

## **Worry-free about the future**

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Published in the *Christian Science Sentinel*. Feb 9, 1998, pp 14-16

We don't have to let financial concerns cloud our happiness. This is the lesson I learned one year when a real estate purchase left my husband and me close to financial disaster. Deeply worried about how we would meet our monthly obligations, I became extremely fearful and sick at heart. I daily tried to formulate a plan to save us, while anticipating total economic collapse and dire straits in the months ahead. This was despite the fact that our present needs were being met and the bills paid on time. Feeling ill and unable to get out of bed one morning, I reached out to God in prayer. I recalled with quiet gratitude how much I had experienced of God's love in my life. There had been physical healings aplenty and blessings beyond measure. Never had I lacked in any way. No matter how difficult or serious the situation I had been faced with, every need had been met and every problem resolved through turning wholeheartedly to God in prayer.

So why was I now feeling so ill with dread? The answer was that I was seeing my husband and myself as mortals, trying to provide for ourselves through human planning instead of reliance on God. Fear and feelings of limitation had caused me to lose sight of the fact that we are God's dear children, always receiving His wholehearted, tender care. So I began to pray by affirming the spiritual facts I knew to be true about God and His children, including me. I knew, for example, that God is good, and good is All. God is omnipotent, and He is in control. He has a purpose for us that is wholly good. We don't have to worry about what lies before us. God is constantly filling our lives with good, with peace and abundance, now and always.

I also prayed to understand more fully that there is no evil in God, or in His design for man and the universe. Disaster and ruin are misconceptions regarding existence. They are no part of God or of His offspring. His will for us is that we experience His unfailing bounty. The goodness of divine Love never diminishes, never runs out, never dries up. It is not meager, nor is it limited. Our heavenly Father's love is constant, abundantly rich, and overflowing.

I saw that I needed to maintain these spiritual facts in my thought. As God's children, we have nothing to fear in the present or the future. No one can ever be deprived of God's love. Moment by moment He maintains our health and livelihood. We are never alone, struggling to make ends meet. Our Father-Mother is always watching over us, and He never, ever, lets us down. He doesn't look after some of us and not others. He doesn't give a little portion of His goodness to some, and a larger portion to others. We all receive our divine Parent's lovingkindness equally.

As my thoughts were filled with these heartening ideas, I realized that instead of trusting God to provide for us and living one day at a time, I was mentally running ahead, worrying about a future that hadn't come. Jesus rebuked this kind of thinking. He said, "Take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ... For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself" (Matt. 6:31-34). Jesus never doubted divine Love's ability to meet every need. We know that he understood the infinite, illimitable nature of divine Spirit, because he fed several thousand hungry people with just a few loaves and fishes (see Matt 15:29-38). This proves that in the oneness of God's love, there is abundance.

Remembering this, I asked myself, "Are my needs being met right now?" Yes, they were. "Do I have enough for today?" Yes I did. "Could I expect this to continue?" Yes. I could stop worrying about tomorrow because it would be full of God's goodness. I would have all I needed. The spiritual conviction of these sacred truths melted away the fear that had gripped my thinking. The fever broke, and I felt calm and well. In the months that followed, as I held steadfastly to these holy thoughts, our financial situation was harmoniously resolved.

This experience taught me that we don't need to brood over what the future holds. If we are troubled by financial or employment concerns, we can turn to our loving Father and experience His presence and power in our lives. As we do this, we will find that each and every day is filled with God's happiness and bountiful goodness.