

God's Law of Adjustment

(Accompanied by a letter from Mary Baker Eddy to Adam Hickey)



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At the end of this short book there is a letter from Mary Baker Eddy to Adam H. Hickey which preceded his writing God's Law of Adjustment by 7 years.

Man lives by divine decree. He is created, governed, supported, and controlled in accord with the law of God. Law means or implies a rule that is established and maintained by power; that which possesses permanence and stability; that which is unchanging, unyielding, and continuous-"the same yesterday, and today, and forever."1 The efficiency of law rests entirely in the power that enforces it. A law (so called) that is incapable of being enforced is not law and bears no relationship to law. God is the only creator, the only lawmaker. "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."2 All the power, action, intelligence, life, and government in the universe belong to God and have always belonged to Him. He is the Supreme Ruler and does not share His power with another.

Paul said, "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."3 So too we know that "the law of the Spirit of life" frees us from "the law of sin and death." Why? Because all the power there is, is on the side of the law of Life, and that which is opposed to this law of Life is not law at all; it is only belief. In other words, every law of God has behind it infinite power to enforce it, while the so-called law of sin and death has no foundation, has nothing back of it that it can depend upon.

When we understandingly declare that the law of God is present and is in operation, we have invoked or brought into action the whole law and the power of God. We have declared the truth, God's truth-and that truth of God is the law of annihilation, obliteration, and elimination to everything that is unlike Him. When we have stated this truth, and applied it, as taught in Christian Science, to any discordant belief with which we are confronted, we have done all that we can do and all that is necessary for us to do in the destruction of any manifestation of error that ever claimed to exist. Error, which has no place in divine Mind, claims to exist in human thought. When we have put it out of human thought, we have driven it out of the only place where it ever pretended to have a foothold, and thereafter to us it becomes nothing.

There is a law of God that is applicable to every conceivable phase of human experience, and no situation or condition can present itself to mortal thought which can possibly exist outside of the direct influence of this infinite law. The effect of the operation of law is always to correct and govern, to harmonize and adjust. Whatever is out of order or discordant can have no basic Principle of its own, but must come under the direct government of God through what may be termed God's law of adjustment. We are not responsible for the carrying out of this law. In fact, we can do nothing in any way to increase, stimulate, or intensify the action or operation of divine Mind, since it is constantly present, always operative, and never ceases to assert and declare itself when rightly appealed to. All we have to do is scientifically to bring this law of adjustment into contact with our unfinished problem, and when we have done this we have performed our full duty. Someone may say, "How can the law of God, operating mentally, affect my problem, which is physical." This is easily understood when it is realized that the problem is not physical but mental. First we must know that all is Mind and that there is no such thing as matter, and thus exclude from thought the offending material sense.

The original definition of the word "disease" is lack of ease-discomfort, uneasiness, trouble, disquiet, annoyance, injury. "Disease," says Mary Baker Eddy, Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, "is an image of thought externalized. The mental state is called a material state. Whatever is cherished in mortal mind as the physical condition is imaged forth on the body."⁴ This also applies to heat, cold, hunger, poverty, or any form of discord, all of which are mental, though mortal mind regards them as material states. It can therefore be easily seen how the law of God, which is mental, can be applied to a physical problem.

In reality the problem is not physical, but purely mental, and is the direct result of some thought cherished in mortal mind. If a man were drowning in midocean with apparently no human help at hand, there is a law of God which, when rightly appealed to, would bring about his rescue. Does the reader doubt this? Then he must believe that it is possible for man to find himself in a condition where God cannot help him. If one were in a burning building or a railroad accident, or if he were in a den of lions, there is a law of God which could at once adjust the apparent material circumstances so as to bring about his complete deliverance.

