

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 9

SUBJECT: GOD THE PRESERVER OF MAN
12/15/13

Psalm 121

Psalm 121 has always been one of my favorites. In this time of more travel than usual and sometimes during inclement weather, it is good to be mindful the last verse, "The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." - This is true not only for ourselves but for everyone on the road! God's Love is universal. "The Lord is your keeper: the Lord is your shade on your right hand." In the Amplified version, "the shade on your right hand," is referred to as "the side not carrying a shield." I had never thought about what that meant before, and it is comforting to know - God has us covered! *****

Take The First Step

Does it seem daunting to trust God with a serious problem? Is it fear? Is it safer allowing God to control the small details in life, but not the big stuff?

In *Science and Health* p 444: 11-13 we read: Step by step will those who trust Him find that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

She didn't say jump right in head first foolishly. No, Mrs. Eddy says to start with a step. We must learn to lean on God and put more and more weight in the spiritual scales and lessen our dependency on other remedies and crutches. This is vitally important! If your heart isn't really trusting God, you are on the wrong side of the equation. Take the first step! Have confidence and move forward. Only good can come from your effort to listen and trust.

But she also makes it very clear that to be a

Christian Scientist, we must fully trust God. The next *Science and Health* verse makes this clear:

"It is not wise to take a halting and half-way position or to expect to work equally with Spirit and matter, Truth and error. There, is but one way - namely, God and His idea - which leads to spiritual being. The scientific government of the body must be attained through the divine Mind. It is impossible to gain control over the body in any other way. On this fundamental point, timid conservatism is absolutely inadmissible. Only through radical reliance on Truth can scientific healing power be realized." P 167: 22-31 *****

Please be careful with this one. When she writes "Step by step...", she is not instructing us. She is rather stating a fact that we happen to gain our trust in God in steps. Some take giant steps and some take baby steps. Her instruction comes in the next citation, "It is not wise to take a halting and halfway position..."

And how could one ever be foolish in trusting God, - jumping in head first? It is worldly mortal belief that says that trusting God is foolish. This citation should not be taken as an excuse to dally with Science or take your sweet time in obeying Him. Yes, it is true that we gain our trust in God in steps. But we should never linger in those steps or fear to take the leap of faith that is required of all of us. "We are Christian Scientists, only as we quit our reliance upon that which is false and grasp the true. We are not Christian Scientists until we leave all for Christ." *Science and Health* p 192:4-6. This requires courage and faith in the truth you know. Nothing foolish about that! *****

I have a dear friend who is fearful about trusting God to heal her marriage. She relies on medication and thinks she has to throw it all

away before she can get started and work with a CS practitioner. I was encouraging her to take her first step. *****

Sometimes when I find it difficult to trust the unfoldment of a dear one with God, I remind myself the trust starts with me! I am the one who needs to trust God more. In the book 1937 College by Bicknell Young, he states on page 2, "A divine idea carries within itself the power to accomplish the divine purpose, and the responsibility of its unfoldment belongs to divine Principle, who cares for each detail of its progressive being. *****"

Imagine if this had been the policy of the bod in Boston! - It would have set the tone for the movement, avoided lawsuits and perhaps the inflammatory label "They are the ones that don't believe in doctors." *****

The widow in Zarephath jumped in head first, even though she faced starvation and death. She was clearly unselfish. She loved God enough to obey Him when he told her to take care of Elijah. She didn't think about it or weigh the options. She put Elijah's needs above her own, trusting God with the outcome. *****

I don't like that, jumped in head-first. What did it feel like? The widow was preparing her last meal for her son and herself - the end of the road! This was the final submission to a long, arduous fight for survival. As a widow in that society, she had no recourse - nothing. Elijah shows up and starts asking for stuff!! But he was no regular guy. He would carry with him an atmosphere, a quiet sense of dominion, trust in God, and surely, compassion. The widow responded to his holiness, not because she wanted to impress him!! No, but rather she was compelled to do as he said. She probably felt an amazing peace, following his direction. Fear left her, and she was provided for through the famine.

We must be so careful not to humanize the Bible, these stories, super-impose our own

limited experience upon these precious human/divine experiences. But rather, let God reveal to us the "atmosphere" - the total picture, the deep spiritual message - let our heart be moved!*****

Human mind - less weight into material/fleshly scale?

"The human mind acts more powerfully to offset the discords of matter and the ills of flesh, in proportion as it puts less weight into the material or fleshly scale and more weight into the spiritual scale." *Science and Health* p 155:21-25.

Are we not supposed to put off the human mind and rely only on the divine Mind? We are at different states and stages of consciousness, apparently, and while we are "working out the problem of being," we take these intermediary steps. Until we can declare "God is All" and see perfection instantly manifest itself before us, we are instructed to put "less weight into the material and fleshly scale and more weight into the spiritual." Examples please:

1. Spend more time thinking about this and less about what you will eat, how you will exercise today.
2. Looking into the mirror, declare more what God made than what the material senses "witness."
3. Spend more time figuring how to bless mankind with you assets, and less time planning how to accrue more.
4. Be more cognizant of doing God's will, and less of doing your own, of more pleasing God, and less of pleasing man.*****

SUBJECT: IS THE UNIVERSE INCLUDING MAN EVOLVED MY ATOMIC FORCE - 12/22/13

The universe, like man, is an enigma to empirical knowledge

"...when explained on the basis of physical sense and represented as subject to growth,

maturity, and decay, the universe, like man, is, and must continue to be, an enigma." *Science and Health* p 124:16-19

I have proved this to be so - tried, and it leads nowhere - an enigma.

