

## Weathering financial drought? Spiritual resources can help

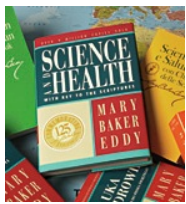
Live online chat with Beverly Goldsmith, a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science, on spirituality.com October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002

An event in the *Spirituality Live* Series

### Event Preview Introduction:

What do you do when funds are scarce, drying up, or evaporating? How do you withstand a lack of financial resources? Is there a way to pull through “drought” times? Yes there is. No matter what the hardship is that you’re facing, no matter how bleak the situation may be for you, there *is* a solution. You *will* surmount the difficulty and move forward. How do I know? Because, I’ve been through tough times and I made it. I was not left destitute. I did not fail. And you won’t either.

What helped me get through? Spiritual resources. These sustained me when I couldn’t see a way out. They encouraged me to keep going, gave me hope when I thought there was none, guided me to do the right thing at the right time. They turned me to a higher power - a divine Helper and showed me an underlying principle – that there is always enough good for me and everyone else each day.



What are these spiritual resources? They are powerful, healing, spiritual ideas that transform our thinking and thus our experience. Where did I find these spiritual ideas? In *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* - Mary Baker Eddy's best-selling book. This author wrote from her life-experience. She really knew what it was like to go through financial drought.

At one period in her life she was alone, had no earning capacity to speak of, moved house 8 times in one year, and was staring at a bleak future. With little or no financial or human resources available to her, she turned to her one unyielding, sustaining source – divine Love. Ideas came to her about how she should proceed. Following these ideas she was led step-by-step into the financially viable careers of author, healer, teacher, speaker, editor, publisher and the founder of a Pulitzer prize-winning newspaper.

Mary Baker Eddy's success story is inspiring. It shows what spiritual resources can do in changing our lives for the better. In tough times we need hope, comfort, reassurance, support, and strength. I gained this and more from ideas in her book, such as this one. **“To those leaning on the sustaining infinite, today is big with blessings.”** *Science and Health* page vii.

Learning about the sustaining power of divine Love, has helped me weather financial drought. There hasn't been an occasion where I have ever lost out or been deprived of anything good. In fact, since I started reading *Science and Health*, I've discovered that God has many right ideas, many solutions for all of us. Good is not some tiny, ineffectual amount. Good is superabundant. There is more than enough to go around. God's love, usefulness, supply, and resources are with us right now.

*Science and Health* can help you deal with adverse financial circumstances caused by drought, economic recession, stock-market collapses, unemployment, or illness. Spiritual resources do work. I know. They can do the same for you.

## Event Transcript of Q&A:

Beverly's comments came during a live spirituality.com Online Event on October 25th, 2002. She was responding to questions from the audience. Following is a transcript of the discussion:

**SPIRITUALITY.COM HOST:** *Welcome everyone to today's event, and we are happy to have Beverly joining us from Australia with a very timely topic. Welcome Beverly...any opening thoughts to get us started?*

**BEVERLY:** Yes. The subject we're going to discuss is how spiritual resources can help us weather financial drought. I hope you have lots of questions for me.

Being in a tough financial situation is frightening -- at least that's how it was one time for my husband and me. Everything we'd worked for was about to be lost. We consulted with the bank and financial advisors. There didn't seem to be a solution for us. What could we do? We decided to turn to spiritual resources.

Spiritual ideas had helped us before. We'd found solutions to problems with housing, employment, and paying our bills. They'd also helped us achieve greater peace-of-mind, improved health and security. We'd found these ideas in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* written by Mary Baker Eddy.

This author knew about financial hardship. At one time in her life she was alone, had no fixed home, and no real means of supporting herself. She turned to spiritual resources -- the sustaining power of divine, infinite Love. She carved out a new life, more than adequately cared for herself for the rest of her life, and helped people around the world do likewise.

So my husband and I looked for spiritual ideas in the book to help us. What we found helped us not to be afraid. Divine Love was taking care of us. We weren't separated from Love's goodness. We could depend on this. All that we needed was available to us right now. These ideas calmed and strengthened us.

Not long after, a business associate offered us a solution. It was a course of action that we'd thought of earlier but had rejected because we saw it as a backward step. This time, we were able to consider it more objectively. It proved to indeed be the right step to take. Our financial crisis was resolved.

