

LYNN HOUSE OF POTOMAC VALLEY



# Touching the Almighty through the Christ

An inspirational talk given by  
Amy Bordeaux, C.S.

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### About Amy Bordeaux, C.S.—

Amy is a life-long Christian Scientist. She grew up in the Florida Keys and later moved to Roanoke, VA. Her grandmother was a Christian Science practitioner and her uncle Joseph G. Heard, CSB was a practitioner, teacher, and worldwide lecturer. Both certainly influenced her spiritual growth.

Amy attended Principia College, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and received a PhD from George Mason University in Science Education. She spent 40 years as a science educator. As Vice President of Education for a non-profit White House initiative in Washington, DC, she worked closely with NASA to develop a hands-on international curriculum for space science education. She worked for the FBI in counterterrorism after 911 developing training programs for field agents.



Her greatest privilege was raising three children with her husband Chris, whom she met at Principia College. Throughout her career, she always knew Christian Science was her true-life occupation. She has helped many who have asked for prayer, and she has written numerous articles for the Christian Science Journal and Sentinel.

After a face-to-face encounter with God, she finally knew it was time to apply for Journal-listing. She is now in the full-time public healing practice.

Amy and Chris live at Smith Mountain Lake outside of Roanoke, VA. Amy served on the Lynn House Board for seven years and loved every minute of it! She recommends serving on the board of a Christian Science nursing facility to anyone wanting to prayerfully support Christian Science nursing – and she says that it will likely launch you into the Christian Science practice!

I am so grateful to be here with you all. Thank you for inviting me to speak with you today about Touching the Almighty!

It's been such a joy working on the Executive Board for Lynn House and getting to know our Christian Science nurses and staff! Over the past seven years, I came to define Lynn House as:

- ❖ a special sanctuary for Christian Science healing
- ❖ a protective shelter and high tower, separate from the world and mortal view of man
- ❖ a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hid
- ❖ a seed within itself, where all Mind's perfection of man is fitly framed together
- ❖ a complete idea; whole, intact; a shelter from the storm
- ❖ a *Manual*-based idea which is not limited, but ever expanding to fulfill its provision of quick and whole healing
- ❖ a strong support for our Christian Science Movement, with viable proofs of God's care for all mankind, and
- ❖ a visible presence in the greater Washington, DC Metro area.

Christian Science nurses are our first responders for practical care and, together with Christian Science Practitioners, they are an unbeatable team in facing down beliefs of any disease. The minute one enters Lynn House and passes through the entry, or "vestibule," the atmosphere is peaceful, calm, and buoyant with expectancy of healing. Even government health officials mention this peaceful atmosphere, time and time again, when they come for routine inspections.

Mrs. Eddy refers to "the vestibule in which a material sense of things disappears, and spiritual sense unfolds the great facts of existence" (SH 597:17). What defines this vestibule and atmosphere? Where does it come from? Who maintains it? Mrs. Eddy writes, "At this period, the greatest man or woman on earth stands at the vestibule of Christian Science, struggling to enter into the perfect love of God and man" (My 159:12). I like to think of the vestibule as

that outer room where one can drop coats and boots and then enter into a larger receptive space free of extra baggage. We will talk more about crossing this spiritual threshold, and discovering how we can advance forward with Christ's connecting power to touch the Almighty.

Wasn't Mrs. Eddy forward thinking in her *Church Manual* provision for Christian Science nursing? These Christian Science nurses witness everyday those coming into this sanctuary, "resorting to their higher selfhood," touching the Almighty, and being healed (No 36:14).

Have you heard of "instant messaging"? Of course you have, and particularly if you have children and grandchildren that use it constantly. Why do they? Because it's fast! Try instant messaging with Christ. It also heals fast! In the book of Hebrews it says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb 4:12).

We will see how an Old Testament Bible character was helped by Christ's messaging centuries before Jesus' time at Jacob's Bethel and Peniel experiences. We will consider experiences of Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy, as well as our own experiences.

As you know Bethel was where Jacob's ladder to heaven occurred, connecting and assuring Jacob of God's presence with him. Peniel was where he came face to face with God, seeing the completeness of God and man.

