Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures is Mary Baker Eddy’s primary work and the definitive textbook on the system of healing that she discovered in 1866 and named Christian Science. First published in 1875, Science and Health has sold over 10 million copies and is still a best-seller. It has been cited by the Women’s National Book Association as one of the 75 books by women whose words have changed the world. For over 135 years, readers have testified that reading and studying this book has not only given them a spiritual sense of the Bible and a clearer recognition of their permanent relationship to God, but has also resulted in physical healing and spiritual uplift. Letters from readers that testify to such healing from simply reading the book can be found in the last chapter of Science and Health.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It is interesting to read other reviews from readers of this book. It earns either 5 stars or just 1, depending apparently where the readers are coming from, either for or against the religion Mary Baker Eddy established called Christian Science. This woman was early and bold, as a female in the
19th century when women had such limited powers and personal rights, to write and to live by what was considered to be radical thinking at that time. Her concept was principally that matter is not what it appears to be and that we are fundamentally spiritual beings. Now 125 years after the release of the book, respected authors such as Deepak Chopra, great humanitarians seeking spiritual truths such as Sir John Templeton and others appear to be agreeing, by saying that there is still much to learn about spiritually that is more than meets the "human eye". We are just scratching the surface of whatever reality really is and Mrs. Eddy pioneered this effort as one of the first. One reader giving the book but one star states that healing through its "teachings" does not work, that evidence is only anecdotal. I can vouch that my grandfather was completely healed of stomach cancer on the very night he was expected to die. The disease had been diagnosed and a doctor was in attendance in a hospital room. That is not anecdotal. I was in the room. One thing that I personally liked about reading the book was the author's desire to "bless all mankind". She didn't seem to be promoting her church, but wanted to share what she thought she had learned with people of all religious persuasions. It may have been one of the first "self help" books. Written 125 years ago, it seems to be one of the most enduring. The book made me think and joins other good books in respecting the ancient scriptures while providing some illumination of them.

In the Preface to this book, Mary Baker Eddy dedicates Science and Health to "honest seekers for Truth". I've been reading this book, along with the Bible, for many years. It's helped me to gain a deeper understanding of the Bible's message. It's also shown me how to find solutions to life's challenges through prayer. The truth contained in this book is immediately demonstrable in practical ways. One day I began to come down with a very bad cold. I had plans that evening and didn't want the way I was feeling to ruin my plans. I decided to pray with one of the powerful truths in this book... "Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, - neither in nor of matter, - and the body will then utter no complaints. If suffering from a belief in sickness, you will find yourself suddenly well". When I recognized this to be true, all the symptoms of the cold vanished immediately and completely. The ideas in Science and Health have transformed my life. It truly is a reference book for spiritual fulfillment. This is a book you won't want to miss!

The concepts brought up in this book are definitely not your typical mainstream religious beliefs. Since reading this book - it took me quite a while - I am finding a new way of looking at my life. Much of what I've begun to notice has not been very pretty, but I was honestly unaware of the many deep-seeded beliefs that have gone unchallenged for my entire life. Through her book, Mary
Baker Eddy has helped to give me a reason to challenge them. I know it could be a long time before I am able to live consistently to the standard set forth in this book, but I am sure that there is nothing else out there that even comes close to making sense of my relationship to God as is set forth in Science and Health. A friend also told me recently about a new website - spirituality.com - from which I am finding a lot of added inspiration to study this book. I have a feeling there will be a lot of talking about this book and its author in the near future.

When all else has failed, the truths in the book Science and Health continue to be a life-line to me and my family. I have been studying and practicing the precepts taught in this book for many years. My children and I have experienced so many healings as a result of knowing God better, which has come as a result of reading and deeply considering Mary Baker Eddy's definition of God in the Glossary of this book. Perhaps the most helpful chapter is the first one on Prayer, which takes the mystery out of how to pray and explains the immediate access we have to Him as a loving and ever-present Father-Mother. Without exaggeration, I would say to any reader that if there was only one book to ever own and read in addition to the Bible, this is it.

Just to address the April 10, 2001 review from Cincinnati, I really think it should be made known that this individual gave misleading information by quoting Science and Health using "..." and leaving out essential words. I am the first to admit that this is a book with truly radical ideas. It does not bother me a bit that people may feel challenged by what they read. I just think that readers should not be influenced by incomplete quotations to think that this book is complete nonsense. May I suggest to those who may be interested in finding out more of what this book is really about - check out spirituality.com. You can read and study the entire Science and Health (plus the entire Bible) any time you want for free. In case you did not read the review I referred to above, I will list the page numbers that were quoted incompletely so that you can read them in context for yourself: pages 197, 155, 421, 426, and 196. Lastly, why on earth would people lie about their gratitude for healings they had as a result of reading this book? Not just the people whose testimonies are given in the book's final chapter, but the literally hundreds of thousands of testimonies that can be found throughout the history of the Christian Science periodicals. But don't take my word for it - go to any Christian Science Reading Room and read them for yourself. Every issue ever published is available to be read at every Reading Room. My own gratitude to this book and its author is beyond measure.

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