

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 25

SUBJECT- TRUTH-7/27/14

Truth Doesn't Just Sit In A Book!

Wonderful lesson - other descriptors: "Truth drives error out of all selfhood ... Truth decapitates error." (*Science and Health* p. 266) So silly to just read about it, think about it, and not use it!!

The Jury of the Spiritual Senses

"Definition of Spiritual Senses"

"Sight – spiritual discernment.
Hearing – spiritual understanding.
Feeling – divine consciousness.
Smell – intuition of character.
Taste – relish of Truth."
(--- Collectanea, p. 222)

The spiritual senses are centered only upon "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8). Any thought contrary to Paul's list of "whatsoevers" can be thrown out of court ("the Supreme Court of Spirit," *Science and Health* 437:28) because it falls into the category of perjury, the testimony of the lying senses, contempt of court.

"Learn to see only in spiritual discernment, and learn that hearing is the all-knowing; that touch is the divine consciousness of all" (Collectanea, p. 194).

Mrs. Eddy's prayer - "Oh, keep me ever seeing Thee and seeing as Thou seest, my Life, my joy, my All" (Collectanea, p. 236); by extension, I can apply this prayer to each of my spiritual senses as defined by Mrs. Eddy:

Oh, keep me evermore spiritually discerning just as You discern, my Life, my joy, my All.

Oh, keep me evermore spiritually understanding as You understand, my life, my joy, my All.

Oh, keep me evermore divinely conscious as You are conscious, my life, my joy, my All.

Oh, keep me evermore intuiting the character of all things as You intuit character, my life, my joy, my All.

Oh, keep me ever relishing Truth as You relish Truth, my life, my joy, my All.

In this way, I can put off - be absent from - the mortal senses and their counterfeit cravings (lust of flesh, lust of eyes, pride of life), and be present with the true, infinite, "immortal cravings," the "magnificent obsessions" of the spiritual senses. Fulfilling these Truth-relishing cravings is not for myself, but "I thirst, I hunger daily for the living God, for such an active power of Love as will touch every child of His with love, joy, peace, long-suffering, faith, meekness, temperance" (Collectanea, p. 115). *****

Sickness Is A Law Breaker!

Our law refuses to recognize Man as sick or dying, but holds him to be forever in the image and likeness of his Maker. (*Science and Health* p 441).

Who would have thought of sickness as a law breaker? As I think of how long I accepted sickness as real and even defended it; it is humbling to realize for how long our true freedom from sickness and all evil has been available. It makes me ask what kind of "prisoners" will not take up an offer to be free? Mortal mind continues to fool us all to believe in some kind of reward (pleasure in matter) to want to stay enslaved. A very important part of our work continues "to help awaken unprepared thoughts for the acceptance and study of Christian Science." *****

I love the trial in *Science and Health*. The

sentences imposed by mortal belief - you're sick, you're unsatisfied, you're poor, you're too old, too young, etc. - are morally illegal! A good God would never create such conditions for His image and likeness. Impossible! We have the moral right to rebel against these impositions, and the moral obligation to keep our thought so filled with Truth that they don't get past first base.

When I drop into the "human" mind, they seem so natural and real. Then I am a sitting duck, - a "ruminator" so to speak. Only when I strive to stay close to God, to grow spiritually, to "have that mind which was also in Christ Jesus," do I see them clearly as morally illegal. Then I am receptive to the Truth, "God's remedy for error of every kind." *****

Blot Out The Images!

“Blot out the images of mortal thought and its beliefs in sickness and sin.” That word “blot” means to “to obliterate; efface; to erase; to cause to be unseen or forgotten; to destroy.” Pretty tough language and it needs to be for how often do these little images pop up - perhaps difficulties in the past or fears for the future. These images of mortal thought can be very persistent and pesky unless totally obliterated with the Truth. This is why Mrs. Eddy has said we must be “a terror to error” - no time for half-hearted effort or an occasional swat at error for that kind of treatment just doesn't work! Blotting works!! *****

A few days ago, during a long drive, I slipped into thoughts of the past and after a minute or two I was very angry. As soon as I realized what happened, I started laughing. That situation is done, and it was preposterous to think of it again.

