

## Does God give us premonitions of evil?

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People who believe that they experience psychic or portentous feelings and thoughts often say that they are “being told” of future evil. This raises the question of where such omens come from. While some believe that they are from supposed spirits and mystical sources, others think they may come from God Himself. Yet, is it God, divine Life and Love, who is telling us of impending ill fortune or death?



This is a question that confronted me at a time when my grandfather was under medical supervision, and not expected to recover. For several days I felt as if something bad was going to happen. When he passed on, I thought I had received a sinister forewarning. A few months later, when a similar feeling of disquiet was followed by the news of someone else’s demise, I became concerned that I had become a foreteller of death.

Such a thought upset me greatly. Not only was I distressed by the accompanying physical disturbance, and alarmed that the situation might continue in the years ahead, but I was deeply afraid that such presentiments were coming to me from God.

In looking for an answer that would bring me peace and healing, I found this statement in *Science and Health: “Symbols and elements of discord and decay are not products of the infinite, perfect, and eternal All. From Love and from the light and harmony which are the abode of Spirit, only reflections of good can come”* (p. 280).



*From this I could see that premonitions of dying are not from the divine Mind.*

For God to inform me of such things as accidents, sickness, and death, he would have to be aware of the presence of evil. If God did know evil, he would in some way have to be its originator, since He is the only cause and creator of man and the universe.

The Scriptures tell us that God is good and that god is All. God speaks to us of the immortality of good and the eternality of life. God does not inform us of death, for as everlasting Life, He neither knows of, nor has He made, suffering and affliction or an end to life. Because God knows only health and perfection, man - the reflection of God - knows only harmony and well-being. Because God knows only Life, man as His likeness knows only Life’s unending vitality and energy. God’s man cannot know sin and mortality. Why? As Mary Baker Eddy says, “Because evil is no part of the divine knowledge” (*Unity of Good*, p.4).

Does this mean we can’t be aware of a particular need or of some threat to our own or another’s well-being? No, it doesn’t. When our thought is in harmony with the divine Mind, it’s in harmony with the law of God, which uncovers evil for the purpose of destroying it. Sin, sickness, and fear are readily discernible to spiritually awakened thought, and are healable through prayer. This is illustrated in Christ Jesus’ healing ministry. He showed that through Christly thinking we can detect a mental call for aid (see [Luke 8:43-48](#)).

I first proved this one day when a friend unexpectedly came to mind. I didn't specifically treat her through prayer, but sensing that there was a need to be met, I immediately turned to God and affirmed the safety and perfection of man's health and life. Within a short while my friend called to thank me for my prayers. She said that she had been so ill at that point that she couldn't telephone to request help. She said she had felt my prayers, however, and that all was now well.



There have been other instances, too. Like the occasion when I telephoned someone just to say hello because this individual had come strongly to my thought. It turned out that this person had been wanting to talk with me about a troublesome relationship.

These experiences have shown me that if we feel unexpectedly anxious about the welfare of another, we can turn to God in prayer. We can declare, at any point and in relation to any situation, what is spiritually true, and thus forward healing where it may be needed.

The ability to read thought for the purpose of healing is important in the practice of Christian Science. But this is not the same as trying to read the thoughts of others in an attempt to predict the future for them. **"The act of reading mortal mind investigates and touches only human beliefs,"** *Science and Health* states (p.83).

To be of benefit to others, we need to work from a spiritual standpoint. Referring to the accuracy of knowing the truth as a result of thoroughly learning and properly digesting Christian Science, *Science and Health* explains: **"This Mind-reading is the opposite of clairvoyance. It is the illumination of the spiritual understanding which demonstrates the capacity of Soul, not of material sense. This Soul-sense comes to the human mind when the latter yields to the divine Mind. Such intuitions reveal whatever constitutes and perpetuates harmony, enabling one to do good, but not evil"** (p. 85).

Learning to differentiate between the premonitions of mortal mind and the spiritual intuitions of immortal Mind enables us to reverse evil's claims and forward healing. Dark forebodings or premonitions are the product of a so-called fleshly mind. Thoughts from this direction speak of existence as material, man as mortal, and our lives as subject to sickness and death. Such notions engender danger and fear.

***Spiritual intuitions, on the other hand,  
are direct perceptions of Truth,  
independent of any reasoning process.***

They are actually God's angels, which are described in *Science and Health* as **"God's thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness, purity, and immortality, counteracting all evil, sensuality, and mortality"** (p. 58).

God's angel messages assure us that we are forever Life's immortal likeness, dwelling safely in Love's eternal care, always preserved and maintained by divine Spirit. Such thoughts comfort and cheer. They cast out fearful thinking and make us strong. These holy truths, which often come to us in moments of great need, unshackle thought, releasing us from distress and suffering.

As divine Mind's offspring, in truth we can only receive the wholesome communications of Mind. Therefore, if we feel troubled, it's important that we immediately turn to God in prayer, listen to what the divine Mind is telling us, and gain the spiritual understanding that casts out fear and brings peace. We can affirm that because the harmony of man and the universe is intact now and forever, in the reality of existence there is nothing evil in the present or future for any of us. All of God's children, reflecting perfect Love, are always well and strong. Knowing this benefits all whom our thoughts touch.

Learning that we are not truly susceptible to the misgivings of mortal mind or to other people's predictions of imminent evil has permanently freed me from feelings of dread and the disturbing notion that I could be a forecaster of death. Instead of anticipating calamity, I now know that we can listen for divine Mind's insights, and so bear witness to the harmony of God's ever-present goodness for ourselves and others.



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[Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures](#) by Mary Baker Eddy, is her textbook on Christian Science healing practice and her class textbook in teaching Christian Science healing.

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