Let's talk about how spiritual resources can help you. I'm ready to answer your questions.

**Tiffany:** *How can I overcome the stress of financial problems?*

**BEVERLY:** I know how you feel. In difficult times it's hard to remain confident and peaceful. Yet we can do this.

During my financial turmoil, I became depressed and sick. I thought I would never be happy again. My courage was failing. I thought about how God had made me to be like Him. He'd given me His strength, courage, resiliency, and buoyancy. I would not go under. I could get rid of the fear and sorrow. I could remain positive.

I reminded myself that like a buoy on the ocean, I could stay on top of things. You can hold a buoy under the water, but as soon as you let go it will bob back on top again. I thought of myself as having this within me. I could not stay depressed. Divine Love was helping me, holding me up, keeping me afloat. Thinking like this really helped me. I found re-newed energy to keep going to find an answer. Which as you know I did.

You too can get rid of stress. Being worried isn't your natural state. You are happy and buoyant. That's the way divine Spirit made you.

**Josh:** *How can a spiritual attitude help me when my farm is in the middle of a drought?*

**BEVERLY:** A spiritual attitude helps us to know what steps to take. It may be something new -- a way we've never thought of before. It may be an idea that we've forgotten but need to recall. Keeping calm. Having confidence that no matter how tough things are we will get through. Realizing that there is a divine Love that's always meeting our human needs. This spiritual attitude helps us find a way forward.

A friend that grows crops has come up with some fresh ideas about how to conserve the moisture in the soil. Where did this idea come from? The human brain? No. The people prayed and these ideas followed. Coincidence? No. They believe the ideas come from a higher source than themselves.

I know what they mean. I've tried to come up with solutions on my own before and it hasn't worked. But when I've approached a situation from a spiritual standpoint, I have ALWAYS got exactly the right answer, the right idea, or the right solution -- and at exactly the right time! You will too.

**CLM:** *I have been looking for a job for quite some time now, but to no avail. I have fallen into a depression and am consumed with fear for the future. Any thoughts on how I can pull myself out of this?*

**BEVERLY:** You know one way that I know to pull myself out of depression about jobs or about life in general is this: Turn to spiritual resources -- to spiritual ideas.

I can't be happy all of the time without divine help. This divine help comes from a higher power than me. Knowing that divine Love is caring for me and giving me ideas to help me find work keeps my thinking uplifted. When my thought is uplifted I find a sense of peace and calm. Then, I can listen to God for the answers that will help me solve problems.

I like to know that God is always with me and that I can never lack any good while He is caring for me. I know it's hard when things aren't going right but it is important to lift thought up above the problem. When I do this -- and it's hard work sometimes, I always find an answer. Also, I find strength to keep going to see the problem solved.

God cares for you. He won't let you down and He won't let you fail. Just keep turning to God for help and you **WILL** succeed.

**Fran:** *Isn't the weather, financial security, life, really just chance?*

**BEVERLY:** No way! Chance is randomness. It can be thought to be accidental, a gamble, -- a roll of the dice. I don't think of anything in my experience as being random or accidental.

God is infinite good. Such goodness is sure, steady, and always available. It's there for us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. God is pouring out His love to us. This Love is superabundant. It's not some tiny inadequate thing. It's infinite. Good is not just a "lucky break". It's our heritage, -- what God has destined for each of us. We have it and it can't be taken from us by weather, stock markets, economic recession or terrorist attacks.

Abundance, -- having our needs met, being able to pay our bills on time has nothing to do with luck. Good is constant. There are no cycles of boom or bust, too much or too little. When we begin to think spiritually we experience constant good in our lives and businesses.

**Fred:** *Drought and now fire -- are these times sent to test us?*

**BEVERLY:** No I don't think of it as a "test". What we see are adverse things happening. But these have the effect of making us better people.

God wants us to be happy and live secure lives. That's what He's planned for us. The "testing" time comes for us when we have to hold onto the idea - that divine Love is in charge and will help us through these tough times. We need to hold on to spiritual ideas at these times and not let go, because these are what sustain us and see us through.

We will get through and we will be saved and God will always be there for us loving and helping us. so don't give up. Know that you and all of us, will be kept safe and sound. We've already heard reports of protection. This divine protection is there for all of us. I know because I've been in frightening situations.

