

Sample Chapter From:

# Principle and Practice<sup>1</sup>

by Hendrik de Lange

365 pages, Hardback. \$22 plus shipping.

Hendrik de Lange was an outstanding teacher, practitioner and lecturer. He became a teacher of Christian Science in 1935 and also served on the Christian Science Board of Lectureship for 22 years. From 1928 to 1950, 32 of his articles were published by Christian Science periodicals.

This remarkable book presents a unique collection of complete letters and excerpts contributed by students and friends showing the very wide range of situations and states of thought that are embraced in the daily practice of Christian Science. These letters exemplify the Principle and practice of Christian Science dealing directly with specific situations.

The letters are organized conveniently in more than twenty chapters, including: Joy, Stillness, Relationship, Business, Study, Progression, Government, Divine subjectivity, and No Human Evidence.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN:

## *Relationship*

APRIL 16, 1956

Your question, "Why do those beliefs seem so tenacious when we know that false beliefs are nothing?" really is a modification of the question of the origin of evil, so well answered in *Mis.* 346. Please ponder carefully lines 6-21:

### ORIGIN OF EVIL

The origin of evil is the problem of ages. It confronts each generation anew. It confronts Christian Science. The question is often asked, If God created only the good, whence comes the evil?

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<sup>1</sup> "Principle and Practice" is available from Mulberry Press at [www.MulberryPress.com](http://www.MulberryPress.com) on the internet.

To this question Christian Science replies: Evil never did exist as an entity. It is but a belief that there is an opposite intelligence to God. This belief is a species of idolatry, and is not more true or real than that an image graven on wood or stone is God.

The mortal admission of the reality of evil perpetuates faith in evil; and the Scriptures declare that "to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are." This leading, self-evident proposition of Christian Science, that, good being real, its opposite is necessarily unreal, needs to be grasped in all its divine requirements.

The way to help the situation is primarily by rejoicing that *all* your values are purely spiritual; and particularly that motherhood never was personalized nor materialized but always is divine. A problem yields by knowing its unreality and thereby one's entire disassociation from it, rather than by being anxious to heal it because one feels so close to it. This is the immortal value of *No* 30:7-8, 35:7-10, *Mis.* 209:32-3:

God's law reaches and destroys evil by virtue of the allness of God.

When human struggles cease, and mortals yield lovingly to the purpose of divine Love, there will be no more sickness, sorrow, sin, and death. He who pointed the way of Life conquered also the drear subtlety of death.

Divine Love, as unconscious as incapable of error, pursues the evil that hideth itself, strips off its disguises, and - behold the result: evil, uncovered, is self-destroyed.

To know the *allness* of the one Mind, is indeed of primary importance, as you so well put it in the concluding paragraph of your Christly letter. This knowing being the Christ itself, does not have to ask any questions because it was never aware of any; it rejoices in its own *allness* and the allness of its own. Here is the comfort and healing to a personal sense of motherhood.

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**NOVEMBER 2, 1958**

The fear inherent in a personal sense of self is the root of every trouble. It is error's exclusion from Heaven; and as long as there is a suggestion of being a person, Heaven appears to be absent. But that is only to personal sense. See *S&H* 537:14-18:

Error excludes itself from harmony. Sin is its own punishment. Truth guards the gateway to harmony. Error tills its own barren soil and buries itself in the ground, since ground and dust stand for nothingness.

By knowing that you do not live in interrelationship but in the one relationship of God and man's oneness, every discord in interrelationship is precluded; and those appearing to exist fade out for lack of identification.

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**DECEMBER 19, 1951**

In my last letter, I stated that it was better for you to have help in your immediate vicinity, because then you could talk over things with the practitioner. For that reason I did not accede to your request that I should do the work. My attitude has not changed since. See also *Mis.* 317:5:

The hour has struck for Christian Scientists to do their own work; to appreciate the signs of the times; to demonstrate self-knowledge and self-government; and to demonstrate, as this period demands, over all sin, disease, and death.

