

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 69

**SUBJECT: God The Preserver of Man –
June 12th, 2016**

God Fashions All Things

God fashions all things, after His own likeness. Life is reflected in existence, Truth in truthfulness, God in goodness, which impart their own peace and permanence.” (*Science and Health*) It is comforting to know God fashions “all things” in His own likeness. When you look in the mirror, do you see yourself as God’s own likeness? Do you ever think about what it means to be His own likeness? Are you accepting traits about yourself that run contrary to this truth, physical problems, lack? Do you understand you exist because God exists and NOT because you are a bunch a material organs chugging about? Do you realize you are inherently honest and good because God is Truth and Goodness? When you become annoyed by another person, a rebellious child, a pesty bug, a news report – do you realize you are seeing His creation incorrectly and replace the error with the Truth? “God fashions all things, after His own likeness.” This is a provable fact that you can begin to experience for yourself, and by so doing bless others, as well! *****

Thank you for all these examples of seeing God’s likeness everywhere — a wake-up call to not be dismayed when things go wrong, but see it as an opportunity to correct it and prove God’s allness right here, right now.

And thank you for this Lesson on trusting and listening to God! *****

An Interpretation of The Story of Abigail

Because of the Bible Studies, I often read the stories in the lessons first as a historical account, and then again as though it is all happening within my consciousness. That started after being asked in

the discussions, “How can we apply this to our life now?”

In reading about Nabal and Abigail in I Samuel 25, the following came to me:

An opportunity to show kindness and compassion comes — an opportunity that will take nothing at all from me — yet the voice of mortal mind (Nabal) says “no”, and not just “no,” but is a jerk about it. Immediately, spiritual sense (divine Mind) makes God’s idea (consciousness) aware of the need to act quickly to rectify this. Embracing our true nature (Abigail) of wisdom, humility, generosity, honesty, and love for God, the situation is made right, and this use of Science averts any need of future suffering to get the point. Finally, having done right by divine Mind, the voice of mortal mind (Nabal) is shut up.

I know before coming to Plainfield, I failed this test many times and suffered much for it. I am so grateful that God brought me here to learn Christian Science, so I can begin to put the suffering and the missed opportunities behind. No one wants to be remembered as a Nabal! *****

“Embracing our true nature (Abigail) of wisdom, humility, generosity, honesty, and love for God.....” I love the thought that our true nature NEVER changes because it is God’s nature. We are the manifestation of this nature preserved by Him.

As a reminder the definition of Preserve: To save from decay; to keep in a sound state; as, to preserve fruit in winter. Salt is used to preserve meat. ...to keep in order to prevent decay of original qualities.

I should remember this and when the lies of mortal mind says I am imperfect in any way (physically or otherwise) resist the lies from that basis. Nothing discordant ever happened to God’s nature nor to my true being. *****

This story reminded me of what Mrs. Evans used to say so often: “Be so instant in Truth, that error is always too late!” Abigail didn’t waste any time to tap into her spiritual sense of things and do the right thing, getting herself completely out of the way. The light of God shone right through her! ***

In trusting her spiritual sense, Abigail had no concern about what her family (husband) may think of her actions, as she was only following what she knew God was directing her to do. “And God made man free.” *Science and Health*, p. 227:16 How great! *****

Liberating Power of God

In *Science and Health* it says “The power of God brings deliverance to the captive. No power can withstand divine love.” This is such a strong truth. If one’s efforts are based on divine love, they have the power of God.

When reading our lesson, I couldn’t help thinking of the golden rule, how simple, yet profound. How many problems could easily be resolved if one would ask if they would like what they impose on another. So much of enslaving prejudice would never get started. And how much more would one assert their rights based on Divine Love. This would wipe out the idea of a villain, as well as the idea of a victim. Neither one is the picture of man or woman made in God’s image. *****

You just cannot be held in slavery (mental or otherwise) if you know who you are as the likeness of God. This is the answer to every form of slavery — whether it is called Islam, mesmerism, wife-beating, sex slavery, or the repression of freedom in any way. The more obvious forms of slavery are coming to the surface and seen in all their ugliness. But the more subtle forms of mental slavery are still rampant; and their only freedom is found in knowing God and one’s self as His likeness. Horace Greeley is quoted as having said “It is impossible to enslave, mentally or socially, a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom.”

