

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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MAN - 03/09/14

Principle not person

In the 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy constantly affirms God is Principle not person. Applied to the Responsive Reading: II Samuel 22 : 29-34, 36

"Thou art my lamp... will lighten my darkness."
"buckler" "rock" "shield."

Of course these are not describing anything physical, and yet they are so beautifully descriptive of what? Person, man-like God? Or Principle, Intelligence, Love, infinite? How do we know which? The first may feel good, and give us temporary relief. The second transforms our whole sense of being, frees us from sin, disease, and death.

Does this mean we must give up our sense of God as our closest and dearest Friend, our tender Father-Mother? No, but our concept of Principle expands to embrace it. *****

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"Of course these are not describing anything physical, and yet they are so beautifully descriptive of what? "

When in-sync with God I feel those qualities you listed. In Principle I feel safe and protected, confident that His atmosphere is where I dwell. This is not personal. We all can experience the dominion that comes from unity with Principle. *****

It is again from Herbert W. Eustace. He writes that there should be no medium, or intermediary, between God and man. The eternal communion between Principle and idea, God and man, is the only medium. Therefore the Holy Ghost is the only true medium.

"In whatever form mediumship presents itself, spiritualistic, medical, academic, or ecclesiastical, it must be recognized as the pernicious activity of the one malicious mind."

So, I now can see that the mediumship of the Pope, or priests, or other religious figures, including the BOD, is mortal mind, and is interfering with the communion between God and man.

So, we should not allow any individual, or organization, or belief system, take the place of our own relationship with and understanding of God. Salvation is individual.

I have observed in "the culture" that some assumed they were "safe", out of error's reach, just because they read the Lesson every day, went to Church twice a week, paid their dues, drank no alcohol, and controlled their youthful passions etc. etc. They were not, and died too young. Then I wanted to find out what could have gone wrong, to learn a lesson from it, but it was glossed over and not talked about, it never really happened.

I believe that the only use evil could possibly have is to lead us to Truth. One cannot pretend it does not exist, as long as it wrecks havoc on the lives of people, dear friends losing their loved ones, etc. *****

Plainfield has made very clear the teachings of Mrs. Eddy. Error or evil is not real. Legitimate Scientist have been taught here that we detect and uncover error and it's claims. Then through the Omnipotence of God we annihilate and completely destroy any belief of error and it so-called effects. In fact, we live this Truth and daily perform this loving duty wherever called upon to do so.

Furthermore, we have been taught to demand the blessing from every situation we are in. Evil is not good, but in so destroying it, we draw closer to God. I thank God for forcefully ejecting me and my family from the culture. *****

Believing vs Understanding

"Believing in God never made a Christian."(1st Ed

Science and Health) therefore certainly it never made a Christian Scientist! Poor Moses had to hold his arms up in order for the power of God to work on the battle field. ...this is an indication of reliance on belief, not understanding. No wonder the children of Israel crashed every time Moses was not there to prop them up! Was this true with Mrs. Eddy and the bod?

So we be wise to check ourselves - is it belief or understanding?

"The LORD is the strength of my life." Ps. 27:1 A great one to hold on to. But why? Not because we are so weak and we need to be pumped up by God! But because God is Life, God is my life, God is the only life!! We have no life, no mind, no soul, no identity separate from God. We are more than helpless without God - we are nothing without Him. Anything that says we are something separate from God is "a lie, a liar, and the father of it." and embraces sin, disease and death!!

(This is straight out of the 1st Edition - from when Mrs. Eddy was a scribe under orders) *****

This is very helpful. I was bothered by this picture of an old man "competing" against gravity to keep his arms over his head for what, 6 hours?

God was working through Moses, but could we say his concept of God was material or man-like with limitations? God was a Jehovah to Moses?