Have you had a Bethel experience? Or Peniel experience? I am sure you have. It is good to recognize them and see how God and His Christ are present already in your life. This realization is what keeps the atmosphere fresh with inspiration, light with promise, and palpable with Christ's healing touch. So, let's see how instant messaging with Christ can help our passage through this spiritual threshold to touch the Almighty!

"The time for thinkers has come," writes our Leader in her bold opening statement in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. Are we those thinkers today? What are we thinking? As Christian Scientists, we know that spiritual thinking is being in the consciousness of God, and there is really no other place to be! Are we claiming our Christ-mind as promised in both Philippians and I Corinthians? "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:5). And "... we have the mind of Christ" (I Cor 2:16). Are you acknowledging this? Affirming it? Claiming it as your own mind?

Christ is our spiritual consciousness, constantly speaking or messaging to human consciousness—instantly! There are no gaps or delays or technical glitches because consciousness is ever-present Mind. Consciousness never stops flowing to us, around us, in us, as Mind, Principle, Love, Spirit, Soul, Truth and Life. We all have spiritual intuition, right?

The Book of Hebrews describes Christ as "the express image" (Heb 1:3) blessed by God with the oil of gladness above all others. "God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (II Cor 4:6). Are we grateful for the Christ light which is showing the way, bringing comfort and assurance of our dear relationship with our Father-Mother? This is a key point – awareness and alertness of our spiritual Christ-sense, which is a "conscious, constant capacity to understand God" and the power of His Christ (SH 209:31-32). We need to own it!

Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). This brought much resistance in his day. World belief at that time rejected Jesus as an authority. The Jews thought it wasn't possible for him to exist before Abraham's time, which was almost 2000 years before his time! This was blasphemy! However, if they understood Christ's powerful connection to God, the links could have been made for proving the same Christ was available to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, and many more, just as it is today.

Christ is all about spiritual birth. Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Jesus’ main purpose was to free us from the heavy burden and belief of human birth. Because, if we hold onto human birth as the fact of life, it also bears with it the belief of death (as well as aging and decline). Jesus’ mission was to show us that we do not need to experience any of this if we accept spiritual birth as our only birthright, or “right-birth.” This was Jesus’ message to Nicodemus, a Pharisee and leader in the Jewish synagogue, when he asked Jesus about spiritual life. Jesus said in the Book of John:

*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.... That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.* (John 3:3,6,7)

By accepting God as your Father-Mother and only Parent, your conception was the moment God thought of you as His own image and likeness — His very own reflection, exactly as He and She is. This is your spiritual inheritance, which cannot be taken from you.

Mrs. Eddy puts it this way:

*Human capacity is slow to discern and to grasp God’s creation and the divine power and presence which go with it, demonstrating its spiritual origin. Mortals can never know the infinite, until they throw off the old man and reach the spiritual image and likeness. (SH 519:11-16)*

In order to demonstrate our spiritual origin, we must acknowledge who we are and never forget where we came from! Once we recognize our limitless spiritual birth as Jesus showed us, we can never look at human birth the same again — any more than we can look at the earth as flat! Well, that’s easy, you say, because we have evidence that the earth is a sphere. We can see it from space and from pictures taken by astronauts. Perhaps we need a similar revolutionary thought for spiritual birth that will replace the stubborn human birth concept? One might sympathize with humanity’s hold on old beliefs and family traditions, but if we knew they were holding us back in matter’s grip as untrue, wouldn’t we want to know the truth and free ourselves from a lie?

Christ is our instant messenger, which immediately corrects deviations leading to dead-end thinking! Christ helps us avoid this with the Truth. There are no deformed, deviating thoughts in the kingdom of heaven, which is our abiding place. Since we have the mind of Christ, as the Bible says, the old mortal-thinking man never was — just as earth was never flat! Question: did humans have to heal the earth from being flat? No, the truth was already evident. The earth didn’t need healing. It was only humans’ misconception that had to be corrected. Knowing the Truth corrected the misconception about the earth being flat with the discovery of earth being a sphere. It was always a sphere! It never needed healing! Could we say the same of spiritual man?

