

Desert View Christian Science Care – Annual Meeting 2020  
Spiritual Reasoning v. Material Reasoning

Our theme comes from a well-known portion of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus notes a number of important truths that turn thought in new and much more productively loving and upright directions. He opens some of those teaching with, “You have heard it been said.... And then advances thought to a much more spiritual sense of such a precept by stating “But I say unto you...” He then speaks of a more spiritual perspective on what had been precepts in the law.

Christians have repeatedly declared that the Sermon on the Mount is a very treasured portion of Jesus’ teachings. It contains truths very central to understanding how—the way humans look at events—merely through the material senses is repeatedly the opposite of what Jesus’ revealed to mankind through the spiritual sense of life that he embodied.

Spiritual Sense gives us a radically different lens through which we comprehend that life is Love and not hatred, Truth not lies, there is no death, and establishes the perfect sense of any situation we could possibly find ourselves in.

MBE states on p. 95: 30-32 (S&H) “Material sense does not unfold the facts of existence; but spiritual sense lifts human consciousness into eternal Truth.”

She notes on p. 563: 1-2, that “Human sense may well marvel at discord, while, to a diviner sense, harmony is the real and discord unreal.”

Early in my military career as a Christian Science Chaplain, I achieved a deep and helpful degree of understanding because of the powerful impact of grasping a diviner sense, a spiritual sense of a situation, when all the presenting human elements were shouting that *discord was real*.

**Being Spit on....** Any folks here been spit on? When I ask that, I’ve found it’s rare that a number of people don’t raise their hands.

I’ve always said that the first time is the hardest, and I was spit on 3 times while I was in the Army. When a chaplain, I had never met before, saw I had two Meritorious Service Metals and I was only a new Captain, he spit on me. Then he loudly declared, “You couldn’t possibly have deserved those medals.” My immediate human reaction was like a gas grill flame lighting up. In those initial moments it seemed to be a degrading and disgusting experience. I was worried I would strike out at him. I turned to prayer and realized it was absolutely critical that I needed to seek a spiritual sense of what mortal mind was shouting was a tremendously demeaning situation.

I immediately turned to God and a thought from S&H p. 234: 26, “You must control evil thoughts in the first instance, or they will control you in the second.” In this case I knew

it better be in the first instant. I listened again with my whole heart, Mind spoke to me and the thought came, "The soldiers spit on Jesus."

To bring me to an even more spiritual sense of this event the voice within said, "When you said you wanted to follow me, did you think I meant only in the easy footsteps?" It was as if a flame had been quenched. I immediately affirmed, "No Lord, if it's necessary I'll follow you all the way to the cross."

Then equally as clearly came the angel thought, "What must a man have been through in order to bring himself to spit on another human being?" Then what had been a sense of fiery disgust was completely replaced by a deep sense of pity. I reached out to embrace the man and repeated what I had heard. I asked what he must have been through in order to be able to spit on another human being. The reality of what he had done in a very emotional moment, hit him like a brick in the face. He too immediately felt a more spiritual sense of what had happened and fell to his knees and begged me to forgive him.

What could have been a very ugly situation completely transformed to becoming a blessing for us both.

On p. 299:17 Mary Baker Eddy quotes the book of Hebrews 13: 2, "By giving earnest heed to these spiritual guides... we entertain 'angels unawares.' "

This section of Chapter 13 of the book of Hebrews is teaching us that we can experience a sacred sense of "brotherly love,..." if we put no limits on what love can accomplish. If we ourselves, regardless of what others, confined to a material sense, a merely human sense of what is true, might be seeing, we can learn and be inspired if we choose not to allow thought to remain mired in the muddy thoughts of hatred, envy, anger, etc.

Many times, people in the chaplaincy would ask me who the chaplain was. "I told them I thought the most important part of the healing was, that I no longer associated any memory of a face with it "He was another student in a very large chaplain advanced course class. I'd not met him before, and I had no desire to attach the event to him. I was led to take a more spiritual look and understand that his mortal, human reactions had nothing to do with, "who he really was."

Many times, people would remark, "That must have been the worst experience you've ever had." I'd vehemently say, "NO! I often think of it as the best experience I've ever had."

