

**HIGH RIDGE HOUSE**  
**Christian Science Nursing: Fighting like Michael ... and Loving like Gabriel!**  
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**A few notes**

1. Opening

- A. The High Ridge House community = living prayer: *love for God and for His image and likeness, man!*

*No and Yes 39: 17-24*

*True prayer is not asking God for love; it is learning to love, and to include all mankind in one affection. Prayer is the utilization of the love wherewith He loves us. Prayer begets an awakened desire to be and do good. It makes new and scientific discoveries of God, of His goodness and power. It shows us more clearly than we saw before, what we already have and are; and most of all, it shows us what God is.*

Two “great commandments” (Matt. 22:37-39) :

- Love God with ALL heart, soul, mind (like the “hokey-pokey”: *whole self* in this love!)
- Love your neighbor *AS YOURSELF* – from standpoint of *whole self*!
- Includes a healthy protest against anything that is unlike this – in ourselves or one another

“Kingdom business”: Being clear on what God’s job is and what’s our job is (e.g., highlight in Bible lesson).

This requires angelic alertness because: *“The strategy of animal magnetism is to substitute the lesser for the greater and get us so involved in the lesser that we lose sight of the greater.”* (Ralph Wagers)

- B. A few important words/concepts in any conversation about the healing ministry of Christian Science nursing

**CARE** (according to *Webster’s New International Unabridged Dictionary*)

Noun:

Old High German *kara* lament, Latin *garrere* to chatter, talk

**1** : suffering of mind : **GRIEF, SORROW** <a *care*-marked face>

**2 a** : a burdened or disquieted state of blended preoccupation, uncertainty, apprehension or fear, and consideration of expedients

**3** : serious attention; *especially* : attention accompanied by caution, pains, wariness, personal interest, or responsibility

**synonyms** **SOLICITUDE, CONCERN, WORRY, ANXIETY**: care designates a troubled, preoccupied, or oppressed mental condition induced by responsibilities and duties or by doubts and apprehensions

Verb:

**1 a** : to feel trouble or anxiety **b** : feel resentment or irritation

**2 a** : to give care (as to the safety, well-being, or maintenance of a charge) : provide for or attend to needs or perform necessary personal services (as for a patient or a child)

**COMFORT** (Matt. 5:4 “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”)

(according to *Webster’s New International Unabridged Dictionary*)

Etymology: from Late Latin *confortare* to strengthen greatly, from Latin *com-* + *fortis* strong -- more at **FORT**

**1 obsolete** : to make strong or secure : **STRENGTHEN, ENCOURAGE**

**2 obsolete** : **ASSIST, HELP, ABET** -- once commonly used in law

**3 a** : to impart strength and hope to : **GLADDEN, CHEER** **b** : to relieve especially of mental distress : allay the grief or trouble of : **CONSOLE, EASE**

**4** : to make **comfortable**

Ret. 95:4-13

*Ask God to give thee skill*

*In **comfort's** art:*

*That thou may'st consecrated be*

*And set apart*

*Unto a life of sympathy.*

*For heavy is the weight of ill*

*In every heart;*

*And **comforters** are needed much*

*Of Christlike touch.*

— A. E. HAMILTON

Bible notes on “comfort” (Matt. 5:4 “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted”): translated from the Greek *parakeleo*, *parakletos* also translated “comforter.” In all cases it contains the basic idea of being called to another’s side. “*The noun parakletos refers to the one who is called upon to render aid. It was used in the law courts of one who pleads another’s cause before a judge, a counsel for the defense, an advocate. In the widest sense it means ‘a helper, a succorer, one who AIDS another.’*”

**S&H 395:17 “AIDS in Sickness”**

*An ill-tempered, complaining, or deceitful person should not be a nurse. The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, — receptive to Truth and Love.*

**NURSE** (according to *Webster’s New International Unabridged Dictionary*)

Verb:

Late Latin *nutricia*, from Latin, feminine of *nutricius*, *nutritius* nourishing -- more at **NUTRITIOUS**

**1 a** : to nourish at the breast

**2** : to bring up : **REAR, EDUCATE**

**3 a** : to promote the growth, development, or progress of **b** : to cultivate (a plant) with care

**5** : to hold in one's heart or mind : keep in memory or consideration

**6** : to hold or grasp carefully or firmly

**synonyms** **CULTIVATE, NURTURE, FOSTER, CHERISH**

B. Our job: to **RECLAIM, REDEEM, and RESTORE** the rightful sense of what it means to “nurse”...

... ourselves as individuals,

... our organizations (including churches),

... our neighbors in the world.

C. Standard for the Christian Science Nurse.

*Church Manual, Art. VIII, Sect. 31 (page 49:7)*

*Christian Science Nurse. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.*

*The cards of such persons may be inserted in The Christian Science Journal under rules established by the publishers.*

D. Biblical authority for nursing/Christian Science nursing

A few Old Testament accounts of “nursing”: Noah, Joseph, Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel...