So, how do we use our instant messenger, the Christ Mind, in daily life? How many of you use the internet, Facebook, Twitter, instant messaging? They are all ways of instant communication, aren't they? Although we didn't have them fifty years ago, we've had other ways for communicating in the past, haven't we? We've made some improvements along the way; for example, consider the telegraph and telephone. Christ draws us even closer to God as the best and only connection. Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*, "Christ, as the true spiritual idea, is the ideal of God, now and forever, here and everywhere" (SH 361:4-5). "Christ is the ideal Truth ... and attributes all power to God" (SH 473:10-12). This is reliable and powerful communication!

So, we have always had Christ, too! Christ is God's message sent to human consciousness as our Comforter, guide, and Way-shower. Early Bible characters didn't call it Christ, but it was the same divine messaging that led Abraham to a new country to settle with his family. Genesis says:

*Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.... (Gen 12:1 )*

We can find Christ-connections in early Bible patriarchs leading directly to Jesus. God, Christ was there all along in every generation. For example, let's trace footsteps with Abraham and Sarah first,

then Abraham's son Isaac, then Isaac and Rachel, then Isaac's sons Jacob and Esau, then Jacob's 12 sons (known as the Children of Israel), then much later Ruth and her husband Boaz — and generations later David, and following him many more in the lineage of Jesus. Would you say these patriarchs touched the Almighty? How?

First, let's consider the definition of "Christ" in *Science and Health*: "The divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error" (SH 583:10). Mrs. Eddy also says Christ is "the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to men speaking to the human consciousness" (SH 332:9-11). That means it is the still, small voice speaking to our consciousness. Remember Elijah experiencing the same voice bringing him comfort in the wilderness?

I like to think we have this divine message constantly speaking to us in thought! Later, I will relate an experience that was such a clear example of Christ speaking directly to me.

How are we linked to the mind of Christ? When we think of the word "link" in today's world of technology, what comes to mind? Probably a URL link on the internet? What do we use these links for? They connect us to information that we're looking for. But you must first click on the link in order to activate it, which will then connect to your desired information.

In this high-speed technical world, these links provide instant information from all the ends of the earth. It is no longer



necessary to spend time in libraries searching for books because information is right at our fingertips! But there is another method that is even faster, better, and more accurate. I like to call it “Christ’s instant messaging” or (in other words) man’s link with God is the mind of Christ. Your connection with Christ is always ready! (It is much more reliable than asking Alexa or Siri!) And Christ’s link is infinitely more important to human welfare than internet links.

Mary Baker Eddy said it best when she wrote:

*Throughout all generations both before and after the Christian era, the Christ, as the spiritual idea, — the reflection of God, — has come with some measure of power and grace to all prepared to receive Christ, Truth. (SH 333:19-23)*

Do you agree the Christ was available before Jesus’ time? This is an important question! Let’s consider Jacob, an Old Testament patriarch, who found the connection with Christ guiding him and enabling him to feel God’s presence for many decades. Jacob didn’t use the term Christ, but he knew he had spiritual power connecting him with angel intuitions to the Almighty God.

As you know, Jacob stole his brother’s birthright to get what he wanted through crafty and sneaky maneuvering. This was before his encounter with Christ, however. Jacob’s Christly connection was the link through which the ideas of the divine Mind, God, were at hand to meet all his human needs. One may wonder

why he didn’t go directly through Christ for his own birthright as a child of God? This would have saved him years of suffering in fear! Maybe you can answer that one.

After Jacob stole his brother’s birthright, he had to flee for his life to Haran.

Genesis 28 says:

*... the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.*

*And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.*

*And, Behold the Lord stood above it and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; ... in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*

*... I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. (Gen 28:11-15)*

This first encounter with Christ is at Bethel (meaning “House of God”), where he envisions a ladder forming a link between himself and God. Scholars say he was feeling desolate, disconnected and separated from all he knew. Have you ever felt that way? (Rocks for pillows is rough. Where is the “MyPillow guy” when you need him?)

He found God's powerful link when he said:

*... Surely the Lord is in this place: and I knew it not.*

*... this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.*

(Gen 28:16,17)

The very first effect Christ had on Jacob made him "conscious of God's presence" — which is the spiritual link felt between humans and the loving, tender care of our Father, Mother.

