

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 63

SUBJECT: Man – 03/06/ 2016

"Belonging to God"

I am beginning to understand that we can live only for God. When we stop resisting this spiritual truth, then our "talent" in doing what God has planned for us becomes clearer. Someone here at Plainfield once said, "Before your feet hit the floor in the morning, ask God what he wants you to do today." Sometimes what you sense or comes as an idea can be surprising. The whole Lesson on Man this week is wonderful. There is so much to ponder and these are a few I connected with: "When we wait patiently on God and seek Truth righteously, He directs our path." *Science and Health*, p. 254. "The talents He gives us we must improve." *Science and Health*, p. 6. ... "giving us strength according to our day" *Science and Health*, p. 5. *****

Being Made Whole

This lesson is filled with steps to bring us, me, closer to God. We are each individual ideas of God and have been entrusted to protect, build on, and use our individuality to bless others. God has given each a place and talents to use and improve in that place. "The talents He gives we must improve." *Science and Health*, p 6:6 "Commit thy way unto the Lord." Psalm 37:5 "Let us watch, work, and pray." *Science and Health*, P. 367:21, not just sit and do nothing. "Neglect not the gift that is in thee." I Timothy 4:14 "Trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." I Timothy 4:10 All this is only good. Thank you, God! *****

In our completeness, (already existing wholeness) are both the talents, plus the opportunities, for us to improve those talents. If we desire to obey God's laws and trust His supremacy, doing our best to do

His will; we can be certain that His laws are always governing us to where we find ourselves in "places" with opportunities to bless and glorify His name with our given talents. Every idea of God (everyone) has been given some talent. *****

In Jesus' parable of the nobleman and the talents, those servants who used their given talents (in the case of the parable, money, but in life, any God-given talent) were rewarded. They represent the state of thought that is ready to do whatever God requires of them and, as a result, they are given more with which to do it. But the one servant who, out of fear, failed to use his talent, was punished. He represents the state of thought that fails to do what God requires, and as a result, punishes itself. This may seem harsh, but it represents the facts of life.

When we express the love of God, He provides more for us with which to love more. When we fail to express divine Love, we fail to recognize and feel God's love. This leads to depression, lack, addictions, everything wrong. Those who fall into that hole often have a difficult time crawling out. Mrs. Eddy writes, "The one unused talent decays and is lost." What a waste!

Yes, we all have been given some talent. If you want to feel good about yourself, then use those talents for the benefit of mankind. Train your children to do the same. *****

A few healing statements I found in my notebook: "God knows "me" as Himself. Mind's true image and likeness. I cannot be something Mind does not know or cause. Absolute oneness with Mind is our only way to escape."

The Mind that destroys sickness is never the mind that first admits its existence, and then believes that God can heal it.

If Mind is absolutely All, how can I not experience this? *****

There is a saying, "If you don't use it, you lose it." This saying brings to today this Bible story. God has given us many talents, and we must use them. The more we use them, the more is given us. In this church, there are many ways to use our talents and the more we are using them, the more God gives us to do. What a wonderful way of life!

The Bible has pointed out the way for all mankind, in all times. In this church, we are learning to use these lessons now. Thank you, God. *****

We Must Earn Our Way

Science and Health, p. 238 : 15-21 Unimproved opportunities will rebuke us when we attempt to claim the benefits of an experience we have not made our own, try to reap the harvest we have not sown, and wish to enter unlawfully into the labors of others. Truth often remains unsought, until we seek this remedy for human woe because we suffer severely from error.

To improve what we are gaining, we are required to obey some rules and also put into practice whatever understanding of Truth we gain. Martha Wilcox puts these rules in the form of questions on page 169 of her book, which I find very helpful:

1. Are we obedient to the rule that requires us to counter-fact every disease and every inharmony?
2. Do we always turn from the lie of false belief to truth?
3. Do we insist vehemently on the great fact which covers the whole ground, that God is All? Do we keep in mind the verity of Being?
4. Do we remember that man's perfection is real and unimpeachable? (See *Science and Health*, p. 233:28; 421:15; 414:26-27)

Thank God for all these resources that help us earn our way to the healing Truth. *****

Thank you for this post. These rules are a good reminder of what is required to stand porter at the door of thought, to be always watching. *****

This citation stuck to me and was a continual reminder of the attitude I need to cultivate.

I Chronicles 28: 9

...know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts.

And from Gill's Exposition of the Bible:

"...serve him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind; cordially and sincerely, cheerfully and freely, neither in an hypocritical manner, nor through force and constraint, nor with loathing and weariness."

I appreciate the questions listed above and see the necessity of having a willing mind and perfect heart to be obedient to what is required of us. I am learning for work to be well done, it sure can't be accomplished superficially or half-heartedly. I am grateful for the discipline constantly taught here. **

The Justice of Your Cause

"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday." (Psalm 37) The James Moffatt translation of this is interesting and one I referred to often during the days of our law case – "Leave all to him, rely on him, and he will see to it; he will bring your innocence to light, and make the justice of your cause as clear as noonday." It is well to remember this when you feel your motives or actions have been misconstrued or judged harshly. God knows what it is in the hearts of men. He is the one to rely on. Truth will be seen and acknowledged. This is also true for those who are running for President of our nation. God knows the one who will serve Him most rightly and we can trust and pray that He will bring His plan to fruition. *****

Thank you for this post. It is also a treatment against a sense of fatalism, the belief that "there's nothing that can be done, so might as well just give in and do nothing."

