

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals – May 15th, 2016

The Beautiful, Good, And Pure

“In Science (you are) the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute (your) ancestry.” Isn’t that the most glorious statement?! What more could anyone ask for than the “beautiful, good, and pure”? Why would you claim anything else for yourself or for those you love? Think about those qualities and know they belong to you as an obedient child of God. *****

What is wonderful is the important reminder, from Science and Health, that we should claim this good right now, no matter what, and *do not* have to wait for some future time, event, or experience to do so. *Science and Health*, p15. 428: 22-23 The great spiritual fact must be brought out that man *is*, not *shall be*, perfect and immortal. *****

What a wonderful promise for all, and it is for now. Along with this “God has created man in His own image and after His likeness” *Science and Health*, p 344: 7(God)-8 meant so much to me. We are so blessed. What a loving God! *****

Discernment

This quote from Spiritual Precepts Volume 1 (page 124) is helpful in discerning the voice of God and in keeping oneself out of the Adam dream of mortality. “In the Christian Science Journal for Nov 1, 1884, we find the following, “How can I distinguish between the mortal and the immortal thought? The thought that rests firmly on the understanding that all is Good is the immortal thought. When belief in the presence and power of evil, or the reality of sin and sickness enters your mind, it is the mortal thought.” Good way to check yourself! *****

This distinguishing between the mortal and the immortal thought requires a strong mental discipline, and that discipline is explained in the verse from II Corinthians: “For we walk by faith, not by sight:”

It is our physical senses (sight, hearing, touch, etc.) that testify to the presence and power of evil and the reality of sin and sickness. Those physical senses are incapable, however, of testifying to the truth. It is only our spiritual sense (faith) that can testify to the truth that all is Good (God) and appreciate the power of that truth, hence the importance of cultivating trust in our spiritual sense. We all have it. We either listen to it, respect it, and go up higher, or we drown it out with the nonsense of human conjecture and medication.

The readings last night brought out so well that it is the “still, small voice” within us that guides us correctly. Whether we hear it verbally or mentally, it is the voice of our Father guiding us. The more we obey that voice, the easier it becomes to discern the wrong from the right. *****

In studying the lessons, I have started taking time to restate parts of the lesson each week, to make sure I am really getting it. Often, after reading the Forum posts, or taking part in the Bible Study or Roundtable, I find I need to reword some of them. So for my restatement of “For we walk by faith, not by sight” I had written, “The path forward is lit by Truth, Life, and Love; not by material means.” But now, with your comments, I have added, “It is discerned by spiritual sense alone; and not our eyes.” An important addition, to be sure! I am so grateful for all I am learning here. It’s so wonderful to start understanding the difference between the real and unreal, the mortal and immortal, and the human and divine. Thank you!

...The Earnest Of The Spirit

RESPONSIVE READING: II Corinthians 5
5. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame

thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

In looking up “earnest” in the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary, the word meant more than what I had thought:

EARNEST, adjective ern’est.

1. Ardent in the pursuit of an object; eager to obtain; having a longing desire; warmly engaged or incited.

They are never more earnest to disturb us, than when they see us most earnest in this duty.

2. Ardent; warm; eager; zealous; animated; importunate; as earnest in love; earnest in prayer.

3. Intent; fixed.

On that prospect strange

Their earnest eyes were fixed.

4. Serious; important; that is, really intent or engaged; whence the phrase, in earnest To be in earnest is to be really urging or stretching towards an object; intent on a pursuit. Hence, from fixed attention, comes the sense of seriousness in the pursuit, as opposed to trifling or jest. Are you in earnest or in jest?

EARNEST, noun ern’est. Seriousness; a reality; a real event; as opposed to jesting or feigned appearance.

Take heed that this jest do not one day turn to earnest

And given in earnest what I begg’d in jest.

