No reality in Spirit's opposite

**How to Deal With the Nuclear Threat**

GEOFFREY T. GODSELL

From the [May 30, 1977 issue](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23) of the *Christian Science Sentinel*

In 1898 the great French physicist Marie Curie coined the word "radioactivity." Interestingly, the same year the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, drew up the twenty-six subjects that comprise the Bible Lessons[1](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23/how-to-deal-with-the-nuclear-threat%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnote-1) studied daily by Christian Scientists and read weekly in Christian Science churches throughout the world. One of these topics is, "Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force?"

How strange and unconventional that must have seemed seventy-nine years ago! Thirteen years were to pass before Lord Rutherford, the New Zealand-born physicist, working mainly in Manchester, England, first established the nuclear nature of the atom. And forty-seven years were to pass before the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan. But there were prescience and inspiration behind Mrs. Eddy's choice of atomic force as one of the weekly Bible Lessons: in the intervening years mankind has come to live under the threat of atomic or nuclear proliferation.

The answer to the question posed in the title of this particular Lesson-Sermon is a resounding no. It is supported by an ever-fresh and ever-varying selection of readings from the Bible and from the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mrs. Eddy, which comprise that particular week's sermon. The basis for that no is the unequivocal teaching of Christian Science that God, Spirit, is infinite, omnipotent, and omnipresent and that there is consequently no reality in Spirit's opposite, matter. And the atom is but a phase of matter.

Mrs. Eddy writes in one of her shorter works, *Unity of Good:* "A molecule, as matter, is not formed by Spirit; for Spirit is *spiritual* consciousness alone. Hence this spiritual consciousness can form nothing unlike itself, Spirit, and Spirit is the only creator. The material atom is an outlined falsity of consciousness, which can gather additional evidence of consciousness and life only as it adds lie to lie. This process it names material attraction, and endows with the double capacity of creator and creation." [2](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23/how-to-deal-with-the-nuclear-threat%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnote-2)

Like so many human inventions or material steps forward, the discovery and development of nuclear power seem to bring with them both a blessing and a curse. The blessing in this case is an alternative source of energy in an energy-hungry world. The curse is the threat to human life—even to the continued existence of civilization as we know it. There is legitimate concern about the growing ease with which an irresponsible individual or group of individuals might get hands on enough nuclear raw material, such as plutonium, to make a bomb.

How can this be effectively controlled? Ultimately, proper control is only as certain as our understanding of God, divine Mind. Mind governs and controls its creation in perfect order.

As this fact is understood and appreciated, we will find better ways to encourage and support governmental efforts to negotiate international treaties to control and minimize the dangers. Within individual countries proper rules covering the safest possible operation of nuclear plants and nuclear-related industries will develop. These controls are as natural and proper as traffic laws on the highway to secure maximum safety.

Christian Scientists can and must tackle the challenge, the seeming threat and danger, metaphysically. They should not be fearful. They can remember that Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health,* "It requires courage to utter truth; for the higher Truth lifts her voice, the louder will error scream, until its inarticulate sound is forever silenced in oblivion." [3](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23/how-to-deal-with-the-nuclear-threat%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnote-3) Nuclear threat is but the latest effort of error, of matter, to counter and silence the renewed clarion call of the supremacy of Spirit, of the omnipotence and omnipresence of infinite God, which has come to this age through Christian Science.

God is omnipotent, and therefore the atom has no genuine power—regardless of the material evidence that it has released a power more awesome than any ever known before by mankind. God is omnipresent, and therefore there is no room nor opening for proliferation of atomic weapons in His kingdom. We are neither powerless nor helpless in the face of nuclear threats. As both the Bible and the Christian Science textbook assure us, man's spiritual identity is his true and only identity. He is made in the likeness of God. Reflecting God, man has had dominion from the start—and cannot lose it.

Indeed, rather than be fearful, we can take comfort even in the midst of turmoil and ferment as the supposititious battle between Spirit and matter rolls on. Spirit is already the victor. Actually, its reign is unopposed.

It was knowledge of this that enabled Christ Jesus to still such destructive physical phenomena as the violent storm on the Sea of Galilee, which so alarmed his disciples. It was this same knowledge that enabled him to project forward from centuries ago the rousing words of assurance we would all do well to remember if we are tempted to falter in the face of nuclear threats: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."[4](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23/how-to-deal-with-the-nuclear-threat%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnote-4)

1 In the *Christian Science Quarterly;*[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23/how-to-deal-with-the-nuclear-threat%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnotelink-1%22%20%5Co%20%22Return%20to%20text)  2 Un., [pp. 35-36](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=A+molecule%2C+as+matter%2C+is+not+formed+by+Spirit%3B+for+Spirit+is+spiritualconsciousness+alone.+Hence+this+spiritual+consciousness+can+form+nothing+unlike+itself%2C+Spirit%2C+and+Spirit+is+the+only+creator.+The+material+atom+is+an+outlined+falsity+of+consciousness%2C+which+can+gather+additional+evidence+of+consciousness+and+life+only+as+it+adds+lie+to+lie.+This+process+it+names+material+attraction%2C+and+endows+with+the+double+capacity+of+creator+and+creation.);[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23/how-to-deal-with-the-nuclear-threat%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnotelink-2%22%20%5Co%20%22Return%20to%20text)  3 *Science and Health,* [p. 97](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=It+requires+courage+to+utter+truth%3B+for+the+higher+Truth+lifts+her+voice%2C+the+louder+will+error+scream%2C+until+its+inarticulate+sound+is+forever+silenced+in+oblivion.&book=tfccs.main.sh);[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23/how-to-deal-with-the-nuclear-threat%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnotelink-3%22%20%5Co%20%22Return%20to%20text)  4 [Luke 21: 25-28](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=And+there+shall+be+signs+in+the+sun%2C+and+in+the+moon%2C+and+in+the+stars%3B+and+upon+the+earth+distress+of+nations%2C+with+perplexity%3B+the+sea+and+the+waves+roaring%3B+men%27s+hearts+failing+them+for+fear%2C+and+for+looking+after+those+things+which+are+coming+on+the+earth%3A+for+the+powers+of+heaven+shall+be+shaken.+And+then+shall+they+see+the+Son+of+man+coming+in+a+cloud+with+power+and+great+glory.+And+when+these+things+begin+to+come+to+pass%2C+then+look+up%2C+and+lift+up+your+heads%3B+for+your+redemption+draweth+nigh.&book=tfccs.main.hb.kj).[↑](https://sentinel.christianscience.com/issues/1977/5/79-23/how-to-deal-with-the-nuclear-threat%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnotelink-4%22%20%5Co%20%22Return%20to%20text)