There are many people fighting for justice in the world for many worthwhile causes, and it can be tempting to succumb to a sense of fatalism. The

Bible provides the perfect antidote, as shown in Psalm 37. I often think, “Stand with Principle, and Principle stands with you.” One with God is always a majority! *****

Thank you for these posts! And for this very important Bible Lesson, making it clear what our duty is and who it is that we serve! Also, am so grateful for the Bible questions (for the Bible Study), that require us to look further into the parable that Jesus told, starting with Luke 19:12. I ask myself, “Would I have realized that the nobleman that Jesus speaks about is symbolic of Christ Jesus? And that it is the kingdom of God that he is going to receive? That the pounds, which he gave to his servants, are the talents, the spiritual gifts — the Holy Ghost — which each one of us has today and which we have the opportunity and obligation to improve?

Also, thank you for mentioning that God knows who will serve Him rightly as President of our nation — we don’t have to listen to personalities or isms, but trust that God’s government reigns. The watches have been tremendously helpful in this. *****

SUBJECT – SUBSTANCE - 03/13/2016

The Substance Of Devotion

“The substance of all devotion is the reflection and demonstration of divine Love, healing sickness and destroying sin. Our Master said, “If you love me, keep my commandments.” (*Science and Health*) If you don’t come prepared to testify at our Wednesday meetings, you need to ask yourself why? If you don’t do an individual watch or join us for the unity watches, you need to ask yourself why? If you haven’t written on the forum yet this week, you need to ask yourself why? It is not right that a faithful few carry this work week after week. Expression is the antidote for depression! “Will you doff your lavender-kid zeal, and become real and consecrated warriors? Will you give yourself irrevocably to the great work of establishing the truth, the gospel, and the Science, which are necessary to the salvation of the world from error,

sin, disease, and death? Answer at once and practically, and answer aright!” (MARY BAKER EDDY, MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS, PAGE 177) *****

And – whatever your excuses are for not being more active in the Truth, they ARE NOT GOOD EXCUSES! Mrs. Eddy ran her household with the motto “EXCUSES ARE INTOLERABLE.”! *****

Thank you for this post. And I thank each one for last evening’s sharing of readings and testimonies, for each one is a tremendous blessing! Every time I’ve come prepared with a testimony, even if there’s not time to share it, I have a good feeling; but if not prepared and don’t give a testimony, I feel terrible! And yes, there are no excuses — the thought of trying to make an excuse to God is a real wake up call for me! *****

Our Daily Needs

“As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.” II Corinthians 8:15

To me this meant God gives exactly what is needed, our daily needs. No abundance or shortage, in all things. In II Kings it says, “And his allowance was a continual allowance given him of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.” *****

This is why Jesus rebuked the young man who wanted Jesus to tell his brother to divide his inheritance. “Beware of covetousness.” “Thou shalt not covet” is one of the Ten Commandments. Yet, look at how far our society has drifted from obeying these simple commands. Instead of encouraging everyone to turn to God for their daily needs, we have a welfare system that steals from the haves and gives to the have-nots. Instead of every man and woman being responsible to God for their lives and for their daily needs, many are taught to covet what others have, elect government officials to steal what others have, and redistribute the wealth. The system takes God out of the picture, and fails to recognize spiritual qualities as our substance.

This is not a political issue; it is a question of proper governance; whether our human government mirrors God's government or whether it is governed by human greed, envy, and other false beliefs. We are on dangerous ground when we, individually or collectively, covet what others have and turn to a human government, rather than God, for our daily needs. *****

Thank you for these posts. I love the lesson of the prodigal son, where the father says, "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine." (Luke 15:31) Recognizing God as the only source of good, ever present, supplying all His children's needs is vital. And how much better is the prospect for all, when we look to an infinite, eternal source! *****

Absolutely! It should be noted that the current system provides a welfare system not only to the poor, but also to the rich in the form of loopholes and subsidies. If the schools were allowed to teach the true lessons of life from the Bible—thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not covet—it would take care of both forms of welfare!*****

All May Avail Themselves

Science and Health, p. 12 In divine Science, where prayers are mental, **all may avail themselves of God** as "a very present help in trouble." Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals. It is the open fount which cries, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." During our watches particularly, I love to think that All are being taught of God as Jeremiah 31:34 states: And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD." When I think of those who cannot read or who have never seen the Bible, etc., I have to know that our impartial Father-Mother God is revealing His Truth to all in their consciousness. It makes the above citation very comforting. It is wonderful to know that **ALL** may avail themselves of God. *****

This makes me think of Frances Thurber Seal's book, *Christian Science in Germany*. She had only been in Christian Science about a year and was asked by her teacher to bring Christian Science to Germany. She did not know the language, but obediently went—and every word she spoke was understood! This is proof that they were all "taught of God"—they did not understand each other humanly, but God provided the spiritual understanding. No one is ever left out!

Our Responsibility

Psalm 78: 1, 4:

1. Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

4, We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

From Barnes Notes on the Bible:

We of this generation will be faithful in handing down these truths to future times. We stand between past generations and the generations to come. We are entrusted by those who have gone before us with great and important truths; truths to be preserved and transmitted in their purity to future ages. That trust committed to us we will faithfully discharge. These truths shall not suffer in passing from us to them. They shall not be stayed in their progress; they shall not be corrupted or impaired. *****

And sometimes no words are needed at all to communicate perfectly, as hearts speak to hearts!