Jacob was encouraged and hopeful after Bethel, but this was not the final healing. He still feared his brother's revenge and the possible harm to his family. Was it guilt, maybe? Is this still true today? Millions may pray and feel somewhat relieved, but their problems still remain. Why wasn't Jacob's problem solved completely at Bethel? Was he still holding onto a limited sense of God's man, the human-birth man? What more did he need in order to touch the Almighty completely?

The ladder symbolized his connection with God. He saw angels — or God's thoughts — ascending and descending and coming to him. He saw his connection with God and the special relationship between God and himself. This brought Jacob much comfort and assurance. But he still feared his brother. Do you think he lacked the spiritual concept of man needed to heal these mortal beliefs about sibling rivalry and inheritance laws or customs?

In *Science and Health*, on page 115, we see three degrees or levels of mortal thought outlined. The first degree is "depravity," such as evil beliefs, passions, fear, envy, revenge. The second degree is "evil beliefs disappearing" — a higher morality such as humanity, honesty, affection, hope, faith, meekness, temperance. The third degree is "understanding" — spiritual wisdom, purity, spiritual understanding, spiritual power, love, health and holiness.

Where was Jacob in these three levels of mortal thought? In this Bible account, Jacob passes through them all in his growth Spiritward. Bethel gave him hope where he saw his powerful connection with God. Christ was the ladder connecting him with this tangible essence of God's presence. Was he ready to receive the full healing? This realization took years to cultivate and grow in his thought. Complete transformation was forthcoming.

*And the Lord said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.*

(Gen 31:3)

When God says to return to his kindred, Jacob sends word to Esau that he is coming home, and the messengers were met with 400 unfriendly men. Jacob said, "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother ... for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children" (Gen 32:11). Jacob still had not surrendered his personal sense of himself and his brother to God's idea of man — the right-birth or spiritually-born man.



Twenty years later Jacob has another Christly revelation. (Do you think your healings are sometimes slow?) It came in the midst of a tremendous mental struggle with his self-willed belief in his own and others' antagonistic thoughts. We call this "aggressive mental suggestion" today. The thought of meeting with his brother, Esau, whose human birthright he had stolen, still made him very fearful. However, through the persistence of Christ's urging, Jacob finally sees the spiritual idea — God's child, the spiritually-born man. He was now seeing God's man in a new spiritual light, wasn't he? He was coming face to face with His Father-Mother God and replacing any material, mortal sense of himself or Esau. Jacob's guilt, remorse, and dishonesty dissipated.

Christ broke the barrier, the false illusion of man, and replaced Jacob's lower sense of man with a higher spiritual view as God's image and likeness. He was advancing to the third level, spiritual understanding (SH 116:1). It took Christ breaking him free of earth-born fears and enabling him to reach out and touch the Almighty.

"And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved" (Gen 32:30). With this Christly view of himself and his fellow man, he was ready to meet Esau. "Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept" (Gen 33:4).

Then Jacob implores him to accept his gift of flocks and says:

*... receive my present at my hand:  
for therefore I have seen thy face, as  
though I had seen the face of God,  
and thou wast pleased with me.*  
(Gen 33:10)

In this moment there was no more memory of evil, wrongdoing, greed or guilt — only spirituality, righteousness, and love. He glimpsed the true nature and Christly view of man. There is no other man to see — certainly not the Adam-dream man in Genesis 2. With Christ's instant messaging, he broke through the mental barrier and beheld the Genesis 1 "dominion man," God's own image and likeness. He glimpsed man's spiritual birth-right and saw the new concept of man as inheriting God's gentle, loving, cooperative, and joyous nature. He saw his own immortal nature face to face with his Father-Mother God. The huge stone blocking his progress for decades was rolled away. Christ removed it. The hardness in his character was replaced with gentleness, kindness, and generosity. This was a total character transformation.

Jacob named the new place Peniel, which means "Face of God," and he thus identified the connection with God as the only reality for all mankind. Our Leader saw this clearly when she wrote:

*The real man being linked by Science  
to his Maker, mortals need only turn  
from sin and lose sight of mortal  
selfhood to find Christ, the real man  
and his relation to God, and to  
recognize the divine sonship.*  
(SH 316:3-7)

This revelation is for all mankind!