After sharing it at the dedication of the Women in Military Service to America memorial in Arlington Cemetery in DC, about 20 people came up to me afterward and said, they had had some sort of experience that they thought they could never forgive or truly get over, and that "today they realized they could."

Many people look at the life events differently, more spiritually after they apply and understand Jesus teachings.

Those truths established a more spiritual sense of situations and help us to stop and pray and not **react** to the demeaning sense of the situations humanly. Instead of merely *reacting* we can **respond based on a more spiritual sense** of a situation. Then, it blesses everyone involved and it isn't uncommon that it would continue to bless or inspire those who saw it happen or as in DC those who hear of the event when it is shared.

S&H p. 256: 1-5 "The finite must **yield** to the infinite. Advancing to a higher plane of action, thought rises from the material sense to the spiritual, from the scholastic to the inspirational, and from the mortal to the immortal."

### **Stanford Rabbinical Student**

When I was working on a master's degree at Stanford, one of my Religious Studies professors put a syllogism on the blackboard.

Man is mortal  
John is a man  
Therefore, John is mortal.

He insisted he could point to anyone in the class and they would agree with it. He pointed at me to agree. I tried to persuade him to ask someone else because I knew he was aware of the fact I was a Christian Scientist. He insisted twice that I should answer, so I said "No! I don't agree with the major premise." At that point he realized being a Christian Scientist I was probably the only one in the classroom that wouldn't agree with it. He quickly apologized and the bell rang ending the class period. Immediately a Rabbinical student went ballistic and attacked me, insisting I had to agree with the premise. I attempted to simply leave but he followed me out of classroom. Some of the other students followed as he refused to let it go despite my attempts to defuse the issue.

It came to me very quickly and very clearly that human reasoning or opinion wasn't the answer. I prayed for a moment and answered him. I said I was sure he, a good Jewish student of the law, would have a deep respect for the Decalogue. I said that for me, it all boiled down to the first commandment. I thought it was a form of idolatry to believe that matter was the image and likeness of God as Spirit.

He became incensed and even more enraged. He yelled at me, "Are you calling me an idolater?" I told him I thought there were hundreds of ways everyone put God second or believed in something else almost every day. I asked him if he didn't think there were many reasons it was the **first** commandment?

He became strikingly calm and thoughtful. He and I, as well as several other members of our class had one of our very best, intelligent discussions about the problem of evil and Christian Science. The discussion lasted so long that the instructor returned to the courtyard from having taught another class across campus and profusely apologized again as he headed back to his office.

It was as if the class reconvened without the professor in the courtyard for a class on Christian Science. Everyone shared ideas and we all left with a much more spiritual sense of the answer of whether man was spiritual rather than mortal or material. God gives us opportunities to turn things 180 degrees away from human opinion. If we listen, He leads us to a more spiritual sense and it can include others if we are willing to listen to divine Mind and be His mouthpiece.

Mrs. Eddy brings to light an amazing recognition. On S&H p. 200: 4 she lifts thought to understand that “Moses advanced a nation to the worship of God in Spirit instead of matter, ...”

In the Old Testament times the Code of Hammurabi was established, and Jesus refers to its concept of justice in the book of Matthew.

At the time of the Code’s establishment it wasn’t uncommon that the punishment for stealing a loaf of bread might result in the cutting off of the person’s hand. The code was originally attempting to advance thought that the punishment should not exceed the crime. One would only be required to replace the loaf of bread stolen and not be maimed or possibly killed for being so hungry you took someone else’s bread.

Matt. 5: 38 “Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

Anytime a more spiritual sense is presented and understood, thought advances and so do the people who study and understand the precept and put it into practice.

Again, Jesus refers to a common concept established many years before. In Matt. 5: 43-46 he says, “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love your neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you,... and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye?”

Jesus was urging his followers to consider a much more inclusive and magnanimous concept of love. A concept that has been described as “unconditional love.” There are an infinite number of ways people can learn how inclusive and omnipresent divine love is.

A **drill sergeant** at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma approached me the first day I came to work at the Artillery Training Center. He got up in my face and growled, **“I don’t believe in God!”**

When it would seem clear that someone is attempting to set a confrontational tone, we can always pray to find the way to advance such thought from a sad, or angry material sense to a higher more spiritual standpoint. Divine Mind can answer even the most confrontational baiting with the perfect, intelligent and kind solution available, when we turn OUR thought, which we have complete control over, to a spiritual sense of the issue.

