

# REINSTATING PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY:

## FACING AND OVERCOMING THE WORLD'S RESISTANCE

*Summary of talks given by Mark Sappenfield. Sponsored by  
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“Christly inspiration” that’s the key idea Mark Sappenfield wanted his audiences to feel in learning how to better face and overcome the world’s resistance to Christian healing today. He showed each of his audiences how and why Christianity, rightly understood, is a divine form of worship based on Christ Jesus’ demonstration of the allness and supremacy of Spirit. Christ Jesus maintained a divine standard—in healing disease, in multiplying the loaves and fishes, and raising the dead—proving the omnipresence and omnipotence of Spirit.

Christianity thrived as the disciples stayed committed to what they learned of spiritual reality through Jesus’ empowering teaching, resurrection and ascension. Jesus taught and expected his disciples to follow his example. His resurrection spiritually empowered them to heal divinely and prevented them from returning to a dead-end material sense of existence. As they learned to faithfully follow Jesus, healing and saving on the basis of the substantiality of Spirit, they couldn’t be hindered by materialism. Peter, and Jesus’ other disciples came to see that Jesus’ teaching is the bread of Life. With this Christly inspiration they found themselves building on the spiritual Rock, Truth, that is Christ-healing—the cornerstone of Christ’s Church.

They realized Christ’s promise: “Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world” (Matt 28:20). So Stephen successfully faced and overcame the world’s resistance to Christ, Truth, by demonstrating his oneness with divine Love, reflecting Christly forgiveness while being martyred (see Acts 7). Stephen’s spiritual love and prayer enabled him to find himself safe in God and a blessing to all who witnessed his inspired Christly response.

What are some lessons for us today? Focus on healing as a demonstration of divine Love, infinite Spirit, for this enables us to face and progressively overcome a material sense of existence, and all it entails—sin, disease and death. Mark emphasized the importance of resisting temptations to preserve a worldly, personal sense of self and possessions. This material focus would prevent one from realizing spiritual identity, power and purpose that enables anyone to realize the supremacy and allness of good, which includes all in God’s blessing.

Mark shared solid metaphysical healings that illustrate the cardinal points of Christian Science\* using examples from the Bible (especially the Gospel of John and the Revelation of Jesus Christ as recorded by John). These illustrated the value of following Christ Jesus by entering into the kingdom of God, where permanent healing, spiritual satisfaction, and eternal life are found. This demonstrates spiritual Life and Love that never diminishes.

\* See *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 52.