In Vietnam, during the war, when my brother and I sang there, we were in some awful situations. We were shot at and were bombed but we were kept safe. I didn't think of these as "tests" but rather opportunities to see God's power and presence in our lives. And we did see this - over and over again. In the 4 months we were there, not only were we kept safe but all the others in our show too.

**Ben:** *I'm unemployed and low on funds. What can I do?*

**BEVERLY:** What I've learned to do is this: Lift my thought to God and know He is the source of all good.

At one time I needed work. I scoured the newspapers for jobs. Nothing. Then one day when I was driving to my local shopping center, the thought came to go and buy the newspaper and look at the job column. I was very tempted NOT to do it. I argued with myself about how pointless it would be. But, then I remembered that I had just been praying and asking God for His direction. Where had this thought come from? I wasn't sure. But I decided to do it anyway.

I got the paper and found only one job that looked like it had ANY sort of possibility and applied for it. I wasn't qualified for the job but to my amazement I got an interview. It went well. They said they'd call. I waited to hear. Nothing. More weeks went by and still nothing. I felt let down. I thought maybe the thought to look in the paper hadn't come from God after all!

Then several weeks later I got a call from a different company altogether asking me if I still wanted work. I said yes, interviewed and was hired that day. I asked how they knew to call me. The manager said, "I knew the other firm had advertised so I called and asked who they could recommend to us. They gave us your name".

While I was glad to have this job I wondered what had happened to the other one I thought I'd got. It turned out the person that I was to replace, decided not to leave the company after all. But my need was met. Your need will be met too. God **IS** taking care of you. The ideas will come to you. Listen. Follow them.

**Boston\_Cheesecake:** *Today, people want financial security, but that is a false sense of security. How can I communicate this to others, like my father?*

**BEVERLY:** Well people who went through the Great Depression know what it's like to lose all that they had. It's scary. And I can believe that the quest for financial security would seem pretty important. I guess we would all like not to have to be worried about paying our bills. So here's what I do.

I like to know that a higher divine power is caring for me and supplying me with all the right ideas that I need to enable me to take care of myself. Now these ideas are not based on fear or that I lack something and need to get it. The ideas are based on the idea that there is a superabundance of good and good ideas available for everyone.

Also I like to know that God is showing me how to take care of myself and not to be scared that I will lose what I have worked for. Financial security doesn't come from a certain figure in our bank balance. It comes from knowing that we will have all we need exactly when we need it.

I remember one day feeling very poor. I was looking at my bank balance. It showed not much in the bank! Then the post arrived and with it a bank statement. I was amazed to see that I actually had more in the bank than I realized. When I saw how much I DID have I felt happy again. Then I realized that I had had enough all along. I just didn't know it.

This showed me something about spiritual ideas and how we can feel rich when we have them to turn to. We don't have to rely on numbers to make us feel secure. We can feel secure knowing that God is there to care for us.

**Sunstate:** *How do I provide for my family, now and into the future?*

**BEVERLY:** Providing for yourself and your family is necessary and right to do. But there is a greater provider -- divine Love. God is helping us. He is always giving us the right ideas that will enable us to take care of our needs all of the time.

One time my husband started to worry about making enough income. He felt so responsible -- even burdened by being the breadwinner. I told him that God sustained us. If he wasn't there, I would still be cared for. We prayed together until we got a better sense of where our provision came from. This lifted the burden from my husband and we felt safe and secure.

Another thing I've found is not to run too far ahead into the future. I like to stay in the present. We don't always know what we will need or how much we will need in the future. One thing I do know though, is that whatever I need in the future there will be a way to meet that need. If I have sufficient right now, then that's enough for me.

Jesus advised us, **"take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 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."** (Matthew 6:31,33,34) You'll always be guided to do the right thing at the right time. You'll always be provided with what you need. That's something I've proved in my life.

**Seeker:** *Beverly, where do I go to find spiritual truth?*

**BEVERLY:** You can find spiritual ideas in a number of ways. You can refer to the Bible. You can refer to the book *Science and Health*, which is full of ideas that can help in all situations. But you can also turn to divine Love for help and guidance.

I've found that divine Love is always ready to help, always ready to give us wonderful ideas. What we have to do is listen for these ideas. This may take some doing especially if we feel afraid. So getting calm and then listening for the ideas is so important to do. Sometimes ideas have come to me in most unexpected ways. I might be washing dishes or walking down the street, but as I turn my thoughts to God, the answer comes.