1. First fruits; that which is in advance, and gives promise of something to come. Early fruit may be an earnest of fruit to follow. The first success in arms may be an earnest of future success. The Christian’s peace of mind in this life is an earnest of future peace and happiness. Hence earnest or earnest-money is a first payment or deposit giving promise or assurance of full payment. Hence the practice of giving an earnest to ratify a bargain. This sense of the word is primary, denoting that which goes before, or in advance. Thus, the earnest of the spirit is given to saints, as a pledge or assurance of their future enjoyment of God’s presence and favor.

By giving us “the earnest of the Spirit” God has given us the “promise of something to come” so that we can, in turn, be “eager to obtain” all that the Spirit has to offer us, but also what we **need to be** “really intent or engaged” through the process as well. What a wonderful blessing this is! *****

I like to think that the “future” mentioned is not a distant time, but an ever-present spiritual sense that is here now and can be realized instantly when the mist, layers of false belief, is lifted off.

Science and Health, p 14 : 9-15

To be “with the Lord” is to be in obedience to the law of God, to be **absolutely** governed by divine Love, — by Spirit, not by matter.....

Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, — neither in nor of matter, — and the body will then utter no complaints.

If we are daily maintaining the Truth of our being in consciousness, in humble obedience to what Christian Science teaches, we can realize this earnest of spirit, which is already ours more readily. Thank God it is part of our true heritage. *****

This inspired me to look at “wrought” at the beginning of the citation.

Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges

“5. wrought us] Literally, wrought us out, i.e. fitted and prepared us by a course of training”

God is working in us and giving us what we need to do his work.

The continuation of 2 Corinthians 5:

“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

The last words brought out in the above post were a line that stood out to me this week. Her share, that we need “daily to maintain the Truth of our being” and “humble obedience to what Christian Science teaches,” was very helpful to me.

This was a reminder to me that when I drift into human will, apathy, worry, daily events or current of thought, without addressing it with prayer and maintaining the Truth – I am “at home with the body” and absent with the Lord. *****

Yielding Not To Discouragement

This lesson and preparing for this week’s Bible Study directed me to Mrs. Eddy’s “Allegory” set forth on pages 323-328 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, which provides a powerful comparison of the “mortal v. immortal” path. The last paragraph starts with, “He alone ascends the hill of Christian

Science who follows the Way-shower, the spiritual presence and idea of God. Whatever obstructs the way, — causing to stumble, fall, or faint, those mortals who are striving to enter the path, — divine Love will remove; and uplift the fallen and strengthen the weak.” This is a fortifying reminder to “yield not to discouragement” despite the severity or duration of what would seem to be a binding mortal problem. (Of note, it appears the original Journal article version of Mrs. Eddy’s “Allegory” from the September 1886 Journal has a few variations one may find of interest.)

SUBJECT – Soul and Body – May 22nd, 2016

Robe of Righteousness

Isaiah writes: “he (God) hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness...”

This is our clothing! God has given us a spiritual sense that can judge what is right and wrong, and it is our protection against the false beliefs and appetites that try to invade our consciousness. God provides this protection. The allness of God IS that protection.

But we need to exercise that judgment and recognize that it is divine, not human; therefore it is immortal and impervious to attack. Cherish it. The greatest danger we face is to take it for granted, fail to be grateful to God for it, or fail to acknowledge it altogether. The next citation from Deuteronomy warns us: “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons.”

If we, individually or as a nation, fail to remember that our protection is the “robe of righteousness” God has given us, then we put ourselves in a bad place. Gratitude to God for His salvation keeps us in the only safe place. Thank you, Mrs. Eddy for explaining this so clearly. *****

Thanks for this post. God’s Allness means our completeness. If we know this and strive to

understand how we are complete as God’s likeness, we can then understand that any pull for something outside to make us complete or to satisfy or give real pleasure, is the snare of evil **FOOLING** us with empty false suggestions. Only when we find and identify with our true being, do we find lasting contentment, since in God, there is nothing lacking. We can make the effort to refuse to be fooled any longer. *****

Eye Be Single

“Each step taken by the Christian Scientist in his search for truth becomes a fact that he will under no circumstances give up, for he knows that to do so, would undermine the integrity of his reasoning and nullify his conclusions. “If therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.”

