

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Truth – January 22nd, 2017**

**Hides the Divine Possibilities**

## What is Truth?

*Science and Health* p. 223: 14-24.

The question, “What is Truth,” convulses the world. Then it says: The efforts of error to answer this question by some ology are vain.

The word convulses is very strong. From Websters 1828 the second definition gives this: 2. To shake; to affect by violent irregular action.

It is through Christian Science that I began to think of God as Truth. Truth knows no evil or no falsehoods. It is light that does reveal all error.

People are seeking the Truth everywhere; it cannot be found in any other way than by our cultivated spiritual sense. Through this we find God, Truth and we can find our true selves. \*\*\*\*\*

“Through (our cultivated spiritual sense) we find God, Truth and we can find our true selves.”

Finding our true selves isn’t easy, it requires being honest, and listening to what God has to say.

Getting ourselves out of the way... so that God may reveal Himself. It took me quite a while to truly get honest and get God!

I’m grateful to know God through the seven synonyms that Mrs. Eddy brought us: Principle, Mind, Soul, Spirit, Life, TRUTH, Love. And to know God (or Truth) is a constant knowing, the work of a lifetime... eternity! \*\*\*\*\*

From Webster’s 1828 dictionary, to cultivate: to till, to improve by study or labor, to refine and improve by correction of faults.

The “cultivating” is the eternal striving for deeper understanding and knowing of God’s nature and our true being, which teaches our freedom from all ills. No one can finish this eternal work! But the continual persistence, joyous or painful finding out, knowing and loving what is true leads us on! \*\*\*\*\*

“When first spoken in any age, Truth, like the light, ‘shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.’ A false sense of life, substance, and mind hides the divine possibilities, and conceals scientific demonstration.” (*Science and Health*) The sun is always shining, even when the clouds obscure our vision of it. So it is with God – His Love for His creation is always pouring forth to bless all. It is only our misconceptions about Him, our false beliefs about what really constitutes our true being that shuts our eyes to these blessings. Thank God for Mrs. Eddy and for Christian Science which opens the blinded eye so we may behold “the way, the truth and the life” as shown to us by Christ Jesus. The divine possibilities are always present – don’t let error keep you from seeing what is right before you! \*\*\*\*\*

I’m thankful for our most recent roundtable discussion about the importance of looking. It was pointed out, the many times that we are instructed in the bible to ‘behold’ and this is something that has been a great blessing to me in most recent years. I am now understanding that the healings I experience all come about through the *realization* of ever-present truth. What’s required of me is not to merely ask for an answer, healing, or blessing, etc. but to look to God, with unyielding patience and an open heart, in order for what is right to be revealed unto me. We’ve been instructed that “truth comes when needed” so when I am in need and I feel I am not finding an answer, I must be sure that I am looking, and looking in the right direction. If so, there is no evil suggestion to keep me from seeing what I need to see! \*\*\*\*\*

One attribute of ‘looking’ is to have ones eyes open. When one ‘looks’ in the right direction, one must also do so with ‘open’ eyes and an ‘open heart’ or we miss what we are supposed to see. I’m grateful to be learning here how to ‘open’ my eyes to use spiritual sense because otherwise, I miss what God is trying to tell me!! \*\*\*\*\*

## Renounce the Hidden Things

Paul states in II Corinthians “Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty”. We are all in the ministry of being truthful. The very nature of Truth is that the truth comes to light and is known. We should gladly welcome the searchlight. It reveals what needs to be known, reveals the good, and exposes that which needs to be removed. There is more to dishonesty than telling a lie. It also includes keeping things hidden that need to be known. Evil breeds in secrecy. What a quality of character it is to trust our God with disposal of events and allow the light of truth do its work. \*\*\*\*\*

The sentence in the Bible citation goes on to give us some clues as to what is really at work to create the hidden things of dishonesty: “not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;”

Mrs. Eddy tells us that one of the requirements for practicing Christian Science is unselfed love. Selfishness is the downfall of every Christian. Those who strive to promote themselves, or to use Christian Science for personal gain or benefit, are “handling the word of God deceitfully.” It can’t work, because selfishness is a belief in many human minds, a belief that good is not infinite, and that it is material, not spiritual. This is all self-deception, handling the word of God deceitfully, which is ultimately dishonest for a Christian. The standard of Christian Science is “perfect God and perfect man” (*Science and Health*, 259), which excludes selfishness.

