

You have the ability you need

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At one time I was very unhappy at school. I had big problems with mathematics. No matter how hard I tried, I just couldn't seem to master the concepts. Finally, my teacher said that I would never be any good at this subject. I believed what he said and gave up trying. Giving up didn't help. I began doing badly in other subjects as well, and this made me feel that I wasn't good at anything. In fact, I felt like I was wearing a big fat label that said "no good at math, or anything else!"

This changed when I began attending a Christian Science Sunday School and started reading the Bible and *Science and Health* each day. This study taught me that I didn't have to accept negative opinions about myself. There is only one opinion that I should agree with, and that is God's.

What does God think about us? God thinks of us as His capable children because He makes us in His image and likeness. This means that because God is Mind, we reflect Mind's infinite capability in all that we do. That's why we can be good at whatever activities we pursue, whether it's schoolwork, computers, music, or sports.

Intelligence doesn't depend on genes or on how much "brain power" we're told we have. Ability doesn't come from matter, bones, or brain cells. Talent and skill come from divine Mind – the only Mind there is.

In her *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy writes, "Man is God's image and likeness; whatever is possible to God, is possible to man *as God's reflection*" (p.183). Everyone can perform well because we are all God's intelligent children. God gives us everything good, including good memory, good humor, and good manners. God is Love, and His love gives us the courage to do new things and to be fearless when answering questions in class. God is Truth, and this gives us the ability to be accurate when we're doing our homework. God is Mind, so we reflect Him by being alert, sensible, and thoughtful – and by paying attention to what the teacher is saying in class! Knowing that God is ever-present Mind is a great thought to hold on to when we're taking exams. Since Mind never forgets, neither can we. God has given us intelligence that we can never lose.

Understanding these concepts helped me a great deal with my problems at school. I became more confident. As I stopped thinking of myself as "dumb" and stopped feeling scared of learning, my grades improved. I realized that we don't have to be smart all by ourselves. We aren't alone. God, divine Mind, is with us all the time. I knew God was the source of my ability, and with God's help I was able to prove it. God can help you, too. If you're trying hard at school but not seeing results, don't lose heart. You're not wearing a label that says "hopeless at school," or "no good at sports" or "has no talent." If this is what you're thinking, then you can get rid of those labels as I did. God doesn't see us as failures, nor does He pin incorrect labels on us. He sees us as He made us – spiritual, perfect capable, just like Him.