A few New Testament accounts of “nursing”: John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Paul, John the disciple ...

2. **Michael** and **Gabriel** – helping to lift our daily experience to the healing standard of Christian Science nursing

A. Our angelic context – a few general/familiar “angel” thoughts:

Matt. 4:11

*Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*

Mis. 306:23

*When angels visit us, we do not hear the rustle of wings, nor feel the feathery touch of the breast of a dove; but we know their presence by the love they create in our hearts. Oh, may you feel this touch, — it is not the clasping of hands, nor a loved person present; it is more than this: it is a spiritual idea that lights your path! The Psalmist saith: "He shall give His angels charge over thee." ... This sweet assurance is the "Peace, be still" to all human fears, to suffering of every sort.*

S&H 581:4

*Angels. God's thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness, purity, and immortality, counteracting all evil, sensuality, and mortality.*

S&H 298:25-17

*Angels are pure thoughts from God, winged with Truth and Love, no matter what their individualism may be. ... Angels are God's representatives. These upward-soaring beings never lead towards self, sin, or materiality, but guide to the divine Principle of all good, whither every real individuality, image, or likeness of God, gathers. By giving earnest heed to these spiritual guides they tarry with us, and we entertain "angels unawares."*

S&H 566:29

*Angelic offices: The Old Testament assigns to the angels, God's divine messages, different offices. **Michael's** characteristic is spiritual strength. He leads the hosts of heaven against the power of sin, Satan, and fights the holy wars. **Gabriel** has the more quiet task of imparting a sense of the ever-presence of ministering Love. These angels deliver us from the depths. Truth and Love come nearer in the hour of woe, when strong faith or spiritual strength wrestles and prevails through the understanding of God. The Michael of His presence has no contests. To infinite, ever-present Love, all is Love, and there is*

no error, no sin, sickness, nor death. Against Love, the dragon warreth not long, for he is killed by the divine Principle. Truth and Love prevail against the dragon because the dragon cannot war with them. Thus endeth the conflict between the flesh and Spirit.

Hymn 9

All glory be to God most high,  
And on the earth be peace,  
The angels sang, in days of yore,  
The song that ne'er shall cease,  
Till all the world knows peace.

God's angels ever come and go,  
All winged with light and love;  
They bring us blessings from on high,  
They lift our thoughts above,  
They whisper God is Love.

O longing hearts that wait on God  
Through all the world so wide;  
He knows the angels that you need,  
And sends them to your side,  
To comfort, guard and guide.

O wake and hear the angel-song  
That bids all discord cease,  
From pain and sorrow, doubt and fear,  
It brings us sweet release;  
And so our hearts find peace.

"Christ, My Refuge," by Mary Baker Eddy (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> stanzas)

O'er waiting harpstrings of the mind  
There sweeps a strain,  
Low, sad, and sweet, whose measures bind  
The power of pain,

And wake a white-winged angel throng  
Of thoughts, illumed  
By faith, and breathed in raptured song,  
With love perfumed.

B. Getting better acquainted with **Michael** and **Gabriel**:

1) Question: "What's the most important quality for a Christian Science nurse?" (Answer given by Richard Bergenheim, CSB: "There is NO 'most important quality' for a Christian Science nurse! The nurse expresses the full spectrum of Christ qualities! Anything less is the belief of personality.")

How might **Michael** and **Gabriel** help us with the wide range of characteristics needed in order to comfort and nurse?

1. Fighting like **Michael**
2. Loving like **Gabriel**

## 2) Angelic characteristics

a) **Michael**. As you read the following passages, look for characteristics that identify **Michael**, then list them and look for Bible characters who practiced them in nursing others:

*The name “**Michael**” means “who is like God.” According to Strong’s Dictionary, in the Old Testament, Michael is “the first of the chief princes or archangels who is supposed to be the guardian angel of the Israelites,” and in the New Testament he is “one of, the chief, or the first archangel who is described as the one who stands in time of conflict for the children of Israel.”*

### Daniel 12:1-9

*And at that time shall **Michael** stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

*... And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

### Rev. 12:7-10

*And there was war in heaven: **Michael** and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

### Characteristics of **Michael**:

A few Bible experiences where individuals expressed these **Michael** characteristics in “nursing” others:

b) **Gabriel**. As you read the following passages, look for the characteristics that identify **Gabriel**, then list them and look for Bible characters who practiced them in nursing others:

*According to Strong’s Dictionary, the name “**Gabriel**” means “warrior of God” or “man of God,” and in the Old Testament, he is “an archangel, the angel God used to send messages of great importance to man.” In the New Testament, he is “one of the angel princes or chiefs of the angels.”*

### Luke 1:5-20 (to Zacchareus)

*But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.*

*And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.*

*For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb....*

*And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.*

*And the angel answering said unto him, I am **Gabriel**, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.*