There is nothing more liberating than to take this truth to heart, burn out the darkness of selfishness, and walk in the light. \*\*\*\*\*

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Thank you for this post! I was clueless about this before coming to Plainfield. This selfishness thing is very subtle... so I was, at one time, selfishly

misguided without really realizing it.

“There is nothing more liberating than to take this truth to heart, burn out the darkness of selfishness, and walk in the light.” Very true! I so appreciate the teaching here and this forum. \*\*\*\*\*

## Spirit of The Lord

“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;” I found great comfort in this statement and am grateful to Plainfield for all it teaches about Truth, God who blesses man, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD..”

Before coming to Plainfield I found myself taken in by the world’s beliefs about the brain, especially when working in education with children with special needs. In Philippians 2 we read, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” and Mrs. Eddy writes, “The divine Mind that made man maintains His own image and likeness. The human mind is opposed to God and must be put off, as St. Paul declares.” Brain research is all about matter and personality, with no God in it.

The Bible tells us in many ways that God gives us our thoughts of peace, strength, life, joy, clarity, and freedom. If we hold to a brain as the source of our thinking, we are opening ourselves up to beliefs of nerves, brain washing, deterioration, limitation, mental health laws and the list grows with all that would try to separate us from God. We are taught to declare, “God is Mind. God is my Mind. God is the only pure and perfect Mind.” \*\*\*\*\*

## Christ The Light

II Corinthians: For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

5. 332 : 9 (Christ)-15

Christ is the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to men speaking to the human consciousness. The Christ is incorporeal, spiritual,

— yea, the divine image and likeness, dispelling the illusions of the senses; the Way, the Truth, and the Life, healing the sick and casting out evils, destroying sin, disease, and death.

And we are taught here at Plainfield to look to the Christ...hold this Truth perpetually in our thought... put this armor on..."And Be Ye Saved"!

## **SUBJECT – Love – January 29th, 2017**

### **Love From God - An Honor and A Trust**

Joshua 23:4. "Behold, I have divided unto you by lot these nations that remain,..." I finally realize that this promise from God would establish peace locally, and even worldwide and even universally. Dominion from God is Love's dominion. It must bless, free, progress, protect, and heal, even universally. Yes, this dominion may be resisted, but it is divine love and requires the custodians to persist. No one has to have a political position or be a captain of business to be a custodian. There are no material accomplishments required.  
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Yes, God's love does flow freely to all mankind without any "material requirements." The requirements are spiritual; since as we understand God more and do His will, the more we realize the good He already has in store for all His children. As we are learning, only false education, opinions, so-called human laws would make anyone think otherwise.

Isa 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Our loving Father gives freely of all our needs. \*\*

Thank you for this post. In the responsive reading, "He delivered me, because he delighted in me." Here is a clear statement of God's love for us. He delighted in me because He loves me, and He loves me unconditionally. God does not love mortal belief or unjust behavior or wickedness. He loves His creation. And the truth about each of us is that we are His creation. And His love for us is the only security we have. Which is why obedience to God and the moral laws which are God, is our only

security. It will bless and free any individual or nation that puts their whole heart into obedience to God. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Unselfed**

*Science and Health*, p. 192: 30-31.

Whatever holds human thought in line with unselfed love, receives directly the divine power.

Here at Plainfield Church, I am beginning to understand what unselfed love really is. In the past, I thought unselfed love was letting people have their own way, and always giving to the point of not taking care of what I thought was really moral or just. Unselfed is being wholly obedient to God! This is a whole new way of living and thinking. \*\*\*

In order to be obedient to his commands, to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" and "love thy neighbor as thyself," I need to watch my thinking and keep it aligned with God. When I react in anger, hate, stand aghast, fear or self-pity, I am allowing the opposition to make me feel separated from God, which makes my work for God seem ineffective. Then I have allowed it to rob my working thought.

