

Our Feelings Are Unbound



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Q

Maybe I don't understand "absent treatment" — prayer done at a distance. It just sounds like a scam, like a prayer cloth or something.

A

Before writing off those prayer cloths, consider how they're a good buy if they help at all. Whatever it takes! Still, it's the power behind them that's actually making the difference. Emma Curtis Hopkins pointed out, "Paul's aprons and handkerchiefs served to cure people, because radiating from him went a buoyant confidence in his own principles. Shaky and feeble people felt the confidence of him as a brace. It took hold of that concealed substance within their own natures, and it recognized itself."

All great remedies discovered by man have owed their curative energies to the continuous confidence of some firm mind. When that mind left the remedy, it would not work. It is for this reason that the faith should be set on God. God is eternal. Faith in God being generated on the Earth, everything and everybody will breathe it, and it will touch the substance of their life and unite them to eternal cure" ("Scientific Christian Mental Practice," page 78).

The success of absent treatment (or any kind of treatment for that matter) depends on three things. First is the principle of oneness, through which consciousness manifests as form. That's the part provided by nature, that we don't make happen. Then there's the "continuous confidence of some firm mind" — the mind of the one doing the treatment, speaking the creative word with conviction. Finally, we have the person for whom the treatment is requested, with their willingness to accept the desired good and to release attachments to anything less. Prayer is effective regardless of physical proximity because we're each more than a body housing a personality. This concept is not wildly unusual: We react to our memories of people and things across the miles and the ages, as if we were all still together where things were happening in "real" time. How we feel determines the quality of our experience, and feelings are unbound by space or time.