I am so grateful for the lessons I am learning here. They give me the method necessary to quickly blot these images out, and turn back to God. *****

Blotting is not always easy. Sometimes the measures taken have been strong and sometimes they have been more peaceful. I have had to stamp my feet to break the mesmerism and other times singing hymns has been the best measure to banish

fear. Error appears to be sneaky and seems to require different treatment for each difficulty. ****

So Simple and Yet So Profound

"Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." (John 8: 34) Addictions are the most obvious - how absurd to be slave to self-destruction and worse, the destruction of those around you (gambling, booze, tobacco)! But what of negative talk, judgmental comment, honey-coating wrong-doing, boasting, etc. these are addictive too - or you might say, mesmeric - yes, and destructive.

The old churchy concept of sin: "If you sin, God will punish you" is so passé! - and it never was Christian as we see here in the statement of Jesus, who is talking to the "righteous" or more accurately the self-righteous - self-righteousness and hypocrisy are the worst sins, judging by Jesus' severe treatment of them. Why? They are hugely addictive, and make the victim unhealable, forfeiting divine help!! - because they assume they do not need it all the while taking a ride to the depths of hell.

But a good healthy recognition of sin and its illegitimacy (not of God), especially in ourselves, will move us in the direction "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free." *****

An Earnest Request

“For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.” Mrs. Eddy on page 127 of Misc. writes about the one thing she greatly desires and earnestly requests of Christian Scientists - and that is for them to pray daily for themselves. “When a hungry heart petitions the divine Father-Mother God for bread, it is not given a stone, - but more grace, obedience, and love. If this heart, humble and trustful, faithfully asks divine Love to feed it with the bread of heaven, health, holiness, it will be conformed to a fitness to receive the answer to its desire; then will flow into it the ‘river of his pleasure.’ the tributary of divine Love, and great growth in Christian Science will follow, even that joy which finds one’s own in another’s good.” I once wondered why my prayers

were not answered, why I lacked spiritual growth. When I began to appreciate the import of this passage and to pray in this manner – well, wonderful changes took place that could only have been brought about by the hand of God. *****

SUBJECT- LOVE - 8/03/14

How Can We Ever Forget Love?

"The vital part, the heart and soul of Christian Science, is Love." (*Science and Health* p.13) There is good reason why the good Christian does not trust metaphysics. Metaphysics has a way of making people selfish and unloving. It entices the intellect, draws him into an impractical world where everything fits so nicely but does not meet the need of the hour! As is any superficial religion, it acts as an opiate and does not make a Christian!! I have no doubt Mrs. Eddy included "Christian" in the name of her revelation for this very reason (among others.) The tendency was there, right from the beginning, to drift away from the life and example of Christ Jesus.

"Divine" metaphysics, however, is a secure platform, based upon Principle, Love - there is no dualism here: "Divine Love always has me and always will meet every human need." (*Science and Health* p.494) - if it is not practical, it is not Christian, and is not divine metaphysics. *****

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This is good. I have found it helpful to think of spiritual sense as that faculty of conscience that hears God's voice, that still small voice of Truth uttering itself. Not dependent on any of our material so-called senses, it is indestructible and cannot be impaired in any way by anyone else. It is strictly between me and God.

Moral fiber is the understanding, or conviction, that knows beyond a doubt that what one hears through spiritual sense is true and he therefore has no option but to obey it. Through this obedience, one gains strength and even greater trust in God.

"Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength." (*Science and Health* p. 183) The spiritually minded recognize and appreciate this strong moral fiber. Often the path he takes defies human reasoning. To the material minded, he is a rebuke and a threat to their materialism. He draws them out of their comfort zone where they often retaliate; hence the persecution that ALWAYS accompanies obedience to spiritual sense.