You are referring *again* to your brother and his mental disturbances. In the recognition that your *only* relationship is with God, as Mind's direct manifestation or idea, the unhappy condition of your human brother should impress you just as little as that of any humanly unrelated person. The work you should do in the first place is *persistently refusing to think of yourself as a person, as a member of a family.*

Thus, it will be easier to see that the state of fear which confronts you in the morning is *not* your condition but a helpless, spurious belief that

comes to you in order to be helped out of its misery; *not* in order that its misery might be prolonged as a result of your identification with that belief.

Finally, I reiterate that it would be well for you to take up your former business activity. To sit around all day and having nothing to do other than to care for oneself, even if it implies a great deal of study, is not the best way in Christian Science. One might become so absorbed in a personal sense of healing and salvation that one misses the mark!

It is gratifying to hear that great clarification is going on. I end with the *earnest warning* to be *spiritually honest*.

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**MAY 15, 1959**

The suggestion of personalization accounts for the incongruities appearing in family relations. While objectifying in outside persons the spiritual qualities which are inherently one's own indivisible Christ-being, incongruities *seem* present. To dissolve those seeming incongruities, one rejoices that, as the man of God, the divine goodness is all one's own. This understanding enhances the good appearing as the member of the family and makes it possible to see the evil tendencies as wholly impersonal, and not in members of the family! Then those undesirable traits are given the chance to fade out quietly and permanently. All the good of the material universe is the divine good misconceived. When we cease from misconceiving, this good will be experienced more fully and permanently, and beautifully than ever before! All the evil of the material universe is not entity and reality, but merely misconception. By seeing it in this way and not anymore identifying ourselves with it; by not being afraid of it or finding it abhorrent, it fades out into its original nothingness.

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**SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 13, 1954**

All limitation is in admitting identification with a misconception. It is not a person restricting you, but the accepted suggestion that man is a person.

Therefore, the withinness of the reality of Being that constitutes your identity and thereby your dominion, cannot be externalized and perverted in domination from the outside. The realization that nothing has to be produced, created, or born, operates as God's law to dissolve a fearful, restrictive sense called accomplishment; completeness, subjectively experienced, is the relaxing truth concerning accomplishment.

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**DECEMBER 11, 1958**

In the hustle of housekeeping, never forget that those around you must love themselves by reverencing you as the Christ. Never go down into a human estimate about yourself by believing that they think of you as a member of a family, because only in this way can the personalization of man called a family fade out, and the blessedness of man as the infinite, full, indivisible manifestation of Spirit be felt and seen. Greater love hath no man than to know that there is no human sense of life about him. With much love and appreciation for your Christly being.

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The great thing to rejoice in is in realizing that there never are or were interrelationships; that the loveliness of others essentially is included in one's own indelible Christ-being; and that any suggestion to the contrary is entirely unrelated, having no identity nor entity. Be sure that you know this in connection with your beloved cat. She does not contribute to your happiness, and that is why you can never lose her. The joy of being God's work in infinite self-containment (*S&H* 519:3-6), is the greatest benefit you can bestow upon others, since in this way you love them as your Christ Science, and not as persons or animals. What you love in "puss" is your own Christ-self, objectified when you believe it is a cat, and that would be unhealthy for the dear animal.

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Nowhere in the universe is there a human concept of mother and its love: a love that supposedly has an object, which makes it dual in its nature. Real Love, by expressing itself as self-consciousness, self-

awareness, and thereby self-love, has no object at all. An approximation of this Love is to be found in Mrs. Eddy's *Pulpit and Press*, p. 21:3-5:

. . . a love unselfish, unambitious, impartial, universal,— that loves only because it *is* Love

-- and more directly stated in the well-known declaration associated with her, "I love, I love whom, I love what, I just love." Therefore, have such an infinite sense of self that you cannot be encompassed in a finite, personal sense of love, that in the attempt of encompassing, strains itself and causes the pain which asserts itself as being "my" pain; because error, within its own delusion, seems to be subjectively mental, although that again is but another false claim, and not mentality or mind.