*And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.*

#### Luke 1:26-37 (to Mary)

*And in the sixth month the angel **Gabriel** was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.*

*And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.*

*And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.*

*And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

*He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

*Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*

*And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

*And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.*

*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

#### Matt. 1:18-21 (to Joseph)

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

*Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.*

*But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

#### Daniel 9:20-27 (to Daniel)

*Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man **Gabriel**, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.*

*And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.*

*At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.*

#### Characteristics of **Gabriel**:

A few Bible experiences where individuals expressed these **Gabriel** characteristics in “nursing” others:

3) "...the two cardinal points of Christian Science, or Mind-healing, which armed [Jesus] with Love..." (S&H 52:19-23):

*The "man of sorrows" best understood the nothingness of material life and intelligence and the mighty actuality of all-inclusive God, good. These were the two cardinal points of Mind-healing, or Christian Science, which armed him with Love.*

**a) Michael and the first cardinal point:** *"the nothingness of material life and intelligence"?*

**b) Gabriel and the second cardinal point:** *"the mighty actuality of all-inclusive God, good"?*

4) Thought exercise for your own study: Choose one of the Bible nurses from the **Michael** or **Gabriel** list, and consider the following questions:

- a) Who was/were the individual(s) who were "nursed" by this individual?
- b) What was/were the nursing/comforting/healing opportunity(ies)?
- c) How was the nursing accomplished, and what Michael/Gabriel characteristics were needed?
- d) What was the immediate response to the nursing? What was its short-term impact?
- e) What has been the long-term impact of this nursing experience?
- f) What can we learn about nursing from the Bible nurse you chose and from the angel ministry that this case represented? And how can we apply this in our work at home/church/in our communities and world?

3. Conclusions: How might we incorporate the characteristics of **Michael** and **Gabriel**...

... to “nurse” (strengthen, fight for, uphold, cherish, encourage, nurture, etc.) our FAMILIES?

... to “nurse” (strengthen, fight for, uphold, cherish, encourage, nurture, etc.) our CHURCHES ... for example,

- Wednesday evening meetings?
- Outreach?
- Committee work?
- Sunday services?
- 

... to “nurse” (strengthen, fight for, uphold, cherish, encourage, nurture, etc.) our NEIGHBORHOODS and WORLD?

4. Some final examples of nursing as a healing ministry

A. Esther (and her cousin, Mordecai):

The human picture:

*3:13 the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.*

The divine opportunity:

*4:14 For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

B. Just checking:

Who is a nurse? What is our spiritual, Biblical, and angelic authority for nursing?

Refrain: What’s the “most important quality” for a Christian Science nurse?

5. Closing: **Michael** and **Gabriel** are nursing us and our families, churches, etc., everywhere we go:

Ps. 34:7

***The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.***

Ps. 91:11

***...He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.***



**A FEW\* references to “the angel of the Lord” in Old and New Testaments**  
**(\*There are 282 references to “angels” in the Bible, with 72 in Revelation alone!)**

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- Gen. 16:7-13 (to Hagar: Return to Sarai)
- Gen. 21:17-19 (to Hagar: What aileth thee?)
- Gen. 22:11-18 (to Abraham at sacrifice of Isaac)
- Ex. 3:2 (to Moses at burning bush)
- Num. 22:22... (to Balaam’s ass, then Balaam)
- Judges 6:11-22 (to Gideon: The Lord is with thee)
- Judges 13:3-21 (to Samson’s parents about her a son)
- I Kings 19:5-7 (feeds Elijah on flight from Jezebel)
- II Kings 1:2-6,15 (to Elijah re: Ahaziah’s disobedience)
- II Kings 19:35 (Assyria defeated by angel of the Lord after Isaiah’s prophecy of remnant – see also Isa. 37:36)
- I Chron. 21:16-22:1 (to David re: purchasing threshing floor for altar and home of tabernacle/temple)
- Ps. 34:1 (“The angel of the Lord encampeth round about...”)
- Matt. 1:20,24 (to Joseph about Mary’s conception)
- Matt. 2:13;19 (to Joseph: flee to Egypt; return to Israel)
- Matt. 28:2-7 (to women at sepulcher)
- Luke 1:11-20 (to Zachariah ... identifies himself as **Michael**, v. 19)
- Luke 1:26-38 (to Mary)
- Luke 2:9-15 (to shepherds: fear not)
- Acts 5:18-20 (to apostles in prison: Go, stand and speak in temple)
- Acts 7:30 (Stephen’s speech to council re: Moses at burning bush)
- Acts 12:7-11 (Peter’s release from prison)
- Acts 12:21-23 (Herod smitten)
- Rev. 21-22 (angel with seven vials to John re: holy city – a great summation!)
- \*Note again: There are 72 references in the book of Revelation to angels!!!!!!*