Jacob, softened in heart by the spiritual truth of his new view of himself and Esau, discerned there was no hardness of mind to withstand such a perception of Truth. He added confidently, "... I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved" (Gen 32:30). He was absolutely safe — fear utterly cast out by Love! He felt spiritually connected with his Father-Mother as a palpable indisputable presence and power in his life and in his brother's — thus demonstrating God's Law of Inseparability.

Psalm 37:37 comes to mind here: "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace." How important to not only see ourselves but our fellow man as this perfect innocent child of God, no matter what the human circumstances may try to dictate. This correct view of himself, his brother Esau, and God's idea man, impacted the world and nations yet unborn. Think of that! His turning to His Father still impacts us even today!

Total character transformation like Jacob is now a present possibility for all mankind — through the penetration of the mind of Christ (Un 2:14). Think how an understanding of this relationship can continue to bless man right now — with Russia and Ukraine? Israel and Palestine? Iran? Iraq? America?

Israel (formerly Jacob) can now explain his new identity thus: "I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me" (Gen 33:10).

His former material sense of himself and Esau was replaced completely by God's idea of spiritual man. The power of the Christ changed them both instantaneously! This was an utter surrender of self to unselfed love — and freeing thought from sinning mortal beliefs for complete healing. It was absolutely inevitable! If true for Jacob and Esau, then it is still true for us today. It's inevitable. Christ is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

A statement Mrs. Eddy gave to her students in her last class in 1898 is worth noting. In *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy, Volume I*, Laura Sargeant, a student, noted from Mrs. Eddy: "I do not suffer for other's sins, for sin is its own punisher, and I will not sin. Then I am free from suffering" (p. 126). Annie Knott, another student also noted, "Declare positively, mortal minds cannot harm me or my patients. One Mind governs all harmoniously" (p. 164).

Isn't this what Jacob glimpsed in the face-to-face encounter with God at Peniel? He was spiritually uplifted so far above all mortal strife, that not only is he not sinning, but neither is his brother or any of God's creation. Therefore, neither one could suffer from sin — or a belief in separation from God. Like Jacob, our spiritual growth and thinking affects all mankind for generations to come!

This was one of the most significant triumphs of divine Mind over menacing hatred known to the human race. Here

again, Mrs. Eddy provides spiritual enlightenment:

*It is only by acknowledging the supremacy of Spirit, which annuls the claims of matter, that mortals can lay off mortality and find the indissoluble spiritual link which establishes man forever in the divine likeness, inseparable from his creator.*  
(SH 491:12)

Isn't this what our Father demands of us, to un-self mortality, i.e. hatred? Jacob's experience defines how coming face to face with the Almighty is man's spiritual, permanent link.

Do you think Jesus linked Jacob with the parable of the Prodigal Son? Jacob's experience, struggling with complex human problems and escaping to the far country, finally enabled him to discover his spiritual connection and see God face to face. Is this the prodigal son coming to his right mind and returning home to the Father? This is the Christ message to us today: we can touch the Almighty by staying linked to Christ.

I have a personal example of Christ's instant messaging. It occurred some years ago, before I entered the full-time practice.

One rainy night our car hit a tree, flipped over, and caught on fire — and several weeks later, I walked away healed. When the EMTs had arrived on the scene, they were unable to get me out of the car. At one point, when they left to get equipment, I heard a voice clearly say: "Amy, take off your seatbelt." I heard this three times. Each time, I tried to do so. I

didn't panic, but I seemed unable to unlatch the belt, as I was hanging upside down. The calm voice was insistent, each time calling me by name, and I couldn't ignore it. On the fourth try, the belt released, and I was immediately pulled from the car.

I felt no pain, except that it was hard to catch my breath. Later I was told that it was a collapsed lung. The important thing that I remembered was the still, calm voice. I felt fully embraced by Love and unafraid. At the ER, they told me they needed to stop the internal bleeding. I asked the young doctor's name, and when he said "Dr. Love," I knew I was in God's hands. I asked him what he would do if I were his mother, and I said, "Treat me as your mother."