So the rising and failing of the rod could symbolize his wavering faith in Jehovah? That makes sense. Moses was not thrilled to go before the Pharaoh. He doubted God's ability on Mount Sinai and God had to prove to Moses twice that HE indeed was capable of saving HIS children. *****

Whoa! Let's not be too hard on Moses (it was the children of Israel who were so dense)! Check definition in Glossary, *Science and Health* p 592 The point of this thread is that we check OURSELVES!! If some of the most highly esteemed CSers which landed the Board of Directors gig while Mrs Eddy was around could so lack in understanding, and have relied so much on belief, we had better WATCH! Believing the truths of Christian Science does not cut it, even when dramatic physical healing follows! Every point we

hold to requires understanding, otherwise it is not Science, but personal sense!! "I believe it because it is in the Bible or *Science and Health*." Not good enough!

Understanding is not a big intellectual thing, but does require integrity of thought, God first, last, and always as our starting point and destination.

Yes, it really is refreshing to read the 1875 first edition of *Science and Health*. I am also reading Herbert Eustace's book "C.S. its clear, correct teaching." I believe that every student of this blessed Science should work his way through this book, it is extremely logical, and it leads our thinking to a better understanding. Understanding is the only tool with which man can break the thralldom of mesmerism coming from the malicious mind, or mortal mind, which is the only supposititious cause of all evil and matter, and the only place where these unrealities seem to exist.

About holding up the arms of Moses....what about supporting mentally the individuals like our practitioners, who are on the frontlines facing the enemy day after day? *****

I merely "believed" for a long time until I met Mrs. Evans. It takes someone who obviously understands the Science, who can practice it in daily life, and has enough love, integrity and moral courage to teach it properly - as explained in the chapter "Teaching Christian Science." Of course humility and a willingness to give up the old for the new is essential on the part of the one seeking this understanding. - "It would sometimes seem as if truth were rejected because meekness and spirituality are the conditions of its acceptance while Christendom generally demands so much less." *Science and Health* p 343:23 *****

I like what you say about blind loyalty and submission to authority, it is the way of the world, dictators act like that. It is not Christian Science, but a reversal of it, really. No mediumship is needed, but the Holy Ghost, each individual has a "hot line" to God, and needs a personal relation with his very own Mind. *****

Knowing Not Enough

"If man seems to incur the penalty through matter, this is but a belief of mortal mind, not an enactment of wisdom, and man has only to enter his protest against this belief in order to annul it. Through this action of thought and its results upon the body, the student will prove to himself, by small beginnings, the grand verities of Christian Science." *Science and Health* p 384 3-15

If I had a dollar for every time I heard "just know the truth about it" when I was growing up in the culture of Christian Science! What common jargon. It lead my thought away from what I was supposed to be doing with these 'beliefs'.

Yesterday my daughter and I were talking about the correct way of handling a physical problem she had. We compared it to math. What if you missed a problem but were given a chance to correct the error? If you simply 'knew the truth' you would say, perfect God, perfect man and perfect math. There are no errors or mistakes in math. Then turn your UNFIXED math problem in to the teacher!

Then my daughter brought home the the right idea when she said "you have to use the truth". This is what I read in *Science and Health* p384 3-15. Know the truth and use the truth against the specific beliefs. Protest against those specific claims. The 'math' problem is now solved! You get an A++++. *****

Protest is a start, but the destruction, annihilation of "the claim" is the requirement. Poor little $2+2=5$ is utterly obliterated when $2+2=4$ is seen. To $2+2=5$, it is heartless and violent. Wait! Since when does a mistake have identity!! (more 1st Edition of *Science and Health*) *****

SUBJECT: SUBSTANCE – 03/16/14

Substance and Works?

Seems like the lesson wanders a bit... seems like it is saying substance is manifest through works. I thought you worked, and then you earned

substance... anyway, Spirit, substance is a more heavenly thing - to be brought back to earth to do works seems counter-productive.*****

Wouldn't life be awful if we had to wait for this heavenly substance? I want it now!

Isn't this the prize Paul speaks of - running the race to have the very substance of Christ reflected within? Striving to put off sin and error in my experience requires me to work. My faith in God requires that I stand with Him, Principle, even when it is uncomfortable. Abraham was in the act of sacrificing Isaac, Rehab protected Moses' spies and Rebekah helped Jacob steal Esau's blessing. Put your money where your prayer chair heart is. *****

“Striving to put off sin and error in my experience requires me to work.”

