## FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

## WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM ISSUE 75

SUBJECT: Man - September 4th, 2016

## **A Recipe**

The responsive reading this week has a great recipe for how to be the "man" God made. That is, one with a joyful heart, very intelligent, and prosperous for a long, long time.

"The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart." Learn God's laws and follow them. They are in the Bible and in the Christian Science textbook. Guaranteed to make you happy.

"The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Trust your spiritual sense and obey what God is telling you. And never fear the consequences. God's commands are always right. You will be smarter than you ever could be just by following this simple rule.

"The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever." Love God above all else, and He will take care of everything else in your life. And He will do it forever!

"The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. And in keeping of them there is great reward." Seeking God's will each day and following it to the best of your ability is the only sure way to success. It is the only safety.

I thank God to be learning that life is not complicated, nor does it have to be a drag half the time. There are challenges each day, of course, but God has given each of us the ability to have "dominion over the earth." And this means a life of joy, intelligence, and abundance of everything good. What God gives, no man can take away.\*\*\*

This post is putting into practice what we are learning at the Roundtables – take a statement, find out what it means and how we can put it into practice in our daily life, and then use it. This "recipe" is very helpful.

Thank God for Mary Baker Eddy, Christian

Science, for our practitioners and the teaching we are receiving in this church. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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It's so true! I remember Mrs. Evans would sometimes refer to "KISS" — Keep it simple, sweetie! The so-called human or mortal mind thrives on humanly fabricated complicated nonsense derived from the material senses, which is more often than not a recipe for disaster.

Keeping thought on God-being obedient to him as the Bible instructs-keeps things clear and simple. Keep "plugged in" to God, and He will provide everything we need. It's not complicated... but it requires turning away from all the clamor of the material picture. I love this "recipe"—anyone can follow it! It's beautifully simple. Thank you. \*\*\*\*\*

## **Deep Cleansing Needed**

What a great lesson, teaching what a spiritual deep cleaning of our hearts/consciousness means. The reward is the purity that allows the awareness of our true selves. "The pure in heart see God." Without that cleansing, there wouldn't be the pure foundation for a lasting spiritualization of thought. Otherwise, there would be holiness upon unholiness! \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Jesus was quick to rebuke false appearances. It is not appearances that make the man, but, rather his state of thought. He saved his sharpest rebukes for the Pharisees that paraded around in their purple robes, appearing righteous, yet harbored hateful and lusting thoughts. "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter that the outside of them may be clean also."

Jesus stressed over and again that it is our thought that determines whether we will be healed. It is our thought that determines our receptivity to God's direction, and our ability to help others. Yet, how often do we concern ourselves with outward appearance? How do I look? How does my family look? Am I appearing to do the right thing? Am I hanging out with the right people? We should rebuke these thoughts when they come to us!

Jesus had no patience with this hypocrisy. Neither did Mrs. Eddy. They both taught that the Science of Life is wholly spiritual, and that material appearances are deception, not reality. That is why they implore us to trust our spiritual sense only and not be deceived by the outward appearance of things (and not deceive ourselves or try to deceive anyone else).

Do you aspire to the worldly measures of success? More money? More beauty? Fine clothes? Friends in high places? A bigger car? Does God care about any of this?

The most important thing we can do is to guard our thought. "cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins." (Psalm 19). "Stand porter at the door of thought" (*Science and Health*). Everything else follows.\*\*\*

## ...A Change of Base

Science and Health, p.162 The effect of this Science is to stir the human mind to a change of base, on which it may yield to the harmony of the divine Mind.

When I reached my lowest point, when suicide seemed the only option, I remember feeling that the system I was living in had no other path. I could see no other way. Then God showed me another way — the only way! — and brought me to Plainfield. This change of base showed me over time that the system I saw no way out of — the system I thought was everything — was just a very finite mesmerism of mortal mind.

That seems to be mortal mind's only ability: getting us to believe in a small and poorly designed life.\*

In the lesson, the father and the son with "a dumb spirit" lived in this kind of badly constructed belief,

until the father found Jesus and began to have his base changed. It is no wonder he said, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief" as the process of seeing a way beyond what he always knew is just as difficult as it was for me those years ago.

But the hope the Christ brings us is enough to continue forward!

In the 1828 Webster's Dictionary, one of the many definitions of base is "anybody which is dissolved by another body, which it receives and fixes." Science has certainly done that for me, as it did for the son with "a dumb spirit." Thank you!

\* This is a good reminder for me: If my life starts feeling like a small or poorly designed system, I need that change of base, which only Science brings. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! I really like that definition of "base." A change of base, from the human sense of things to the Divine understanding, is requisite for progress. It does often come with suffering as the old man with his ways is cast off for the new. I love what Mrs. Eddy says on page 1 of Miscellaneous Writings, regarding this, — "Humility is the stepping-stone to a higher recognition of Deity. The mounting sense gathers fresh forms and strange fire from the ashes of dissolving self, and drops the world"

## The Muddy River-Bed Must Be Stirred

When everything seemed to be getting worse; increased fear and deeper sense of worsened problems occurred, I wondered what was happening. It appeared as though I was worse off than before I started to study Science. Thank God, by then, there was nowhere else to turn and there was no going back. As painful as this stirring was, there was still "something" that kept me going forward with the awareness of what I was gaining.....it was the beginning of a purification process so that I could gain the understanding for living the Truth. Without this, the "river" might have appeared clean on the surface with a lot of debris and impurities dormant underneath!