Your own sense of the indestructibility, perfection, harmony, infinity, eternity of God constitutes your own indestructibility, perfection, harmony, infinity, eternity, etc. and this understanding, when seen in its right sense as the Christ, constitutes body, or divine consciousness.

By living the divine reality and forgetting that there ever could be a human concept, the human picture will never in any way protrude, by being either too bad or too good, thus causing trouble (according to belief). Your well-being is a divine incontrovertible fact, not at all dependent upon whether you are knowing the truth or not. That which thinks his wellbeing is dependent upon knowing the truth, will never get anywhere (Moses' attitude). He who knows he *is* well-being -- the Christ -- itself (Jesus' attitude), prevents error's protrusion without any effort to be made.

All progress starts out from the infinite perfection of Being. Thus no process of progress is necessary, since no time element is involved.

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The solution of the broken friendship is in rejoicing that there is only one relationship: God—man; "Principle and its idea is one, and this one is God . . ." (*S&H* 465). Love your neighbor as yourself, not as the neighbor.

Thus no loss can occur or has occurred and this is the law to the situation -- see *S&H* 191:28-32:

The illusive senses may fancy affinities with their opposites; but in Christian Science, Truth never mingles with error. Mind has no affinity with matter, and therefore Truth is able to cast out the ills of the flesh.

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**FEBRUARY 6, 1961**

Your daily thought has to be commensurate with the height of your exalted Christ understanding.

This precludes the influence of the contagious irritation of interrelationship, and thus is experienced the indivisible breathing out of the Spirit that is Love, diffusing the suggestions of personal sense.

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**AUGUST 2, 1957**

The other important point to which I have referred is that of right motivation. Motivation in Christian Science must be based upon the operation of divine Principle, not upon human relationships.

Many years ago I told the members of my family that in case they wished to make any demands upon me, I would gladly and lovingly consider those demands. However, they should know that I would consider these demands upon the basis that I would fulfill them for someone in the same circumstances who was not a member of the family! I would do the same for a member of the family. The result has been that hardly any demands, and not one unjust demand, has been made! To act in this spiritually absolute way towards relatives is the only lasting way to bless them! Because in this manner, you do not malpractice upon them by thinking personally about them and fulfill Mrs. Eddy's unequivocal advice in *Mis. 308:32-3*:

I earnestly advise all Christian Scientists to remove from their observation or study the personal sense of any one, and not to dwell in thought upon their own or others' corporeality, either as good or evil.

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**MAY 17, 1959**

This morning came “the lamentations of Jeremiah and Job in one!” With all that you have been taught, and with all that you know you spiritually are, the longing for “childish things” has far been spent, and the glory of your Christ-being is right where you are to assert itself and clean up the mess of personal sense. It is not that you, as a person, have to decide whether or not to lean on your husband. The only thing to do as I have stated over and over again, is to *rejoice* that the essence of all Love is your very own Christ-being, and that there are no interrelationships, and consequently, you do not need interrelationship in order to be satisfied and happy. In the meantime, you do not permit yourself any human outlining. Practice *Mis. 308:32-3*. Do not permit any imagining of what “he”, and “she” might think because all is the blessedness of the “I,” Love and Life in full and tender self-awareness. The work is being done daily upon this basis, and you may be sure of my supporting thoughts and abiding understanding.

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**MAY 20, 1960**

True Motherhood is spiritually everpresent, and your *living* as the tender and warm Christ is its essence. Motherhood was never encased in a misconception misnamed body. The way to handle this most fundamentally is to discern that the report about the illness does not refer to a person, a place, body or anything.

Therefore, you cannot afford (and can’t do it anyhow!) to permit imagination to take over. *Mis. 308:32-3* is pertinent and imperative!

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**DECEMBER 15, 1958**

Realize that your children never were born into human existence, but everlastingly are here as functions of the one infinite, indivisible divine

Being that you are. By constantly conceiving of existence *out from* Principle, God's law of 'I am All' fulfills itself in flawless self-expression, or the Christ that constitutes all there is to you and the children as incorruptible divine individuality.