Those who want to enslave us will start by taking the Bible out of our schools, or by making it a crime to read it. *****

Just as no one can tell me $2+2=5$ because I know/understand that $2+2=4$, no one can convince me that I am not a child of God (free), because I understand the Truth better now. Error tries to convince us wrongly, hence our striving to throw off its lies. This is why I feel that God’s Truth revealed through Mrs. Eddy, as the message *Science and Health* teaches, when correctly understood, has to be the best liberating message to mankind. This must be why she only used the inspired sections of the Bible; since certain parts of the Bible, literally understood or misunderstood, could suggest that certain people are not as close to God. *Science and Health* tells us God is everywhere, the Christ is inherent in everyone; one creator, one creation! What has been done to this TRUTH through false education is the big challenge. Freedom is our birthright!! *****

The Virtuous Woman

What is a virtuous woman? The 1928 Webster dictionary says: “virtuous is morally good; being in conformity to the divine law; having great or powerful properties.”

A virtuous woman is ready to help all, reaching out to meet the need. She is clothed in strength and honor, not needing the newest fashion or glamorous clothing, but moral and strong in Truth. She is loving and kind, speaking as God directs. She takes care of her household, not being idle, but caring for others in a Christly way, not wanting to be waited on.

“The ideal woman corresponds to Life and Love.” *Science and Health*, p 517:10. “Let her own works praise her in the gates.” *****

Sometimes you will hear people listing their accomplishments or perhaps the accomplishments of their children etc. It is always best to let their “own works” praise them! *****

“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.”

I am very grateful for the healing and lessons I am receiving here at Plainfield. I find that I am not as careless with my words and conversations. It took the understanding I am gaining here to start overcoming habits of talking that were often filled with human will, fear, careless words, and thoughtless. By facing the sin and healing the intent behind the unnecessary talking, I am beginning to feel greater peace in my life. It takes great discipline, but well worth the effort and prayer. Below are a couple of reminders I keep around.

WAIT: Why Am I Talking

Silence is good, don't just fill the air with unnecessary conversation.

Guard your tongue. (Proverbs 21:23)

Is what I am saying a blessing or a curse?

THINK: Is it True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, Kind. *****

SUBJECT – Is The Universe, Including Man, Evolved By Atomic Force? – June 19th, 2016

Evolved

Being is not evolved. The changeless, eternal, and perfect state of being is reality. Inharmony and variableness is not going on anywhere but in mortal mind. Seemingly.

But I do it all the time! I observe what seems to be going on outside of me, an unreal, horrible world, with lots of horrible people in it. It is presented to us continually, whether by looking at Facebook, the BBC, the C.S. Monitor or whatever. A real horror story, relentless evil and stupidity.

I know that the man I see is the man I am, so in the process of absorbing in my consciousness all this garbage, I tend to become a discordant mortal too. I have to realize that the inharmony is not going on anywhere except in the deluded mortal consciousness. The suggestion of an evil, material

and evolving world is pure animal magnetism, which is jargon, meaning it is a hypnotic suggestion trying to become “me,” to become my consciousness.

Milton Simon, in an article titled “Which One,” explains it very clearly. “One can change what appears as an outward manifestation by changing his thinking. The phenomenon it sees as the world is occurring only within the seeming human consciousness itself, for it sees its own thoughts. The error one sees in another is but his own sense of that one, and it is only that sense and never the person that needs to be reformed. The consciousness illumined with the Christ. Truth, is an unailing remedy, for enlightenment precludes the acceptance of erring belief.” *****

We should know that evil proceedeth not from God, good, but is a false belief of the personal senses, and if we deny the claims of these senses and recognize man as governed by God, Spirit, the temptation to sin will disappear. (Misc.198.)