It is not necessary for us to know in each individual case just what this law of God is, nor how it is going to operate, and an attempted investigation into the why and wherefore might only serve to interfere with its operation and hinder the demonstration. Any fear on our part, occasioned by the fact that divine Mind does not know of our plight, or that infinite wisdom lacks the intelligence necessary to bring about a rescue, should be instantly put out of thought. On page 62

of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, Mrs. Eddy writes, "The divine Mind, which forms the bud and blossom, will care for the human body, even as it clothes the lily; but let no mortal interfere with God's government by thrusting in the laws of erring, human concepts." The trouble with us usually is that we want to know just how God is going to help us and when the good results are to be experienced; then we will pass judgment upon it and decide whether we are ready to trust our case in His hands.

Let us see, then, where God's law of adjustment operates. God has no need of being adjusted. The only place where there is any demand for adjustment is in human consciousness; but unless human consciousness appeals to the divine law, unless it is willing and ready to lay down its own sense of human will and stop human planning, put aside human pride, ambition, and vanity, there is no room for the law of adjustment to operate.

When we in our helplessness reach the point where we see we are unable of ourselves to do anything, and then call upon God to aid us; when we are ready to show our willingness to abandon our own plans, our own opinions, our own sense of what ought to be done under the circumstances, and have no fear as to the consequences—then God's law will take possession of and govern the whole situation. We cannot expect, however, that this law will operate in our behalf if we indulge any preconceived ideas as to how it should do its work. We must completely abandon our own view of things and say, "Not my will, but thine, be done."⁵ If this step is taken with confidence and a full trust that God is capable of taking care of every circumstance, then no power on earth can prevent the natural, rightful, and legitimate adjustment of all discordant conditions.

This law of adjustment is the universal law of Love, which bestows its blessings on all alike. It does not take from one and give to another. It does not withhold itself under any circumstances, but is ready, and waiting to operate as soon as the invitation is given and human will is set aside. "Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed love," our Leader says, "receives directly the divine power."⁶ When we reach the point where we can in confidence and in trust leave everything to the settlement of God's law of adjustment, it will immediately relieve us of all sense of personal responsibility, remove anxiety and fear, and bring peace, comfort, and the assurance of God's protecting care.

The most satisfying and comforting sense of peace and joy always follows the willingness on our part to allow God to control every situation for us through His law of adjustment. When we understand that infinite Mind is the Ruler of the universe, that every idea of God is forever in its proper place, that no condition or circumstance can arise whereby a mistake can find lodgment in God's plan, then we have the complete assurance that God is capable of adjusting everything as it should be. The fact is that all things are already in their rightful place; that no interference or lack of adjustment can really occur. It is only to the unenlightened human sense that there can be any such thing as discord. God's universe is always in perfect adjustment, and all His ideas work together forever in perfect harmony.

When we are willing to give up our frightened and uncertain sense of things and let the divine Mind govern, then and then only shall we behold that "all things work together for good to them that love God."⁷ The discord which seems to be apparent is only what mortal mind believes,

whether it be sickness, discomfort,-annoyance, or trouble of any kind. When we are willing to relinquish our present views, even though we may believe we are in the right and another in the wrong, we shall not suffer by laying down our human opinions, but rather find that the law of God is ready and active in the right adjustment of everything involved. It may sometimes seem hard when we feel that we are oppressed or imposed upon, to stop resisting, but if our faith in the power of Truth to adjust all things is sufficient, we should be glad of the opportunity to relinquish our claims and place our trust in infinite wisdom, which will adjust everything according to its own unerring law. There is no such thing as failure in the divine Mind. God is never defeated, and those who stand with Him will always receive the benefits of a victory over error.

What then are we to do when we find ourselves involved in a controversy, in a dispute, or in an unpleasant situation of any kind? What are we to do when we have been attacked and maligned, misrepresented or abused? Should we endeavor to return in kind what has been done to us? This would not be appealing to God's law of adjustment. So long as we endeavor to settle the difficulty ourselves, we are interfering with the action of the law of God. Under any circumstance of this kind it will avail us nothing to fight back. We simply show our human weakness when we take the matter into our own hands and attempt either to punish our enemies or to extricate ourselves through any virtue of our own.