I was absolutely certain that God would lead us both to a more spiritual perspective on His existence. I thought about Mrs. Eddy’s beautiful description of God as Father-Mother. It came to me he needed to see God as the manifestation of both of those qualities in a very gentle manner. The spiritual sense is very frequently the exact opposite of the tone that material sense attempts to use to focus thought on a merely material sense of an issue. I LISTENED and spoke to him the loving and spiritual ideas God sent to me in my “thought email.”

I said to him, “I see you’re wearing a wedding band. He nodded and held up his hand. I asked him, “Do you love your wife?” He relaxed and smiled and said, “Yes, I do. “

I took another step in the loving direction of thought and said, “Do you have children?” He smiled even more so and exuberantly said, YES! I do!” I asked if he loved them. He said, Yes, of course!” I asked if he had gotten the children a pet, a cat or a dog. He again said, “yes, a dog. I said to him, “Do you and your family love the dog?” He again said a kind “yes” Each step of this conversation led his thought to a more and more loving a stance.

I continued saying, “Well, from what you’ve said, I can see you do believe in Love. Then, I added, “The Bible says that, “God is love.” (I John 4:8)

I could see he was thinking, and he slowly said, “I never thought of it that way....and quite joyously said, “I guess I *do* believe in God.”

What I felt we saw in that situation was a living example of Mrs. Eddy’s statement in S&H p. 162: 4-5, 9 “Christian Science brings to the body the sunlight of Truth, which invigorates and purifies...The effect of this Science is to stir the human mind to a change of base, on which it may yield to the harmony of the divine Mind.”

The Drill Sergeant changed his perspective from a merely material sense of his assertion to a higher spiritual sense of the most basic training a Christian can have, which is to improve the accuracy of their concept of God.

I had a very productive relationship with all the NCOs at the Training Center and we often helped each other as time went on.

The distinction between the material and spiritual sense of events and our world, becomes even more critical and urgent the more serious the event is that presents the opportunity to see the difference.

In Unity of Good Mrs. Eddy magnifies the importance of understanding this distinction. She adds a wonderful degree of recognition when she says,

(Un. 39: 28) “Science and material sense conflict at all points, from the revolution of the earth to the fall of the sparrow. It is mortality only that dies.”

She points to a critical step of understanding as thought advances in this regard. On the next page, (Un. 40: 6) she points out that “Material sense, or the belief of life in matter, must perish, in order to prove man deathless.”

Marina, a friend of mine collapsed on the tennis court next to where I was playing a doubles match. It was a cold October evening in DC. The courts were in a remote area that was hard to find, so it took the EMTs some time to find us. Her partner and I held her keeping her warm while awaiting the ambulance. Although she seemed to be in and out of consciousness, I felt she had gently squeezed my hand when I asked her if I could pray for her. Even though she would often remark that she was Jewish by heritage but wasn't really connected with the religion now, I knew from her childhood she had been familiar with the Psalms. So, as we waited, I prayed aloud with 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm.

She was taken to the ER and put on life support. I continued to pray for several hours that night but was told that the doctors pronounced her legally dead. However, because her husband was climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, they couldn't contact him to get the permission to take her off life support. I prayed to clear my thought and continued to establish the validity of the spiritual reality that life is eternal. I didn't stop praying the next couple of days because I didn't want to let the imposition of the belief that life was in matter or the pictures on the court that evening to have any sense of reality in my thought. I didn't stop praying until I felt what Mrs. Eddy refers to as a “scientific certainty” that God, “Love, alone is Life.”

On the third day doctors still hadn't been able to reach her husband and were shocked because she miraculously recovered. They were humbly recognizing that it wasn't because of anything they had done.

A couple days later her husband finally returned. Had he not been gone; they may have prematurely taken her off the support systems. Subsequently she went through a couple of months of rehabilitation and we heard she was doing well.

Then one very cold, snowy day in January, I went to the tennis courts to see if our coach or any players were going to show up for our normal weekend practice clinic. To my surprise no one else on our tennis team but for the first time since the incident, Marina was waiting on the tennis court. She came to the net and said she was thrilled

that I showed up. She remarked that she didn't really remember the events in October, but she felt moved to tell me that doctors kept insisting that there was no human explanation for her why she was alive. She said she wanted me to know it was very clear to her that it was the prayer on the court that day that was the reason she was alive.

