

Love heals fear and bigotry

God loves us.

By claiming his sonship with God, Christ Jesus was able to prove his dominion over the ills of the flesh. His very life showed God's great love for man. Such love annihilates fear and bigotry. Relying on God, divine Love, one is able to heal illness, hatred, and self-righteousness, and other plagues of mankind.

Anyone who understands that God is Love can prove this fact for himself to the degree that he understands it. Material circumstances don't change the spiritual reality of being — and that is what our real being is — spiritual. Love is always Love. God is also Mind, the source of all intelligence and wisdom, and He governs man. Man is God's image, a cherished idea in the divine Mind — loved, loving, lovable. Love delivers us from fear's hold. Fear cannot stop us from doing any right thing. Mary Baker Eddy, who discovered and founded Christian Science, writes, "The weapons of bigotry, ignorance, envy, fall before an honest heart."*

Love provides for our needs — now. But we have to acknowledge and understand God's allness and power; then we can't be misdirected and kept from seeing the correct solutions to problems confronting us. The intelligence we need comes directly from Mind, God, and as we apply it trustingly to our need, it sustains us and harmonizes our human experience, because the spiritual reality is reflected in that experience.

Last year we were involved in school busing instituted to racially integrate the public schools. I was enrolling my daughter in junior high school, where, I learned, she would be the only black student. As students of Christian Science we were used to relying on the ability of divine Love and wisdom to control any situation. This passage from the Christian Science textbook by Mrs. Eddy was especially meaningful to us in our prayers those days before my daughter was to be enrolled: "One must fulfil one's mission without timidity or dissimulation, for to be well done, the work must be done unselfishly. Christianity will never be based on a divine Principle and so found to be unerring, until its absolute Science is reached. When this is accomplished, neither pride, prejudice, bigotry, nor envy can wash away its foundation, for it is built upon the rock, Christ."**

When I left my daughter at the school, I drew strength from the Bible verse: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."†

That anxious day my daughter was threatened by what appeared to be the leader of a gang of pupils and told not to return to school the next day or she would be killed. The above Bible verse came forcefully to mind as I turned to God for guidance. I repeated it over and over again with my daughter until we both gained our peace. We agreed to remember and keep hold of God's great love for us — and His love for the bully too, because God knows only His perfect, spiri-

tual child, the offspring of His own love, and goodness.

My daughter went to school the next day. In the meantime the school principal had talked to the gang and to the parents involved, and they supported him. The anxious time passed. Since then our daughter has made several friends and has been active in school activities.

How happy we are that we relied on Love for our guidance in this troubled time! We learned that mostly we suffer from our own beliefs that we can be segregated from God's goodness. The only long-term defense against ignorance or hatred is the expression of Love — through the loving that knows man's present perfection as a child of God. The armor of God is one's sure protection.

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 464; *Science and Health*, pp. 483-484; †*Isaiah 41:10*.

DAILY BIBLE VERSE

Peace I leave with you, my
peace I give unto you: not as
the world giveth, give I unto
you. Let not your heart be trou-
bled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27