It is like unseeing matter. It is a waste of time. Thought must be lifted above physical sense - where Love reigns. Acknowledge God in all ways, thank Him for every good thing, lift, lift, lift above the mist... aha! There He is and His universe - now that makes much more sense! *****

Sure enough my brother, I've found that I cannot shut off physical sensation, and I cannot avoid experiencing a "normal" human existence, but I can know it is not real, it is more like: "Suffer it to be so now:...." As much as possible, I pray to feel what God feels, His "sinless joy, -the perfect harmony and immortality of Life, possessing unlimited divine beauty and goodness without a single bodily pleasure or pain...." It seems to me that it is not done through proud and willful arguments; it is more a constant, humble yielding, and becoming "as a little child." *****

He will not afflict!

"Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: He is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: He will not afflict." Job 37:23. This is a paramount point in Science. God NEVER afflicts. So often He gets accused of either causing disasters or allowing them to happen in some way. What an "old theology" lie! If ever I am stupidly tempted to feel that God causes or allows discord – it is important for me to wake up and to understand I am getting sucked into the Adam dream. I am becoming mesmerized and hypnotized! I am becoming part of the problem and not aiding in the solution. So I need to return to this basic Truth – God does not afflict! From this standpoint alone, I can begin to discern between the real and the unreal - stamp out

the lie, and regain my dominion as a child of God. *****

It shall teach thee

"...ask now the beasts and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee, or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee: and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee." Isn't it wonderful how nature is full of glorious examples of God's love to man and the universe? Here in New Jersey this morning, we are privileged to watch a beautiful blanket of snow silently covering the earth. As Mrs. Eddy says on page 240 of *Science and Health* - "Arctic regions, sunny tropics, giant hills, winged winds, mighty billows, verdant vales, festive flowers, and glorious heavens, - all point to Mind, the spiritual intelligence they reflect. The floral apostles are hieroglyphs of Deity. Suns and planets teach grand lessons. The stars make the night beautiful, and the leaflet turns naturally towards the light." *****

There is a beautiful poem entitled, "To a Waterfowl" by William Cullen Bryant. I have loved this poem since childhood. In it the author is contemplating how amazing it is that the fowls of the air know how, and when, and where to fly. I mean when you think about it - it truly is amazing! Bryant ends the poem by applying God's unerring direction of these dear creatures back to himself and to his course in life, as he writes, "...There is a Power whose care teaches thy way along, that pathless coast, - The desert and illimitable air, - Lone wondering but not lost....He, who, from zone to zone, Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight, Will lead my steps aright." It is a beautiful poem - and a beautiful truth! *****

In the Responsive Reading it says, "Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God." Job 37:14. And "great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend." Job 37:5. This meant to

me that the human mind is incapable of understanding the things of God. And the material senses are incapable of seeing the wondrous works of God. It is only when I "Stand still" and listen to my spiritual sense that I can even begin to perceive the wondrous works of God.

Jesus was not impressed by the storm. How many times do I fear a weather forecast that predicts a tornado or hurricane? Do I ever fear an event or a meeting that I am sure is going to be unpleasant? If so, then I believe that there is a power other than God. It is a sign that my own pride and personal sense of limitation is getting in the way of seeing God at work. Jesus had no pride, hence no sense of limitation. "Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? What cannot God do?" *Science and Health* p 135:19-20 *****

Succumbing to the storm

In Mark 4: 35-41 the disciples awaken Jesus with fears they'll succumb to the storm.

Before learning about Christian Science I was taught that Jesus was God, and as such, had power where we and the disciples don't. When he rebukes the wind and calms the sea it is his own power doing it, so when he asks why they don't have faith he simply means faith in Him.

Now that I have been learning Christian Science, I understand this so much differently. I see that the storm is only an idea that had become magnified in consciousness by the apostles' fearful thoughts. As Mary Baker Eddy wrote in *Science and Health*, "If you decide that climate or atmosphere is unhealthy, it will be so to you. Your decisions will master you, whichever directions they take." P 392:21-23.

The apostles' fear had taken hold, and they probably talked amongst themselves how the storm was getting worse. Then Jesus rebuked and calmed them, and thus the danger was nullified. Had Jesus not been there, the apostles would have succumbed to the storm because their faith was in matter—in the

apparent strength of the storm itself—and not in God, where all faith belongs.

But Jesus was there, not as God, but as "The highest human corporeal concept of the divine idea, rebuking and destroying error and bringing to light man's immortality." *Science and Health* p 589:16-18. He was showing all of us the ideal we should aspire to. I am incredibly grateful to be here learning Christian Science because it replaces the arbitrary with the practical, and ambivalence with Love. *****

Reasoning that Jesus is God doesn't make a lot of sense does it? It leaves us praying for the miracle of grace and begging for mercy. Now we know Science is a demonstrable principle, and his words and works point the way. This makes way more sense as to WHY Jesus Christ appeared. *****

I think Jesus became synonymous with God because without understanding Christian Science the works of Jesus Christ cannot be replicated. It must have been increasingly difficult as time went on for people to understand what made Jesus special, especially without knowing to get rid of personal sense. So instead of looking into their thought to understand the discrepancy, Jesus was recast as God.

I know without this church and the teachings of Mary Baker Eddy it would have been most unlikely I'd have gained any insight into this. The biggest reason for that is, I always started by looking to my human intellect, and by doing that I already lost. I never realized my first step was erroneous, because I thought it was the only first step I could take.

I am amazed how subtle Animal Magnetism is. I am also relieved to learn that we give it all the power it ever has. I am so grateful for all I am learning, the patience and fierceness of the practitioners, and the Love and Truth they base it all on. *****