When there seem to be two ways of working out a problem in business or in any of the various walks of life, and we decide on a way which seems best, how can we tell, when there are so many arguments against that way, whether the decision is based on Truth or error? Here is a question which can be decided only through the demonstration of God's law of adjustment. There are times when human wisdom is inadequate to tell us just what is the right thing to be done. Under such circumstances we should pray humbly for divine guidance, and then choose that which seems to be in accord with our highest sense of right, knowing that God's law of adjustment regulates and governs all things; and even if we choose the wrong way, we as Christian Scientists have a right to know that God will not allow us to continue in a mistake, but will show us the right way and compel us to walk therein.

When we have reached the point where we are willing to do what seems to us the best and then leave the problem with God, knowing that He will adjust everything according to His unchanging law, we can then withdraw ourselves entirely from the proposition, drop all sense of responsibility, and feel secure in the knowledge that God corrects and governs all things righteously. All we ever need to do is that which is pleasing in the sight of God, that which conforms to divine requirements. If our good is evilly spoken of, this does not affect the situation in any degree, since God does not hold us accountable for the action of others. Our responsibility ceases when we have complied with the demands of good, and there we can afford to let any question rest. It makes no difference how much is at stake or what is involved, if we succeed in getting ourselves out of the way, we can then be satisfied with the words of the prophet: "The battle is not yours, but God's.... Set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord."⁸

We cannot hope to work out of this human sense of existence without making mistakes. We may make many, but will profit by them all. We are at liberty to change our belief of things as often as we get new light. We should not let our vanity compel us to adhere to a proposition simply

because we have taken a stand thereon. We should be willing to relinquish our former views and change our thought on any subject as often as wisdom furnishes us enlightenment.

Christian Scientists are sometimes accused of being changeable. What if they are, if it is always God that changes them? Is a Christian Scientist any less a Scientist because he changes his mind? Is a general less fit to lead his army because in the heat of battle he changes his tactics under the guidance of wisdom? A too determined sense of carrying out a preconceived plan is more likely to be the enthronement of erring human will.

Christian Scientists are Minutemen, armed and equipped to respond to any call of wisdom, always ready and willing to abandon personal views or opinions, and to allow that Mind to be in them "which was also in Christ Jesus." 9

1 Heb. 13:8. **2** John 1:3. **3** Rom. 8:2. **4** *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p.411. **5** Luke 22:42. **6** *Science and Health*, p.192. **7** Rom. 8:28. **8** II Chron. 20:15,17. **9** Phil. 2:5.

"Place"

(Previously erroneously titled: "Letter from Mary Baker Eddy to Adam H. Dickey")

The place you seek is seeking you, the place you need is needing you. Divine Principle brings need and supply together for mutual good. God wisely, intelligently, and lovingly controls, guides, protects, prospers, and blesses this union of His idea (man) and this joyous activity, work.

All that you need to do is to see that your consciousness is fully prepared, enlarged, uplifted, joyous, expectant of infinite good, so that no sense of limitation may hinder the full manifestation of God's will for His idea. You know that God's will for His idea is perfection, nothing less. All we need ever to change is our sense of discord to the consciousness of harmony, divine government.

Who says, "I have finished my work and must find another place"? God alone directs and outlines. You do not know whether it is right to stay here or to go there except as the steps are put before you day by day. Even if your desires are in line with progress, you must surrender all human will. There must be no personal sense, no material planning, no expression of such falsehood. All is patience, calm obedience, because God is all-in-all, and God is everywhere. All is quiet, loving, scientific harmony. God is right where you are. Stand still and lift your vision. There is no human tyrant, no cruelty, no temper, no lust, no greed, no injustice, no self-righteousness anywhere to personify such claims to distress, to oppress, or hold you down. "God's being is infinite freedom, harmony, and boundless bliss."(S&H 481:4), and you reflect God. Work for a consciousness of harmonious activity and clear away all sense of person, either good or bad, and know that you serve the Lord, the Christ, and know that nothing can hinder, delay or limit this God-directed, God-protected, and God-placed activity.