This is something you can do. God is ALWAYS there for us 24 hours a day. We forget sometimes to include Him in our plans for the day and to ask Him for direction and help. It's so great when we do remember and find that help just pouring out to us. You will experience this too. I'm sure of it.

**Loon49:** *How can one person help a whole community who is challenged with drought and a lack of financial resources?*

**BEVERLY:** This is question is so important. I'm glad you asked this.

One way that I like to do this, is to include everyone in my prayer for peace, health and security. Prayer is very powerful. It has a healing effect. Many people are finding this to be true.

I like to think of it this way. Think of the community like a big tank with all kinds of thoughts inside. What helps people? Do good thoughts, love, kindness, strength, and faith help? I believe they do. So if I put these kinds of thoughts into the community "think tank" then I am helping my friends and neighbors.

Rather than join in fear and hopelessness and put these thoughts into the community, I like to help by knowing that God **IS** with each of us and we will be sustained. We will weather this drought. Such powerful prayers benefit everyone. I've seen this in my life.

On one occasion when I was in Vietnam we had nothing to eat. You just couldn't run down the street and pick something up to eat. We didn't know what to do to get food. So I decided to pray about the problem.

I knew that divine Love was caring for us and supplying our needs. There was no way that we could be deprived of what we needed. I just felt God's tender care for us and knew that some how that need would be taken care of. And it was.

One afternoon a group of Marines came to our door with some frozen steaks! We were truly grateful and thanked them very much. Just as we were putting our steaks into the freezer, another knock at the door. This time it was the Navy. They gave us a box of rations. We were amazed and so grateful. We just finished putting these away and there was **another** knock at the door. This time it was the Army. They brought more food for us. At this point my colleagues said to me, "Stop praying. We have enough now!!"

We don't know why these people turned up with the food. We hadn't spoken to anyone about our need. But there was the need supplied. And in a **BIG** way. We were able to go many weeks with what was shared with us. And never again did we experience lack of food. This was wonderful proof to me that God is always taking care of us and that we will never lack anything good when we remember this fact.

**Rural:** *How do you pray when the bank says your farm is no longer viable?*

**BEVERLY:** I would pray that there is a solution, then I would listen. God always has an answer. We need to get our thoughts calm enough to listen for direction, for answers. Spiritual listening is a spiritual resource.

It can be hard to do when you feel desperate. But if you calm thought and really listen the answer comes. Extreme fear blocks us from hearing solutions. When my husband and I were in that financial crisis we were so fearful we couldn't see the right step to take, yet it was there all the time and we did move forward with our lives.

You can do the same. I know it's hard to do, but keep your thinking open to all ideas. Don't dismiss something because it doesn't fit your view. There **IS** a solution and you **WILL** find it.

**Ash:** *What if you pray about the situation, and due dates have already come and gone, and nothing seems to be happening?*

**BEVERLY:** Well I just keep right on praying. It's so easy just to quit at this point and say, "Nothing is happening. I'm not going to pray anymore."

I always think about the man who was trying to split a rock open. He was striking that rock trying to get it apart and nothing was happening. Then a friend came over and said, "Let me have a go." He had a couple of swings at the rock and low and behold it split right open.

Now for me this means KEEP going. Don't give up. Keep praying. Keep trusting God to care for you. You may think nothing is happening. But the solution is still there. Good is still there. God is still there helping and loving you. Never quit. Never give up. Never get discouraged. There IS an answer and you will find your needs met. I have in my life and I know that I'm not the only one. You will too.

**SPIRITUALITY.COM HOST:** *Well Beverly, we are almost out of time. Any closing thoughts to leave us with?*

**BEVERLY:** Thanks to you all for your great questions. I hope that the ideas we've talked about will help us all realize that no matter what situation we're facing, we **WILL** get through.

God has a solution for each of us. There is enough good for each of us. Don't give up. Use the spiritual resources available to you. If you're in the bush and are doing it hard with the drought that's so wide spread in Australia, remember our love and prayers are with you.

If you're a person struggling to make ends meet, remember that God is there for you. **"Divine Love always has met and always meet every human need."** (S&H 494:10-11)

**SPIRITUALITY.COM HOST:** *Excellent Beverly! Thanks so much for another inspiring hour. Thanks to all of you for joining the event today.*