For children

Not an echo

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**Grandma** was visiting us, and she asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. "A Christian Science practitioner like you," I said. (That means she helped people through prayer when they asked her to. She understood how prayer heals, and her name was listed in *The Christian Science Journal.*) Grandma smiled and said I didn't have to wait until I was big to begin to learn how to be a Christian Science practitioner. "Start right now," she said.

I must have looked surprised because she asked me to bring her my "books" (she meant my Bible and *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy—I had my own set, red ones). I got them, and she showed me the Cross and Crown seal on the front of *Science and Health,* with what Jesus said written around it—"Heal the sick raise the dead cleanse the lepers cast out demons" (see [Matt. 10:8](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=Heal+the+sick+raise+the+dead+cleanse+the+lepers+cast+out+demons&book=tfccs.main.hb.kj)). Then she showed me a place inside *Science and Health* where Mrs. Eddy says children can heal too (see page 37, lines 22–25).

"What you know of God right now is enough to heal," she told me. "But you have to *know* it, not just *say* it. An echo repeats the words; but you must understand what the words actually *mean,* and that heals." Then she asked me, "What *do* you know of God?"

That was easy. "Well, He's Love. I know that." (That's the very first thing I learned in Sunday School.) "And He's everywhere." I could've gone on and on, but Grandma stopped me.

"Even that's enough to heal, so all-powerful is God," Grandma told me. "But you must *know* it, not just echo the words. Think about what that means to you. Think about it all the time, and let the way you act show that you know God is all-powerful, and you'll be a good healer. Not just an echo."

That night before bed I played Sunday School. I put all my dolls around me in a semicircle on the floor, and I showed them the Cross and Crown seal on *Science and Health.* I told them all the things Grandma had told me and all about God's love and care for all of His creation and that they could never find themselves in any trouble where He was not right there with them to help.

"So," I said, "if you're ever feeling scared or sick or sad or mad or worried, just stop right there and know God's love for you is so much bigger than those feelings! And when you love and trust God more than anything and see that He made all His children good and perfect like Him, then you won't be afraid or sick or bad any longer. Because when you know what is really true, healing comes. Remember, you're not echoes. You're healers." Mom overheard me, and when she tucked me in later, she told me I was a good little Christian Science practitioner.

But just a few days later when I was at school, I felt very sick, and my teacher sent me to the school nurse. The nurse called Mom to come and take me home. I heard her tell Mom I had scarlet fever.

This was my big chance to heal! All the way home Mom sang a hymn to me about God's "gentle presence." (It was [Hymn 207](https://concordexpress.christianscience.com/?query=Hymn+207&book=tfccs.main.hy) in the *Christian Science Hymnal,* and the words are by Mrs. Eddy.) When we got home, I crawled into bed with my Bible and *Science and Health* and tried to feel God's "gentle presence" around me, but I didn't seem to be able to do that very much. Grandma came to visit and gave me a big hug, but I just cried. "I thought I knew God, but I'm only an echo," I told her.

"Oh no, you're not just an echo," she said firmly. "You are God's child. You *do* understand God! This is one of those times when you need to *know* you understand Him." She explained: "You can understand God because He is divine Mind and is right here, giving you every thought you need to comfort you and make you strong." Grandma was always so sure of God's love, and it showed in her face and in her voice and in everything about her. I felt God's love then, too, and it comforted me.

"You have God's authority to know Him," Grandma said. "Everything you've learned of Him in the Bible—that He's here now, that He is almighty and all good—all of this truth God has given you. God's truth heals. And anything else is a lie and has no power at all."

Before Grandma left she showed me this verse in the Bible: "God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early."

"That's God's promise to you right here, right now," she told me. "God is helping you know that He has made you perfect and good forever." Then she gave my hand a little squeeze and said, "Think about it."

So I did. It made me feel all settled and happy to know God is always right where I am. So I couldn't be "moved"—made to forget His love. And "right early" meant "now" to me. I remember that I fell asleep thinking about God's loving care of all His children.

The next morning I was completely well and got ready for school. But Mom explained that I couldn't go, because the law said I had to stay home from school a certain number of days because of that sickness. So even though I wasn't sick anymore, we obeyed the law and I stayed home. My teacher sent my homework home, and I did it. I made cookies with Mom and got to talk to my friend Janice on the phone after school.

And I played Sunday School with my dolls. Here's what I told them: "I learned something important about healing—Sometimes when you need and want so much to know that God is All, it can seem like just words. If that happens, you can stop right then and there, and know that the truth you've learned about God from the Bible has come from God! So of course it's true, and you can prove that the truth is true.

"Remember to stay close to God—keep knowing and trusting and loving Him all the time. Then you'll feel God's love all around you—and God's love heals. How do I know all this? Grandma told me, and I just proved it myself."