I found out the next day the scope of what we needed to handle: claims of internal injuries, broken ribs, broken leg and crushed knee, fractured vertebrae, concussion, collapsed lung, etc. As I heard this, I thought, "Who are they talking about?" I still had the calm voice, calling my name through it all, saying, "Amy, take off your seatbelt." This was my Christ messaging and direct link to God throughout this time.

Broken bones were softly braced with no surgery. I was in a safe place where I could "be still, and know that I Am God" (Psalm 46:10). There were times at night I would awaken and the idea of a "chrysalis state" of mind came to my thought. I recalled from *Science and Health* where Mrs. Eddy wrote:

*Faith is higher and more spiritual than belief. It is a chrysalis state of human*

*thought, in which spiritual evidence, contradicting the testimony of material sense, begins to appear, and Truth, the ever-present, is becoming understood. (SH 297:20-24)*

I was moving through the vestibule, dropping old false beliefs not needed, and following the light. I constantly asked God for His report of me. I wanted the Truth, based on Principle's report. I held to this Truth: "He to whom 'the arm of the Lord' is revealed will believe our report, and rise into newness of Life with regeneration" (SH 24:11-13). This kept me moving forward with Christ's assurance that was apparent not only to me, but to those around me as well.

I had mental and physical victories daily. One day the lead doctor told me I was progressing so quickly, I could go home and heal even faster! I came to appreciate their motives, which were focused on getting me home as soon as possible. Nurses said they enjoyed coming into my room for the peaceful atmosphere. As I left, another doctor hugged me and said he didn't think it was possible to heal this quickly considering the medical records when I first arrived. This was the Christ presence for all of us to see and witness.

When I went home, I was blessed to have a Christian Science nurse there to help me for a few days with practical needs, along with a local practitioner, providing support for complete and whole healing. A few weeks later, I was driving solo on a five-hour trip to where I was to lead a full-day retreat. I can still recall the tender yet strong encouraging Christ voice, and I still hold it dearly to me today. If I ever feel a

little upside down or constricted by some material circumstance, I hear: "Amy take off your seatbelt." And I come to Christ. This is touching the Almighty through Christ's connecting power. It is God with us. (This full testimony was published in the June 2019 *Christian Science Journal*.)

Now, let's consider Mrs. Eddy's Bethel and Peniel experience. She had learned only too well in her own darkest hour, when she was not expected to recover from an accident, just what Jacob must have felt in the desolate wilderness of belief. She wrote: "The senses could not prophesy sunrise or starlight" (Ret 23:11).

Then she called for her Bible. She later wrote:

*As I read, the healing Truth dawned upon my sense; and the result was that I rose, dressed myself, and ever after was in better health than I had before enjoyed. That short experience included a glimpse of the great fact that I have since tried to make plain to others, namely, Life in and of Spirit; this Life being the sole reality of existence. (Mis 24:11-18)*

With the revelation of the allness of Spirit, similar to Jacob's vision, she saw: "heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man" (John 1:51). She experienced Peniel face to face as Truth realized!

Mrs. Eddy was healed without process of time, space, surgery, or medicine. She knew mortality has no claim on God's man; material medicine finds nothing in him to cure, and nothing to condemn or forgive. By identifying her true selfhood

with this perfect man, Mrs. Eddy could say, as Jacob said at Peniel: "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved" (Gen 32:30). She was compelled to write of humanity's link with God and healing with the publication of her book *Science and Health* — which, in every sense, contains the *Key to the Scriptures*.

She discovered matter is not your connection or link to God. She wrote: "Matter cannot connect mortals with the true origin and facts of being, in which all must end" (SH 491:11-12). Through her own healing, she discovered in reality God's creation includes no matter, either as cause, effect, or curative agent. She recognized matter as merely material thought, or ignorance of Spirit — not that which opens the door to Spirit, but that which shuts it out. Mrs. Eddy saw clearly that material thinking and matter are one and the same delusion. They do not link, but disconnect!

She made the connection why Jesus never used matter as a healing agent. Jesus healed through divine Mind, not matter — through Christlikeness, not chemistry, and through prayer, not physics. In other words, it was metaphysics over physics every time he healed!