### **His Commandments Are Not Grievous**

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." (I John) That word "grievous" means "heavy, oppressive, burdensome." It is clearly the ploy of the devil to turn things upside down in such a fashion so that John needed to point out God's commandments are never grievous. How could the commandments of God be considered burdensome? – and yet I have known some who think anything to do with God is somehow pure drudgery! The very opposite is true – NOT obeying God and His commandments leads to pure drudgery and enslavement. Obedience to God brings peace, joy, and a purposeful life. Error is very tricky and would try to deceive "the very elect."! This is why it is so important to know the Bible and become familiar with our loving Father-Mother God. "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah)

Check out His other bequests. What do the Beatitudes require of us? Doesn't sound like drudgery to me! \*\*\*\*\*

## **Glorify God**

Ten Lepers were healed. They asked for mercy, for help and Jesus healed them. Only one returned to give thanks. This one leper gave God the honor and the power for his healing. He felt the love of God and was compelled to return his love to God through gratitude. Mrs. Eddy asks, "Are we REALLY grateful for the good already received?" If a challenge in my life occurs and I become stuck on overcoming the challenge I am actually preventing the healing. I am forgetting all that God has done for me. I am no better than the nine lepers! How selfish!

It is a must to thank God! Honoring God by recognizing God as the only power enables me to be open for more blessings. It gives me the opportunity to help others. True gratitude, not just words, but heartfelt gratitude to God for past blessings, breaks the mesmerism of the present challenge and keeps me on the straight and narrow path. It brings hope and prevents discouragement. When I give gratitude to God it fills me with love and joy. Just like the grateful leper, I also feel the connection with God and all that He has created and for this I am eternally grateful. \*\*\*\*\*

## **These Words... Shall Be In Thine Heart**

Deuteronomy 6 is instructive in practical ways to stay with God as we go about our days. Reading Matthew Henry's commentary, he had this to say, "He that loves God loves his Bible." I love how simple and true this is!

And he goes on to say: "Pious discourse. "Thou shalt talk of these things, with due reverence and seriousness, for the benefit not only of thy children, but of thy other domestics, thy friends and companions, as thou sittest in thy house at work, or at meat, or at rest, or to receive visits, and when thou walkest by the way for diversion, or for conversation, of in journeys, when at night thou art retiring from thy family to lie down for sleep, and

when in the morning thou hast risen up and returnest to thy family again. Take all occasions to discourse with those about thee of divine things; not of unrevealed mysteries, or matters of doubtful disputation, but of the plain truths and laws of God, and the things that belong to our peace."

I know that it's only relatively recently that I've shared Bible truths, and Christian Science (aka the Laws of the Universe, or "the plain truths and laws of God") with others—and most people are not only receptive, but grateful and comforted to hear. When I think of how I kept these things mostly to myself for so many years! But I'm now making up for lost time and sharing "the things that belong to our (to my) peace"... "for the more conversant we are with them the more we shall admire them and be affected with them, and may thereby be instrumental to communicate divine light and heat."

When the words are in my heart, then I can share my heart with others. (It's far from being "preachy" which usually doesn't go down well at all). And this world sure could use more people sharing their hearts with others! (Like what happens at our Wednesday testimony meetings)!

## **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 18**

2. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

He is both the rock I hurl to defeat error and the rock I build upon.

He is the fortress that I am ever safe from evil within.

He is the deliverer that has pulled me from the brink and brought me to safety.

He is the strength to do what is right and what is good.

He is that which has never failed me — my trust is never misplaced in Him.

He provides the armor, the sword, and the shield, and even buckles me in.

He provides both the salvation and the method to call out to Him when in need.

He is the high tower to watch from — the uplifting thought, the dispelling Truth, the correcting Love.