feel loved.

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Those who are interested in attending one of the meetings being held around the world in the interest of *Science and Health*

*with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, can obtain information from their local Reading Room or by calling The Mother Church. The number for those calling from outside the United States is (617) 450-3450; from within the United States, the number is (617) (800) 288-7155, extension 3450. Meetings are now scheduled for southern and southwestern United States, New Zealand, and Australia.