The works referred to in James are not "Work out your own salvation"... How about this: if we are reflection but do not meet the need of our brother, perhaps we are not reflection at all, no matter how holy we may feel - nor are we substance! no faith, no wisdom, just self-deceived, without substance!! Jesus is our highest example. *****

"... substance is manifest through works."

Mrs. Eddy, in *Miscellany*, 287:19-288:2 "Philanthropy is loving, ameliorative, revolutionary; it wakens lofty desires, new possibilities, achievements, and energies; it lays the axe at the root of the tree that bringeth not forth good fruit; it touches thought to spiritual issues, systematizes action, and insures success; it starts the wheels of right reason, revelation, justice, and mercy; it unselfs men and pushes on the ages."

Note especially the verbs above, all deeply related to working and works -- ceaseless, inspired, revolutionary spiritual activity, spiritual warfare, with one goal in mind: to bring heaven to earth, showing us that Spirit/Substance is practical: "... it wakens ... lays the axe at the root [of evil]... touches thought to spiritual [that is, substantial]

issues ... systematizes action ... insures success ... starts the wheels ... unselfs men ... pushes on."

Philanthropy (according to Webster's 1828 Dictionary) -- "The love of mankind; benevolence towards the whole human family; universal good will. It differs from friendship, as the latter is an affection for individuals."

Spirit, understood as Substance, is not static; it is bracing, invigorating, and enthusiastic (a word derived from the Latin phrase "En theos" meaning "in God") for it involves "lofty desires, new possibilities, achievements, and energies" -- all having to do with working the works of Christ continually, as Mr. Carpenter put it: "the willingness to forget self and one's own desires, in order to help others. This means to be willing to be in service twenty-four hours a day, with no vacation from God and His work."

Substance makes real -- or "substantializes" -- "things that are hoped for," and "calls those things that be not as though they were" (Heb. 11:1, Rom. 4:27). This is the might of Spirit understood as Substance, actuating each of us to reflect the grace of God on earth, here and now, more and more mightily, more and more humbly, more and more hopefully -- every moment a moment of progress -- that Mrs. Eddy's vision of a whole world liberated from materialism be fulfilled, with flying colors!

Subordinating the false testimonies

Mrs. Eddy states: "The substance, Life, intelligence, Truth, and Love, which constitute Deity, are reflected by His creation; and when we subordinate the false testimony of the corporeal senses to the facts of Science, we shall see this true likeness and reflection everywhere."

Wow. How do I "subordinate the false testimony of the corporeal senses"? And if I do that, would that be considered "works"?*****

Subordinating the false testimony of the corporeal senses is the *daily discipline* that makes one a real worker. When I see age, do I declare that man is

ageless, diseaseless and deathless? When I see poverty, do I declare that "divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need"? You get the picture...

This is work, yes, but I don't think it is the "works" referred to in James. When I have faith in the substance of wisdom and understanding, the substance of Truth and Love, I will feel my brother's need (which is always spiritual) and will have the wisdom to help him out of his mesmerism. This may be a comforting hand, or it may be a kick in the rear. Only wisdom can show me what the real need is (as opposed to the apparent want). And in providing that real need, I am doing the works that faith demonstrates. If I am not meeting my brother's need wherever I am, that would show a great lack of love, and perhaps, a belief in the substance of matter (the false testimony of the corporeal senses).

Our "works" show how well we are doing the work. *****

Me, myself and I?

The lesson this week has the statement about "the adamant of error" -- being self-will, self-justification, self-love. Adamant stands for a "hard impenetrable stone" and Mrs. Eddy says what dissolves it is the "universal solvent of Love." This is so true for if all we ever think about is ourselves, all this "self" stuff certainly has a place to grow and take hold. I love the truth expressed in Mrs. Eddy's statement from her article "Fidelity" -- "Too soon we cannot turn from disease in the body, to find disease in the mortal mind, and its cure in working for God." Misc p 343: 5-7 What a blessed relief to have an unselfish mission to work for, what a relief to have something to think about other than "self" -- (certainly a definition of hell)!! All the justifications of why I can't or won't, all the willful tendencies, all the thoughts about me, me, me - get blown to the wind when we have an unselfed, God-given purpose to live for. In the end - who has time for such nonsense when there is important work to be done?