Finally, let's consider: did Jesus experience Bethel and Peniel? It appears that Jesus' Bethel and Peniel experiences were more simultaneous.

Coming into the Garden of Gethsemane before the crucifixion, he fell on his face and prayed until he could say with assurance, "thy will be done" (Matt 26:42). Then he faced his trial, the cross

and the crucifixion, where he cried and yielded up his spirit to God (Matt 27:50). Three days in the tomb Jesus Christ touched the Almighty. He crossed the threshold, which became the portal of his victory over death. He saw the face of God and the power of the Christ which defeats death — and which led to resurrection.

What is your own Bethel and Peniel experience? Whatever you envision as this experience, the Christ is always humanity's link with God — a link that never fails and is always connected to your need. Christ comes in the dark loneliness, like Jacob's pre-Bethel experience, when matter seems to be all there is to life. Christ awakens us to Spirit's presence and power, and forwards us beyond the threshold of matter's grip into the full glory of Peniel. Then we not only see God face to face for ourselves, but also for our fellow man.

Christ breaks the barriers down and shepherds us all through the vestibule into the full glory of Peniel — and we touch the Almighty. This is our salvation for all mankind. Anything that seems to deny the kingdom of heaven already within us, is disconnected and rolled away, no matter how desperate our problems may appear.

With Christ's clear, constant messaging, asserting God's love in our lives, we can now say with authority as Jacob did:

*Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. This is none other but the house [consciousness] of God, and this is the gate of heaven.*  
(Gen 28:16,17)



The result of Peniel for one, blesses all. It is far beyond just a personal encounter! Think how Jesus' and Mary Baker Eddy's Peniel experiences have blessed all mankind.

We can shorten the process between Bethel and Peniel. There's no need for Christ's instant messaging to be prolonged. We can see God face to face, now. Christ shows us the way we must go, leaving the material sense of things behind and reaching out to the spiritual.

What is my Face-Time now with my Father-Mother post-Peniel? The same Christly voice came to me again saying; "Amy, what are you waiting for? Send in your application now!" (The application was for *Journal*-listing as a Christian Science Practitioner). I followed that voice and submitted my application — and was accepted. Today I find the time spent with the Bible Lesson every morning is a perfect time for Face-Time with God. The Bible Lesson feeds the famished affections with the spiritual nourishment needed for the day, and helps us instantly touch the Almighty. Gratitude is what I feel in the middle of the night sometimes, thanking God for His presence and His Christ.

Touching the Almighty isn't limited to one or two events in your life. It is realizing you are touching the Almighty all the time with Christ's instant connection. The difference is recognizing and acknowledging it! So we stay connected and alert! Consciousness is not separate from our Creator. As children of God we have but one consciousness, and that is divine Mind. This spiritual sense is the

conscious, constant capacity to know God. (SH 209:31-32)

Thank God for His Christ! Christ lifts the veil on material thinking and living and reveals Truth as the only reality. Christ does the lifting and lightening of heavy, dark thoughts. Christ enables discernment of man's status as never sinning, suffering, diseased or dying. Christ throws off the sinful man, thinking he is separate from good, God, Love. Christ presents the perfect and ideal man, fashioned after God's own likeness. Christ reveals the mental image as the "seed within itself," hidden from the material world-thought and protected in the consciousness of good. This is touching the Almighty through the mind of Christ.

Our Leader tells us:

*Hold perpetually this thought, — that it is the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ, which enables you to demonstrate, with scientific certainty, the rule of healing, based upon its divine Principle, Love, underlying, overlying, and encompassing all true being. (SH 496:15-19)*

*The time for the reappearing of the divine healing is throughout all time; and whosoever layeth his earthly all on the altar of divine Science, drinketh of Christ's cup now, and is endued with the spirit and power of Christian healing. (SH 55:22-26)*

We are the thinkers of today, and the world needs good thinkers. Christ constantly enhances our Face-Time with God now and in every generation. This is touching the Almighty through the Christ.



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4400 W. Braddock Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304

*For additional copies, please contact us at:  
[info@LynnHouse.org](mailto:info@LynnHouse.org) or 703-379-6000*

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