Disobedience to the messages we get through spiritual sense leaves one with the quagmire of the Adam dream, where you can't count on anything. That person's spiritual sense will rust and wither through lack of use. Spiritual sense is always there, because it is divine. But, without moral fiber, it won't do anyone any good. *****

Is It Christian to Be A Wimp?

"Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again." (Luke 6:27-30)

This seems to require that we be wimps and let the enemy walk all over us. How does this jive with "Even the disposition to excuse guilt is punished." (*Science and Health* p.542) *****

I have struggled with the idea of turning the other cheek for most of my life, but finally I am seeing that maintaining Love for our 'enemies' is not being wimpy. It is understanding that while animal magnetism would love for me to keep fighting in the material world, Christian Science shows that I am spiritual.

Since we are spiritual, and we place our trust firmly in God, why bother worrying about our cheeks at all? The real strength in those situation is the ability to maintain Love and continuing to listen to God. I struggle with this, but I am so grateful that the struggles are quicker now as I work to get past my material senses and old habits thanks to what I am learning here. *****

"When my home was bombed in 1955 in Montgomery, many men wanted to retaliate, to place an armed guard on my home. But the issue there was not my life, but whether Negroes would achieve first-class treatment on the city's buses. Had we become distracted by the question of my safety we would have lost the moral offensive and sunk to the level of our oppressors."

". . . [T]he nonviolent approach does not immediately change the heart of the oppressor. It first does something to the hearts and souls of those committed to it. It gives them new self-respect; it calls up resources of strength and courage that they did not know they had. Finally, it reaches the opponent and so stirs his conscience that reconciliation becomes a reality."

". . . There is no easy way to create a world where men and women can live together, where each has his own job and house and where all children receive as much education as their minds can absorb. But if such a world is created in our lifetime, it will be done in the United States by Negroes and white people of good will. It will be accomplished by persons who have the courage to put an end to suffering by willingly suffering themselves rather than inflict suffering upon others. It will be done by rejecting the racism, materialism and violence that has characterized Western civilization and especially by working toward a world of brotherhood, cooperation and peace." ***

In the readings last Wednesday night, Bruce read from Mrs. Eddy's article "Peace and War" in Miscellany which states in part, "I will say I can see no other way of settling difficulties between individuals and nations than by means of their wholesome tribunals, equitable laws, and sound, well-kept treaties. . . . But if our nation's rights or honor were seized, every citizen would be a soldier and woman would be armed with power girt for the hour." In her dealings with Mrs. Woodbury, who turned against Mrs. Eddy and made horrible and untrue accusations, Mrs. Eddy did everything she could to avoid an unpleasant and drawn-out conflict, but when all else failed Mrs. Eddy went to war (law case), met this error head on - and won. *****

There is a way of confronting error with dominion, not with agitation and hate, which is the lesson of "turning the other cheek." It is not about ignoring or suppressing. Human love will quickly turn to hate - therefore, only the demonstration of Divine Love will enable you to "bless them that curse you." This is why persecution can lead to such tremendous growth - you become forced to get on your knees and profess your helplessness before God - "save Lord or I perish." This is the state of supreme humbleness that leads to transformation and the burning away of self. Daniel would have been eaten by the lions if he had not known and demonstrated this Principle. *****

Law of Annihilation!

"Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God." This statement as explained to me years ago by Mrs. Evans has always been of tremendous help. When you are expressing Truth, Life, and Love - when you have God first and foremost in your life any belief of error that would try to encroach will be annihilated! You will be dwelling in the "secret place of the Most High" and "no plague shall come nigh thy dwelling." On the other hand, if you are dishonest, living a life steeped in materiality, unloving to your neighbor etc. - you have put yourself right smack into the Adam dream and you will reap what you sow. This is a Principle at work!