

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 46

SUBJECT: GOD THE PRESERVER OF MAN 06/14/15

Decisions....

This morning while reading about Lot and Abram, I had to ask myself if I made decisions by looking at the outward evidence like Lot when he chose the plain of Jordan, or was I trusting and listening to God to guide me. Using only the outward evidence has certainly created havoc. *****

Yes, it looked good to the senses, but it was not the best choice. *****

Science and Health, p 277:24-32 The realm of the real is Spirit. The unlikeness of Spirit is matter, and the opposite of the real is not divine, -- it is a human concept. Matter is an error of statement. This error in the premise leads to errors in the conclusion in every statement into which it enters. Nothing we can say or believe regarding matter is immortal, for matter is temporal and is therefore a mortal phenomenon, a human concept, **sometimes beautiful, always erroneous.** (Emphasis added).

Isn't that a great warning for all mankind? *****

I love the sense of reliance on God for the right decision, which this verse Gen 13:9 gives: Is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

It shows no rushing to take something apparently "good" because someone else might get it; but humble reliance on God to reveal one's right decision. That is beautiful! *****

One of the keys to making right decisions is listening properly. What do I listen with and listen for? Do I listen with my ears to the rambling of

human opinion, news, music, etc.? Or do I listen with my spiritual sense to the still small voice of Truth?

In Isaiah, "And thine ears shall hear a word from behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it." These ears are not those that listen to the noise of the world, but, rather, your spiritual sense that listens to what God is telling you. I have found that I can't listen to both at the same time. I choose which one I listen with. I can't listen to that still small voice when I am listening to television, the radio, or a speech. Even in my conversation with others, do I stop at the words, or do I listen for what God tells me is really going on?

This is what makes a good practitioner, -- one who takes nothing at face value, but listens with his/her spiritual ear for the real problem; hence the real solution (and makes good decisions). *****

Perceive That Good Is Working

434—WATCH lest, when you realize that with God all things are possible, and that all things work together for good to them that love God, you fail to accept these statements or laws in their fullest extent. As Christian Scientists, we accept our experiences, whatever they may be, and perceive that good is working through all of them and out of all of them.

—from 1936 Primary Class, by Bicknell Young, page 2:

You do not choose Christian Science; when you are ready, Truth comes to you, as it did to Christ Jesus and as it did to Mary Baker Eddy. We see this in the experience of Abraham. Abraham came out of the Chaldeans, a race of soothsayers, necromancers and the like, because thought had for him risen to a point where he could no longer accept the erroneous beliefs and superstition of

that people. Truth came to him revealing the erroneous nature of their ancient way of thinking.

Despite what was going on with Abraham's thought, Lot apparently remained in a state where he did not see good working. He couldn't see how any one place could sustain all the people and livestock that came out of Egypt with Abraham. He couldn't see that pitching "his tent toward Sodom" while in the plain of Jordan was a bad idea. "Lulled by stupefying illusions," that material sense led each remaining member of his family to pretty bad places while fleeing the destruction.

It seems appropriate that in the story that Jesus told (in Luke 16), Abraham—while holding Lazarus—says to the rich man, "between us and you there is a great gulf fixed." Abraham had certainly dealt with this gulf with Lot, despite being close enough to see the smoke going "up as the smoke of a furnace" after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

9. 196 Sin makes its own hell, and goodness its own heaven.

I couldn't see good working for much of my life. I remember so many times being right next to happy people and not even being able to understand how or why they had joy and I didn't. Thankfully that suffering ended and God brought me here. Now that I am on this side of the gulf, I look back and am equally confused as to why I was so angry and unhappy. It seems when you can "no longer accept the erroneous beliefs" you can't understand them fully either. Yet another reason to be grateful!

Thank you for this lesson, and the accompanying Daily Watch. *****

I am very grateful for the Watch mentioned here. No matter what is going on with family relations, I am holding to the Truth that God is working His purpose out, and that I must work out my own salvation. I found this statement about Fearing the Lord: "True religion, reverential trust in God that includes commitment to His revealed will (Word)." *****

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I remember once a fellow Christian Scientist said something to the effect, "Don't go looking for explanations for evil, there can be no explanation found for error, if God is All." When you think about it, so much of our culture is dedicated to discussing where disease comes from, trying to figure out psychological disorders, spending untold hours of research in labs, etc. when in fact, God is left completely out of the picture! When I realized this, that God fills all space and that He is good, as Mrs. Eddy explains in C.S., I didn't waste any more time trying to find "explanations" for error outside of thought. The state of our thinking has everything to do with our experience! This church has taught me to keep God in the middle of everything and strive to see things as God sees them. Then my time is well spent working for God and not ruminating on the whys or whereas of evil, although it takes constant alertness because the mortal dream does seem so real! But we can quickly correct our thinking and get back to the wonderful truths of Christian Science. *****

Looking at this Watch, it takes me back to our discussion last week about Job and human good. Abraham was able to raise himself above his former belief system so this took him away from his relationship with Lot and closer to God. This split was naturally inevitable because in human thought we have limitation, we don't see the seamless thread of Love from God.

We must strive to become selfless, which is a lesson that Abraham had to grow to know. As he embarked on what seemed to be a sacrifice of his son, Isaac, whose mother was Sara, his human relationship to a man of God and that human heritage had to be sacrificed so that he could gain a clearer idea of God. By unbinding this error and human attachment, other solutions were found, so his son was not sacrificed. In this he gained a clearer sense of who his family is in God.