### If Thou Canst - Believe!

"And Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." What a beautiful heart felt prayer that is! How many times, perhaps especially with loved ones in trouble, do we feel our faith falter and yet here is an example of when we cry out to the Christ, in our extremity he will come and bring relief and healing. Mrs. Eddy's definition of "belief" in the Glossary is "Firmness and constancy; not a faltering nor a blind faith, but the perception of spiritual Truth." This requires a day by day, moment by moment living our faith and our trust in the Father. It is not something you can conjure up at the last moment! Seeing God working in our life and in our world, seeing His creation as He made it, builds up a strong faith in Him that will never fail or falter. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# **SUBJECT –Substance – September 11th, 2016**

## ... The Substance of Things Hoped For

#### 1. Hebrews 11

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

In Chapter 4 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, by Mary Baker Eddy, on page 103, she included the following:

Mortality, materiality, and destructive forces, such as sin, disease, and death, mortals virtually name *substance*; but these are the substance of things *not* hoped for. For lack of knowing what substance is, the senses say vaguely: "The substance of life is sorrow and mortality; for who knoweth the substance of good?" In Science, form and individuality are never lost, thoughts are outlined, individualized ideas, which dwell forever in the divine Mind as

tangible, true substance, because eternally conscious. Unlike mortal mind, which must be ever in bondage, the eternal Mind is free, unlimited, and knows not the temporal.

I am always grateful when Mrs. Eddy gives opposites to illustrate the point. I have plenty of experience with the things not hoped for, and her words allow me to see more clearly what I do hope for. I am also grateful to this church, as before coming here I thought to hope against "mortality, materiality, and destructive forces" was just wishful thinking. Now I am starting to understand that Christian Science gives us the tools to move beyond the bondage of mortal mind, and what a wonderful God we have that would give us all we need to look past material senses to the evidence of things not seen, to find that the substance of things hoped for is true substance. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

It is so freeing to have a reason and evidence to not expect sin, sickness, and death. Instead, we now can say "NO" to them and work for what God has for all, (i.e., holiness, health and harmony) as God instructs, as Christian Science teaches, as answered prayer directs. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### **Trials**

"Every trial of our faith in God makes us stronger." *Science and Health*, p.410:14

When I first came to Christian Science, I didn't want trials. I didn't want the experience or suffering that puts strength and patience of faith to the test. I wanted everything to be "nice." That was the human desire, to be comfortable in matter. I made my own problems because of false beliefs.

I soon found that the "trials" were a stepping-stone that made me learn how to apply Christian Science and how to live a Christly life and work for God. It was to advance me to a higher understanding. During the trials, I prayed and worked harder than when things were "nice." The desire for the "nice" left. Instead, advancing in Christian Science became the desire.

Thank God for Christian Science that destroys the false beliefs we have learned. We can be assured that "Truth is always the victor." *Science and Health* \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Science and Health, p. 410: 14-17 Every trial of our faith in God makes us stronger. The more difficult seems the material condition to be overcome by Spirit, the stronger should be our faith and the purer our love. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### The Shunammite

The Shunammite woman must have had a strong spiritual sense to recognize the substance of Spirit (God) in Elisha. She was careful to provide him with all he needed as he passed through in his journeys. Yet, she had a weak sense of the Allness of God. When Elisha told her that she would have a son, she didn't believe him. Here was a man of God, but her concept of God was personal. She didn't grasp the complete perfection of God at work. Even after she had her son, she didn't see his complete perfection as the image and likeness of God. As a result of her personal sense of her son, and of Elisha, she lost her son. Elisha had a much stronger sense of the perfection and completeness

God's work and was able to raise her son.

To me, this lesson is profound. Everything we are and have is of God, and its substance is spiritual; therefore permanent. If we give our children to God, have no personal sense of creation or ownership, we are seeing and doing for them correctly. The same is true of our homes, our businesses, our friendships, and everything else in our experience. When we recognize the permanence of Spirit as the source of everything we have, we can never lose it. Why? Because we are then seeing the true substance of it, and acknowledging God as it's source. It is only when we have a personal sense of ownership, and a human or material sense of its substance, that we live in fear of losing what we treasure. What God gives can never be lost. My prayer is to never forget it! \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

What blessed assurance that our spiritual perfection is indestructible! \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

## Where Is Your Expectation

Our Golden text this week says "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him." So, in response to where our expectation is, the healthy answer would be "I expect God will show His way, I expect to have sufficient perception to recognize it, and I expect to follow it gladly with my whole heart." \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Yes, I have found out (mostly by the hard way!), why it is so important before we approach any venture to have our expectation from the Lord. In other words, when speaking to someone – expect that he will be receptive to the truth being spoken, when working on a project for God – expect you will have everything you need to accomplish the task and that it will accomplish its purpose. When traveling – expect the way to be made clear for you and for all to be in the hands of God. Be mindful of any negative thoughts that would try to argue defeat or discouragement, kick those suggestions out, and let your expectation be from the Lord! It will have a tremendous effect on all you say and do!