She was visibly excited to have the opportunity to thank me for praying for her. She kept repeating that it was the prayer that made the difference. She then asked me how I had prayed, and I knew it was therefore appropriate for us to talk about how I had prayed.

I told her I began by cataloging all the qualities of her wonderfully loving nature. I told her I had always been moved by her selflessness and many kind things I had heard she did for her neighbor, a single parent. She would come to her friend's house once a month and tell her to leave for at least four hours. She sent her to do errands or just take some quiet time etc. and she babysat for her. I told her such kindness, selflessness and a strikingly generous nature were the spiritual qualities that truly made her who she was. And that those qualities were immortal; they couldn't die!

We hugged and played a little tennis and left praising God as Love.

Gaining a spiritual sense of life events is attainable when we earnestly listen and seek to consider the power of God as present, regardless of what the circumstances may look like. In Christian Science Mrs. Eddy repeatedly leads us step by step to lift our thought to a holy perspective.

S&H 82:31-2 she states "...it is wise earnestly to consider whether it is the human mind or the divine Mind which is **influencing** one."

And on page 85: 2-4 she encourages us not to limit our sense of what can be perceived by seeking a spiritual sense whole heartedly. She makes an important distinction at this step, and points out,

"It is the illumination of the spiritual understanding which demonstrates the capacity of Soul, not of material sense."

Then we grasp the infinite source of good and cease to limit the capacity of Soul... spiritual sense.

The bottom line that day was "For right reasoning there should be but one fact before the thought, namely spiritual existence." (S&H p. 492: 3-4)

It is very inspiring to acknowledge the infinite possibility prayer brings into our experience, when we welcome recognitions of the awesome strength of God visibly in our day. Then we hear the angel thoughts that assure us through our textbook (S&H) that "Spiritual sense is the discernment of spiritual good." 505:20-21.

Again, and again, Mrs. Eddy lovingly expands our concept of God and lifts thought to rejoice that “good is our God and our God is good.”

She magnifies our understanding of how we experience the world and the good God has surrounded us with. She gives us a refreshingly clear description as to how that is possible.

S&H 96: 27-29 “As material knowledge diminishes and spiritual understanding increases, real objects will be apprehended mentally instead of materially.”

In Christian Science understanding the spiritual sense of substance is another step-in perceiving yet another layer in the strata of the Rock of Truth. The truths in our weekly Bible Lesson and our study of Mrs. Eddy’s writings expand the influence of Truth in common or unexpected ways.

My. 249: 4-6 “When error strives to be heard above Truth, let the ‘still small voice’ produce God’s phenomena.”

In one of my many trips to the Orlando Airport, I was praying to recognize God’s goodness all around me.

I had also been studying Mrs. Eddy’s ideas on baptism in her article, Pond and Purpose, Mis. p. 205 where she makes this inspiring statement:

“The Baptism of Spirit, or final immersion of human consciousness in the infinite ocean of Love, is the last scene in corporeal sense. This omnipotent act drops the curtain on material man and mortality. After this, man’s identity or consciousness reflects only Spirit, good... [she adds this point] “Mortals who on the shores of time learn Christian Science, and live what they learn, take rapid transit to heaven...” I didn’t know how soon I would get a look at what “rapid transit,” might look like on the highway in a very heaven designed protection.

As I drove, I was thinking about how many times when I would make that airport drive, I would end up as a single car in a very open area. If I looked back, there was a very distinct distance to a dense number of cars behind me, and the same, a noticeable open distance ahead before there was another block of cars in the three-lane highway. I was expressing gratitude for that comfortable place as I drove.

Moments later as I was making a pronounced right exit loop from Interstate 75 onto the Toll Road to Orlando, I was negotiating that pronounced curve where it reduces to only two lanes. The curve is so hard a turn it is difficult to see what is ahead for more than about 150 feet at best. The traffic in that area is normally quite busy because three roads converged into that turn down to a two-lane section. As I came to the sharpest point of that turn, I saw one of the largest pieces of metal I have ever seen blocking the entire left lane I was in. There was a large section of a bridge side rail that must have

fallen off a large semi that must have been carrying it away for disposal. It was directly in front of me and I barely had a second to respond to the blockage. I had to veer out of my lane to the outside lane or my car would have been totaled had I crashed into the heavy metal bridge debris.

