

Harmless mosquitoes

By Beverly Goldsmith

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It was late afternoon when the doorbell rang announcing the arrival of the delivery man. Stepping outside to take the box from him, I found we were being swarmed by mosquitoes.

While we were completing the paperwork, he asked me if the mosquitoes had ever made me sick with fever. I told him my family had shared our neighborhood with these creatures for over ten years, and in that time we had never been made ill by them. He replied that the ones flying around us might be the disease-carrying kind he'd just heard about on the radio. Before I could respond, he turned and escaped hurriedly into his van and drove away.

That evening when the television news spoke of the same problem, I realized how much alarm was being engendered by this topic. I also recognized with much gratitude that through my study of the Science of Christianity I had no fear of these living things, nor was I frightened by the talk of disease. This equanimity of thought had been gained years earlier through consecrated, scientific prayer. This prayer had healed me.

Before I took up residence in this semitropical area, I lived in a cooler climate where mosquitoes were nonetheless abundant. Over a period of time I became intensely annoyed by them and greatly agitated whenever one landed on my skin. I also began to experience a severe physical reaction to any bite.

One day when I was feeling deeply distressed by the whole mosquito affair, it dawned on me that I wasn't doing anything to heal the situation, even though I knew healing was possible. Turning to God with a deep yearning to feel His consolation, I opened my heart to His truth. The first thought that came to me was from the Bible: "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me" (Isa. 45:5).

Instantly humbled and quieted by this passage, I acknowledged that God, divine Spirit, is the only power and presence. "Evil has no power, no intelligence, for God is good, and therefore good is infinite, is All," says *Science and Health* (pp. 398-399).

In God's allness there is only harmony and health. He could never create evil nor subject His children to annoyance or pain. It is not in the nature of divine Love to be afflictive. Spirit reproduces only its essence – wholeness, wellness, calmness, and soundness. In affirming God's omnipotent goodness, I saw that I had to stop believing that an insect had the power to injure me. If I wanted to overcome the irritation and anxiety, I couldn't continue to hold to the notion of two powers, one good and the other bad. The power of God to bless, to heal, and to sustain perfect health does not have an opposite. There is and can be only one Mind, one power, and that one is God, Spirit.

As I pondered these inspiring truths, another message filled my thought: "I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded" (Isa 45:12). The magnitude of this declaration led me to reason that as Spirit, Mind, is the only creator of man and the universe, every living creature must be included in Mind's wholly good origination. Because of this, it is impossible for another of God's ideas to be in conflict with, or troublesome to, God's idea, man.

I relinquished all feelings of antagonism toward these insects, stopped viewing them as a hostile foe, and rejoiced instead in this statement from *Science and Health*: "All of God's creatures, moving in the harmony of Science, are harmless, useful, indestructible" (p.514).

As a result, my thought changed. I refused to be disturbed or fearful. Whenever a mosquito appeared, I silently affirmed the truth of God, man, and the universe. By persisting in this action, I found that my whole experience altered. All mental aggravation and physical discomfort ceased. I was healed.

With this change has come a great feeling of serenity. No longer do I react to this insect's presence with dislike or anger, nor am I overcome by fear or trepidation. I am continuously and permanently free. Also, nowadays when one touches my skin, it leaves no trace of its presence.

How grateful I am to know that we can overcome fearful beliefs and so prove mosquitoes and other living things to be our harmless fellow creatures. At all times we can be calm in the knowledge that there is nothing in this world that has the power to interfere with our God-given health and perfection.