He had listened to God and gained a true sense of what family is and this was pertinent to his spiritual growth and took him beyond the life that he had previously led, despite seemingly losing his older son, Ishmael. *****.

SUBJECT – IS THE UNIVERSE, INCLUDING MAN, EVOLVED BY ATOMIC FORCE?

6/21/15

Atomic Force

Atomic action is Mind, not matter. P 190 Misc.**

Thank you for this quote. I have been listening to an audio about Albert Einstein and think it is very interesting and also not coincidental that many of his radical discoveries were beginning to unfold during the years 1900 – 1910, a time when Mrs. Eddy was still with us - forging the way by proving metaphysically the unreality of matter with all its limitations. During this period, Einstein was also on the way to prove scientifically the unreality of matter. This is certainly why, many years later, he often frequented Christian Science churches and reading rooms in both NJ and NY and is quoted as saying, “*Science and Health* is beyond this generation’s understanding. It is the pure science...and to think that a woman knew this over 80 years ago!” And also, “If everyone realized what was in this book (*Science and Health*) you would not have room anywhere to accommodate the people clamoring for it.” So much of his discovery and his own understanding and conclusions about life correspond directly with Christian Science - “Science without religion is lame; Religion without Science is blind.” (Albert Einstein, 1941) *****

Why Are We Here

The great question, “Why are we here?” is answered in this lesson. The Golden Text from Revelation says, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast

created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” For God’s pleasure! The power that created us and the entire universe is not atomic power at all, but, rather the power of divine Love. I believe that this is what it means to be “His image and likeness.” We are the evidence of the existence of God. And it is His love for us that makes us, evolves us, pushes us to know Him better as our Father/Mother. This gives our lives meaning and permanence.

The recognition that it is the Love of God, not atomic force, that forms us and governs our lives, takes away the fear that atomic force could harm us. “Clad in the panoply of Love, human hatred cannot reach you.” (*Science and Health*, p.571) *****

That is beautiful! Thanks. No fear of atomic bombs! Very comforting. *****

For His Purpose

This lesson clarifies what our purpose is. "I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." How important it is to watch against selfish purposes, which is the source of so many problems and hold to the One who put us here, and for whom we exist.

Spiritual development

"The theory of the universe, including man (YOU!!), is not in material history but in spiritual development." Remember this when tempted to think about your material history - who your ancestors were, what happened to Aunt Tilly etc.. Instead, think about what spiritual development took place, all the wonderful and grand lessons you have learned, bringing you each day closer to God! *****

Closer to God, that's all; since more and more we realize that all good can ONLY be found in our increasing understanding of God! *****

Remember not the former things

"Remember ye not the former things, neither

consider the things of old." How often do we go round and round with past experiences and grievances and yet this is a command from God to stop it! No excuses! Stop it! And when we obey His command, what happens - "Behold, I do a new thing; it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." It is important to understand by disobedience to our Creator, we hold back our own good!! Give the past to God and He can and will do a new thing in your life. He will even make a way out of any difficulty - where you may blindly see no way out! We have such a good, and kind and loving Father and when we humbly obey Him, all things do become possible! *****

Spiritual Understanding of Scripture

Science and Health, p 547 The Scriptures are very sacred. Our aim must be to have them understood spiritually, for only by this understanding can truth be gained. It is this spiritual perception of Scripture, which lifts humanity out of disease and death and inspires faith.

Mrs. Eddy is so right in demanding that we pray for the elect of this world everywhere, that none can be deceived by evil's lies. Without the spiritual meaning of the Scriptures, mankind will not master disease and death.

Recently, a very devout man was complaining about a physical ailment; he is, I know, very dedicated to his "walk" with God. However, when he said something that implied that even the problem could be God's will it made me think of why Mrs. Eddy gave her all so that the Truth about man being spiritual, and God being only good can be understood. She did her part, now we must be thus committed for the love of God and man. ****

God's Workmanship

This, from the lesson, really struck me this morning. God made me complete to fulfill His

plan, whatever He has for me. When thoughts of comparisons with others, or dwelling on the past, or that put me down come, I must smash them - send them back to destroy themselves, as they're not part of God's workmanship - and be as God made me, looking out and loving all, as well as myself as He directs. There's nothing better. *****

God's Universe

Isaiah 45: 13 I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways.

Science and Health 254: 27-31 If you launch your bark upon the ever agitated but healthful waters of truth, you will encounter storms. Your good will be evil spoken of. This is the cross. Take it up and bear it, for through it you win and wear the crown. Pilgrim on earth, thy home is heaven; stranger, thou art the guest of God.

Belittle God?

I am pretty sure most Christians would object to the fact that we belittle God so many times in any given day!

The Lesson mentions this twice and points out how we do this: *Science and Health*, p 255: 11-14 Mortal man has made a covenant with his eyes to **belittle Deity** with human conceptions. In league with material sense, mortals take limited views of all things.

83:16-20 The belief that the universe, including man, is governed in general by material laws, but that occasionally Spirit sets aside these laws, — this belief **belittles omnipotent wisdom**, and gives to matter the precedence over Spirit.

I should also be aware that when I am fearful, I belittle God, when I entertain a sense of lack, the false sense that something cannot be healed, any self-condemnation, or let any false suggestions take over my thinking, I belittle God. Now let's see how much I love and honor God? *****

What a great point! Thank you!