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**FEBRUARY 18, 1961**

Now you rest in the radiance of your Christ-being, sublimely self-contained as Love's tender self-appreciation and preciousness -- so beloved!

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Never compare yourself with others -- as the Christ you are incomparable and unique.

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I rejoice in your oneness of Being, without any sense of "togetherness." And the sense of "emptiness" appears as your patient because you are the full operation of Principle itself restfully satisfied as Mind's activity. When knowing that the human illustration is not necessary, it presents itself, because the human comes to you in order to be freed from its restrictions and imperfections, and not in order to be perpetuated in the belief that you need a human sense of things!

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**WAPENVELD, AUGUST 19, 1957**

It will be very helpful to you and liberating, in daily realizing that you, as divine manifestation, were never born out of human parents. This will *prevent* a wrong influence of human parentage, hereditary traits, and personal bondage to assert itself under the disguise of filial allegiance and obedience.

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**JULY 28, 1953**

Instead of "I can love fully my man," I would prefer to say, "I love fully my spiritual Self, and this constitutes both my manhood and my womanhood."

"De Polberg" is lovelier than ever, with the glistering leaves illustrating the sparkling reality of Being in which neither doubt, fear, nor longing can interfere.

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**MARCH 30, 1954**

Instead of saying that the ocean takes care of the wave, rather discern that the ocean in being tenderly aware of itself, appears to be taking care of the wave.

The other point is this: you state that the manhood takes care of the womanhood or vice versa. This, again, is as it appears. The indivisibility of infinite Principle, Love, takes care of itself, so to speak, and this appears as the way you so beautifully describe it. In reality, there is no inter-relationship between ideas, since *inter* does not exist in Principle itself, being indivisibly one.

Therefore, our main concern is to be aware of our oneness with God and see that this is the only relationship so to speak. This takes care of human relationships far better than endeavoring to use Science in order to bring their harmony about or perpetuate it.

The beauty and loveliness of your Being are the joy and satisfaction constituting forever existence as rapture and bliss and the bounty of radiance.

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Anything that is ungodlike is never directed against, or referring to you. When knowing this, it is plain stupid to permit the suggestion of disturbance to act as your own thought, because there is no I-identity in wrong identification, and the one "I" dents and destroys the i-doll-atry!

Never live in the attitude of having friends; that is interrelationship. "There ain't no such thing," since Love is infinite and indivisible. The belief that you have a friend is the wedge for perversion and enmity.

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**OCTOBER 18, 1960**

You well state that you recognize yourself as "the office of the Christ as Christ Science." However, you have to be consistent in every way; therefore, you cannot believe that anyone identifies you either as a colored person or a white one. When people do this, they refer to their own misconception of man, not to you. See *S&H* 218:1-2: "Mortal mind does the false talking, and that which affirms weariness, made that weariness." Therefore, you are not going around as a protector of the negro race, because that is not helping them.

The human sense of existence, being spiritual reality *mis*-conceived, has neither substance nor justice. The only equality is in the sight of God, where one understands oneself as Mind's *knowing*, Life's *living*, and Love's *loving*.

The revelation in Christian Science that God is divine Principle affords both to what is termed negroes and white persons the full and incontestable ability to experience what one really is as Spirit's complete self-expression.

You bring all kinds of discrimination upon yourself by thinking of white people as white people. You must obey Jesus' command to love your neighbor as *yourself* and not as a white or colored neighbor. Yourself is Christ Science. I am enclosing two of my circulating articles which enlarge upon this -- "Reflection not Reflector" and "Christ's Compassionate Universality."

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A will is the orderly arrangement of the things of the dream, and has nothing to do with you. When you realize that the only will is the will of God, then you will make the right will. Know that the ones you leave

something to, will not benefit by any materiality at all. There is no last will -- or there is no beginning in birth and no disintegration before the end. You never had a beginning. This is most important, for if you have a beginning, then you have the disintegration which comes before the end.

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