

# God is the source of intelligence

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.

Last time we talked about the importance of feeding children spiritual thoughts daily. Reading the Bible at breakfast, giving Bible verses to take to school help prepare children to meet daily challenges.

In my own family, we were encouraged to study a Bible lesson after school. The purpose of this individual Bible study was to discover spiritual thoughts which could be used to help with our homework, among other things.

God is the one divine Mind. All intelligence has its source in God. So each child has a divine right to turn to God as the source of their intelligence. Human environment and genetic heredity may argue that some children are inherently more intelligent than others. But turning to God as the only Mind can free children from such limitations.

A young friend of mine recently graduated from a fine university. At her graduation party, her father told us of her early difficulties in elementary school.

My friend comes from Mexico where education is not compulsory. (It is according to law but not in practice.) She found school very difficult. She could not grasp the concepts, was shy, and was told that her indigenous race was inherently stupid. When she was in the third grade, she went to her father and told him that she wanted to quit school. She explained why and said her mind was made up. She was not going back.

As he told this story, my friend's eyes filled with tears at the memory. The father said that he loved his only daughter very much and did not want her to be unhappy. He would not force her to go to school. But he also told her that he was sure that she could succeed at school. She had the intelligence because her intelligence came from God. He urged her to pray about this.

These ideas came from a book he had begun to read, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy. The next thing he knew, his daughter had disappeared into her room and the book was gone from the coffee table.

Several days later she told him she thought she would try again, with God's help. She completed elementary school. Then the mother worked to get her admitted to the best private high school in their city. My friend tested too low for admittance, a 4 out of a possible 10. The head master refused to consider her, 7 was the cut-off score. The mother continued praying and the head master agreed to allow my friend to attend for one semester on probation.

At first she couldn't understand anything. But she prayed daily during school and at home that she reflected the one divine Mind, God. God knew all the right answers and she reflected Him. So she could understand concepts and know the right answers. At the end of the semester her grades improved enough to allow another term. Soon her grades improved to where she was scoring 10's on her tests. She graduated with high scores.

Then she decided to learn English. She came to live with us and after only seven weeks of English began as a senior in Gallatin High School. She attended for three months and received A's with only an occasional B. She returned to Mexico and continued her English studies. Within twelve months she obtained a full scholarship to an American college where she graduated with a B+ average.

I had known this young woman for six years and had never realized her early history. When she was living with us, we were continually astonished at her quickness, ability to reason, and tremendous memory. When she was frustrated by attending high school with a minimum of English skills and vocabulary, we spoke of persisting in the truth about God and man as His reflection. She studied the Bible daily and prayed. We talked about God as divine Mind, and I would share Bible verses with her. She refused to accept limitation and relied on God as the source of her intelligence. All the labels

of her ethnic group and early years were completely overcome through her persistent spiritual study and prayer.

Society looks at children and affixes limiting labels. With God's help, these labels can be removed. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."  
(James 1:5)

Published in: *Gallatin News Examiner* September 1, 1995