We cannot change environment. We can only change our sense of environment and we can never do this in any way but through the elevation of our own thought about things.. God is the only environment. We have to clear our own vision, sweep away the rubbish of fear, impatience, and a false estimate of our fellow man and know that the one Mind shines through and governs all.

You do not have to plan or think how, when, or where. That is God's business. Your business is to carefully reflect, listen and obey when the call comes. The Divine will is always clearly calling to US and telling us of the will of the Father. But we are so bent on having our own way and "doing thing." instead of knowing they are already done, that half the time we do not know what God is saying. God's will will be intelligently expressed and will intelligently meet your need by destroying your sense of fear. You really have no needs for you are complete in God.

God is thinking and you reflect God's thoughts. God is working - and nothing else. God is outlining and not one "can stay His hand" or say, "What doest Thou?". God will tell you what to do about your work. He will unfold each step. So don't get worried, anxious or impatient. He has infinite good in store for you. Just work to know that Divine Mind builds up, unifies, holds together and prospers.

The Divine and perfect law of adjustment, operating through the ever present law of attraction is bringing to you all that belongs to you.

Realize for yourself daily, more than once, that the fields are already "white to the harvest", that "Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need", (S&H p.494) the need of work as well as any other, that there is plenty of work for all, that yours belongs to you directly, and do not for one moment let the sense of lack stay with you. It is rank error and breeds all sorts of disease and difficulty.

It does not take time for you to build up your place of your work, for it is impossible for an idea to be without its place, and that place is fully developed as is the idea that fills it. The place must meet all the needs of the idea if it is to be provided by Divine Principle.

God is abundance and supplies all and only abundance. Mental malpractice, error, cannot impoverish you mentally, spiritually, physically or financially. The demonstration of this is an abundance of Life, Truth, and Love. Also intelligence for all your material needs.

First of all, we must know that Principle and not man does the placing. Paul says, "For in Him we live and move and have our being." This knowing that man, God's idea, is already in his right place does the healing work, for that place is in Mind right now, and therefore the need is already supplied by Divine Love.

Dwelling in this consciousness will bring into human experience that which we need, whether it be a home or any good thing, because this state of consciousness excludes everything wrong, such as mortal verdicts of overcrowded conditions, no good places, fear, indecision, lack, etc. and renders them null and void, and then the facts being on the right side, you find your need supplied. Just refuse to accept man-made verdicts as your own opinions or thinking. Know that all your thoughts come from Divine Mind and the true thoughts dispel any beliefs of evil about place, etc. and their seeming effects go with them. It is right for you to be with your own kind of people and trusting God with all your heart will open the right way. There is no place for failure where God is, and He is right with you every minute. Remember, Divine Mind has infinite resources with which to bless. Do not limit yourself in any way.

There is no law of malicious malpractice acting through any personality, condition, or circumstance that can hinder or obstruct, for an instant, the perfect and complete manifestation of God's place for you here and now. (Read M.W. p.270).

The Divine and perfect law of adjustment, working through the universal and ever-present law of attraction is bringing you that which belongs to you. "Oh, Lord! Give us higher, holier, purer, self-abnegated motives, desires and spiritual inspiration."

Make a place for God in your thinking and acting, and your place in human experience will be manifested. Did you but know the sublimity of your hope, the infinite capacity of your being, the grandeur of your outlook, you would let error kill itself. Error comes to you for life and you give it all the life it has.

There is no channel, personal or impersonal, through which or by which, animal magnetism, either malicious or willful, sympathetic or ignorant, conscious or unconscious, can touch Christian Science, its Discoverer, its adherents, or their activities.

Today, Divine Mind adjusts me to my work and adjusts my work to me. Under this law of adjustment - God's law - my work must be successful. Through steadfast declaration, work and worker, buyer and seller, are brought together. Thus, supply meets demand and God's perfect law is brought into manifestation.

(We understand that Mr. Dickey, who was very close to Mrs. Eddy in her last years here, kept this letter for seven years, pondering its message and learning its meaning, before he wrote the article, "God's Law of Adjustment".)