The Christ never was and never could be aware of even one of the myriad suggestions of the carnal mind. Because the divine Mind has no awareness of sin, disease, and death, this triad of errors can never be your experience. “Such PREPOSTEROUS DELUSIONS as accident, sin, disease, old age, and death.” *****

The Wondrous Works of God

“Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.” (Job)

What a wonderful way to counteract the lies that animal magnetism is constantly parading before our eyes, by filling our thoughts and our being with “the wondrous works of God”!

Mrs. Eddy says to “Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionately to their occupancy of your thoughts.” (*Science and Health*, p. 261:4) Refusing to stand in awe of wickedness and hate, let us stand in awe of “the wondrous works of God”!! and not give evil any life at all—since it never was, is not now, and never can be the truth of being. God is All! And the world will be blessed!

Beautiful Carol; running errands the thought kept coming to acknowledge the Christ in myself and see it everywhere I go!

This I feel does protect my “demonstrating thought.” *****

This was a good reminder to me to also acknowledge the beautiful things God created – the trees, flowers, stars, birds, a rainbow etc. and thank Him for them. “God saw everything he had made, and, behold, it was very good.” Genesis 1:31 *****

To infinite, ever-present Love, all is Love, and there is no error, no sin, sickness, nor death. To Truth, there is no error, – all is Truth. Our efforts are directed at having no mind before Mind. The kingdom, or Christ-consciousness, is Life living itself, wholly unaware of any mortal, material sense of living. (Keeps me busy and on my toes).

Be Thou Perfect

4. Genesis 17

1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

When I was young, I had a very material view of what perfection must be. Somehow it felt to be perfect meant everything from being clean and well-groomed, to no missteps or flubbed words, to being smart and funny. I think I got that idea because in school, messing up any of those things gets you made fun of. In my adult years, I added hardworking, able to pay the bills, keep the house warm, and whatever else I needed to do to keep my little corner of the universe going. All that didn't work long, though, as the material way is doomed. It can't evolve away its way from failure!

At Plainfield, I began to learn about Christian Science. Starting to understand that God is Spirit, and we are spiritual, has really changed how I think about what it means to be perfect. Since we are God's ideas, and He is Truth, Life, Love, Spirit, Soul, Principle, and Mind, it makes no sense to think of perfection as I did. In any given situation, perfection can only be manifest by listening to how

God is directing me to express His qualities, and then actually doing it. What a hugely different thought for me, yet one that makes complete sense. I know I am just starting to understand, but it is so exciting to be able to see beyond my childish thoughts, beyond material beliefs, to the spiritual truth. Thank you! *****

Children of The King!

“Mortals can never understand God's creation while believing that man is a creator.” (*Science and Health*) How many times during the day are we tempted to believe that man is a creator? Do you accept hereditary beliefs as true? Do you delve into your genealogy? Are you under the belief that something a parent did or said to you as a child has marred you for life? You can never understand God's creation and experience all the blessings this brings while doing so. I love what Una Willard writes in her article “Your Background” (found on our Web site) which reads in part: “You came forth from, and are the substance of Spirit: you are the loved of God. Your whole background is the background of Love, and Love only; and there never has been, and never can be, a power that can change the status of Love's child. You emerged from the background of radiance and beauty.” These truths are important to claim as our own for as Mrs. Eddy states, “We are the children of the King; why should we mourn?”! *****

Stand Still

“Stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.” Job 37:14 This is about our thoughts, not our body—spiritual activity, not material. You can't hear God's direction, the only one to listen for, if our thoughts are cluttered. God has only good for us. We must be quiet so we can hear His voice. ***

I just want to say, many times, if one's mind isn't peaceful and still, the body might react likewise. This can take numerous forms...twitching, wiggling, coughing, various nervous physical behaviors. Take it from “one who knows”: “Been there, done that!”