In that moment I felt God's presence. I wasn't aware of me having to come up with the response to the massive blockage of the bridge guardrail lying on the road. I just felt as if God's hand was moving the car over. I didn't yank the steering wheel and yet the car made a smooth almost instantaneous change to the outer lane. There hadn't been even a moment to look to see if another car was in the other lane. It just happened without any difficulty or movement of my steering wheel. I never felt like I humanly did any driving in those moments.

A couple of cars behind me slowed even more than what is normal for that curve because they were far enough behind me to do so when they saw my brake lights. That in turn slowed a large number of cars coming up behind them approaching the turn. That way no one could come around the curve quickly and everyone had time to adjust to the upcoming debris in the road because they were all basically at a crawl coming into it. It was clear to me that God was the only Cause. And he had put together the exact events that would protect everyone on that road that day. Even the distances between the clumps of cars as we had driven into that hard curve initially and the distance that allowed the cars behind to slow to a crawl as they approached the curve on Interstate 75.

The passage that occurred to me in those moments was Mary Baker Eddy's assurance on p. 387: 27 "The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent Mind, who gives man faith and understanding whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but from bodily suffering."

I think we all saw God's supportive influence and protective power in those moments. And I am very grateful for those recognitions and for the protection our daily Bible Lesson and study of our revealed texts brings to us every day.

The Sermon on the Mount continues with this passage from Matt 5: 48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

I love the results of being obedient to the requirements to pray daily for our world and not just ourselves. It directs our thought to look beyond the concept of things are confined in any way to some repetitive routine. I choose some idea which I feel directed to pray about as I listen in the early morning hours.

Recently I was listening, and the recognition came to my thought that it never ceases to amaze me how much we can learn from children. I felt a great sense of joy and thought about how many times children literally and figuratively "jump for joy." That seemed very inspiring as I began to see example of that in pictures I'd see and then in events.

I also had a couple of experiences that really were vivid reminders of how *pure* Mrs. Eddy pointed out to us that a child's heart can be. By establishing our concept in a loving, spiritual perspective it can have a striking impact us and what we experience.

Mrs. Eddy said, on p.323: 28 of S&H "The effects of Christian Science are not so much seen as felt."

451: 16 "If our hopes and affection are spiritual, they come from above, not from beneath, and they bear as of old the fruits of the Spirit."

On Christmas eve, I was at my brother's house feeding kitties. I noticed the neighbors were lined up on the road and several relatives from across the street were yelling at the man from across the street. He had numerous tow trucks and often had them parked up and down the side of the small dirt road they all lived on. I had told him he could park his extra vehicles on the grass on my brother's side of the road. I had shared chocolate chip cookies and homemade vegetable chicken and Spaetzle soup with the family and made them homemade bread as well. My dad and my brother had always had a very loving and helpful relationship with our neighbor being yelled at. That neighbor would sometimes simply come over and mow my dad's lawn when he was mowing his own lawn.

As I got out of my car, his adopted son who was only 8 years old, approached me by my car. He placed his hands on his hips and in a very serious manner told me, he wanted me to know that their family had discussed me last night at their dinner table. I was so surprised and tickled I smiled and asked him what they had talked about. He told me that they had discussed that I was the only person their Great Dane didn't bark at.

He pointed to each of the neighbors on the street and said, "He barks at that man, that man, that woman. He barks at my dad, he barks at my mom, he barks at my sister and he barks at me. You are the only person he doesn't bark at."

He continued by saying that then they discussed why they thought it was the Great Dane didn't bark at me. He said that everyone had an idea why that was. But in a very serious tone he said he told them he *knew why the dog didn't bark at me*.

I asked him why that was. He said, "I told them, our dog would never bark at Cinderella."

I was so moved by his conclusion I told him; he had just given me the most wonderful Christmas gift anyone could give someone. I asked if I could give him a hug and he smiled and said, "Sure!"

His heart had led him to be chosen to be kind and loving when all around him were having a very material sense of how we relate to our neighbors. It made me think of the

passage in Isaiah 11:6 "...and a little child shall lead them." And spiritual sense often moves our heart and then we can bless our neighbors.