Eustace

Between this quote and reading several commentaries, I have an expanded sense of this Bible citation from our lesson that I can make practical in my life. If our eye is the guide and is fixed and single on obedience to God, the light will be pure and clear and progress will be steady. A new sense of the importance of integrity and honesty hit home and I realized how dishonesty, a form of human will, is disastrous to progress. Dishonesty is double-minded and keeps me from building precept upon precept, thereby undermining my spiritual growth. Dishonesty is building on the sand and keeps me fixed on worldliness. It is much better to build upon the rock, for this is a sure foundation, no matter how slow.

“Worldly-mindedness is a common and fatal symptom of hypocrisy, for by no sin can Satan have a surer and faster hold of the soul, under the cloak of a profession of religion.” Matthew Henry. *****

This singleness of eye to me means to have the single desire to know myself as God knows me, to desire NOTHING but what He wants and has planned for my life and to work to listen to hear His voice and obey as He directs. Our rewards come from standing “unflinchingly” with what we know is true. An example is knowing, and therefore declaring, that God loves me. I am forever His

child, cared for, loved and protected by His ever-present Love. *****

Another way that this applies to us is not to have any grey zones. With God, all is perfect and right. This should be our standard, as well, for what we allow in our lives. It should govern our homes, our professions, our churches, and our government. The idea that there are “50 shades of grey” is pure wickedness, as it implies a standard other than God, which is delusional. Living in “grey zones” is the sure downfall of any individual or society. It is creeping into our schools, our government, and into our churches. It is the “enemy from within,” and it is up to us to see it for what it is and to stand “unflinchingly” as posted above.

This will feel very radical at times, but it clears the air, puts one on safe ground, and it heals. *****

Then Thy Light Shall Rise

“And if thy draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity and thy darkness be as the noonday.” (Isaiah) This is a fundamental rule in Science. True happiness is only found by becoming unselfed, by forgetting self and finding a cause greater than one’s own personal problems to work for, by loving and blessing others. We are not talking about “do-goodness” here, which is running around trying to bless others in a human and willful way; this is about blessing others as God would have us do. We have a loving Father-Mother God. It would only make sense for His creation to be an expression of His love. The verse in Isaiah corresponds with what Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*, p. 60, which reads in part, “Higher enjoyments alone can satisfy the cravings of immortal man.” So if you are feeling sad, depressed, darkened – pray to your loving Father and see how you may “satisfy” some afflicted soul, for in so doing, you will find your own soul being satisfied as well! *****

As Mrs. Eddy goes on to say, “We cannot circumscribe happiness within the limits of personal sense. The senses confer no real enjoyment.” I find this more and more as one

consecrates one’s life to God, loving one another and giving through God’s direction. *****

Whenever we are focused on “self,” we must know we are losing something. On page 365 of *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy states: but if the **unselfish affections** be lacking, and common sense and common humanity are disregarded, what mental quality remains, with which to evoke healing from the outstretched arm of righteousness? Unselfish affections cited as part of the required qualities in healing. (Emphasis added). *****

Half The Attention

“If half the attention given to hygiene were given to the study of Christian Science and to the spiritualization of thought, this alone would usher in the millennium.” (*Science and Health*) I always find this statement extremely sobering. What could possibly be of greater value than to usher in the millennium – the reign of Christ for 1,000 years? What could possibly be of greater value for all of mankind than the spiritualization of thought? I can only ask myself how much time each day do I devote to “the study and of Christian Science and the spiritualization of thought”? And continue to strive to do better, for everything is at stake! *****

Thank you! From Matthew Henry said regarding seeking God first and being present with the Lord: “...the true Christian soars like the lark, higher and higher, forgetting the things that are beneath.” Who would not want to soar above the false pictures which God never made?!

He Annulled Supposed Laws

Science and Health, p.381 Christ Jesus overruled the error which would impose penalties for transgressions of the physical laws of health; he annulled supposed laws of matter, opposed to the harmonies of Spirit, lacking divine authority and having only human approval for their sanction. The laws Christ Jesus annulled cannot govern my body or my experience. It is wonderful to know this.