

***Science and Health* Flowing Summary from “Prayer” to “Footsteps”**

The first chapter “**Prayer**” addresses our mental attitude for studying *Science and Health* (SH). In one of its concluding paragraphs, Mrs. Eddy states: “A great sacrifice of material things must precede this advanced spiritual understanding” (SH 16:1-2). This prayer chapter readies us to sacrifice all for the Christ or the sacraments of “**Atonement and Eucharist**” (chapter two). When you are united with God (atonement), you are grateful (eucharist) and ready for the Comforter (SH 55:27). In the next chapter, “**Marriage**,” the Comforter spiritualizes whatever you are wedded to (such as a human marriage, family, business partnership, human institution of church, etc). In the last paragraph of the marriage chapter, Mrs. Eddy asks, “Do you teach that Spirit creates materially, or do you declare that Spirit is infinite?” (SH 69:23-25) This question is answered in the next chapter, “**Christian Science versus Spiritualism**” which addresses dualism — divine Mind versus mortal mind. This chapter concludes with the “calm, strong currents of true spirituality” (SH 99:23) which is the opposite of the “animal magnetic fluid” (SH 100:20) in the opening paragraphs of the next chapter, “**Animal Magnetism Unmasked**.” Mrs. Eddy concludes that we “sanction only such methods as are demonstrable in Truth and known by their fruit” (SH 106:16-17). In beginning the next chapter, Mrs. Eddy looks back on her own fruitage, the discovery of Christian Science, which was the result of God’s gracious preparation over many years. How are “**Science, Theology, Medicine**” being similarly leavened? In **science**, there is the Principle of reversing what we see. In **theology**, there is the living Christ instead of dead doctrine. In **medicine**, there is a striving to stop worshipping and bowing down to what is false — false gods (Asclepius), false theories and false treatments (homeopathy) to arrive at the Truth. Our material universe is being uplifted by these gifts of the wise men, “the cultured class” (SH 164:9), but “much yet remains to be said and done before all mankind is saved and all the mental microbes of sin and all the diseased thought-germs are exterminated” (SH 164:13). At the end of “Science, Theology, Medicine,” Mrs. Eddy is funneling her observations from the big picture of “all human systems” (SH 164:12) to write individually to the reader: “if you or I should appear to die” (SH 164:17). The next chapter continues with the narrower focus on man, beginning with man’s lost dominion due to his obedience to “**Physiology**” (SH165:12). By the end of this chapter, man is regaining his dominion due to chemicalization, “the process which mortal mind and body undergo in the change of belief from a material to a spiritual basis” (SH 168:32). Since we are transforming our consciousness — emptying our vessels by letting go of the past (SH 201:7), what “**Footsteps of Truth**” should we take to move us toward the divine? — Colleen C. Moore