Ps. 25: 5, 6, 9 "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses...the meek will he teaches his way."

S& H 538: 5 "Truth places the cherub wisdom at the gate of understanding to note the proper guests."

I found one day at the airport how literally that was true about a little girl who boarded our airplane at our gate and sat just a few rows ahead of me on the opposite side of the aisle.

We'd had a long wait at the gate to board a delayed flight. When I heard people at the gate grouching about their expectation that children on planes were always cranky enough and bawling on all the flights they had taken. Some were saying the delay would make the crying even worse.

I felt I was being alerted by divine Mind to take a more spiritual sense of this untrue picture they had drawn of God's children. I prayed to see the Truth about God's little ones. I was very inspired to make part of my prayer the words of a song I had known when I was in college. "Love is all around me and so the feeling grows. It's written in the wind; it's everywhere I go...Come on and let it show."

As I was waiting for the plane to take off on the runway, I saw a little girl lean into the aisle and looks back at me from about three rows ahead of me on the other side of the plane. She smiled at me, a smile I could only describe as beaming. Then she began to blow me kisses. It was clear to me she had felt that I had been praying for children and it seemed she wanted to express her gratitude to me. I had never seen her before that moment. I didn't recall seeing her in the very crowded gate area and I had boarded before she and her family came to their seats further toward the front of the plane.

She was certainly the "cherub...at the gate of understanding" that day. And she felt she wanted to lovingly embrace "the proper guests" flying and expressing love and appreciation for children.

As we wrap things up here, these are some things we could think about:

41:6 "Like our Master, we must **depart** from material sense into the spiritual sense of being."

472: 1416 "Error is a **supposition** that pleasure and pain, that intelligence, substance, life, are existent in matter."

Mrs. Eddy urges us in this quotation to exchange a material sense of life for the powerfully correct spiritual concept of ourselves and our world.

## **Slammed hand in door...**

Way back in 1969, my Summer Recreation co-counselor and I were driving to prepare to show a movie at an alternate location when we saw a mother had dropped two little girls at the wrong location. I drove into the Elementary School where we normally held other recreational events and attempted to put them in my back seat to transport them to our High School recreational building.

I reached in the back seat to slam the door firmly to ensure the children would be safe. As it closed, I realized my hand was in the door. I had tried to lean over my front seat and just reach behind me to close the door. As I saw what was happening I instantly, firmly denied the material sense of an accident happening. I never looked closely at it. I quickly wrapped it in a cloth that was on the floor from the back seat to contain the bleeding. My co-counselor was so upset by what she was seeing that she was shrieking. I asked her if she could please be quiet and explained I needed to pray.

In Science and Health, on p. 475:6 in her definition of man Mrs. Eddy brings to light what spiritual sense establishes. That "Man is not matter; he is not made up of brain, blood, bones, and other material elements...man is made in the image and likeness of God. Matter is not that likeness. The likeness of Spirit cannot be so unlike Spirit... (Man) has not a single quality underived from Deity."

In the next few moments, the voice that comes to us to offer the exactly perfect healing idea firmly and lovingly reminded me, that if there is no sin, there is no punishment. It reminded me of the spiritual sense that to lovingly be concerned for the children's safety was a pure and beautiful motive. I absolutely immersed myself in the spiritual sense of God's omnipotence and omnipresence at all times. Suddenly it came to me we had a room full of kids waiting for a movie at our alternate location. I quickly drove to the central park near our High School.

As we stopped to change to the second reel of the movie, my co-counselor said, "I'm sorry I can't shut up any longer. I want to see what is happening with your hand?" That was the first time I had thought of it again. My entire attention had shifted to what we needed to do to provide the movie we had on our schedule for the children. My thought had been completely focused on them and not at all on myself.

Shocked I too looked at one hand and then the other. Neither hand had even a mark on them. I couldn't even remember which hand I had slammed in the car door. My co-counselor was arguing that she had seen the blood on the cloth and door. I had turned so quickly to prayer and sought the spiritual sense of the events that I had no memory of even a moment of pain. I knew there were no accidents in God's kingdom, and it is a present possibility for us to manifest the spiritual sense of our day and all its events.