

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals –
May 14th, 2017**

Mortals or Immortals

It was immortal man that Jesus beheld perfect in Science and so must we.
This is wonderful from Miscellany, pg. 242:3-10: You can never demonstrate spirituality until you declare yourself to be immortal and understand that you are so. Christian Science is absolute; it is neither behind the point of perfection nor advancing towards it; it is at this point and must be practiced therefrom. Unless you fully perceive that you are the child of God, hence perfect, you have no Principle to demonstrate and no rule for its demonstration. *****

The Truth of Being is Perennial

“The truth of being is perennial, and the error is unreal and obsolete.” (*Science and Health*) The definition of “perennial” is “perpetual, unceasing, never failing” and the definition of “obsolete” is “no longer produced or used.” It is so comforting to be reminded that all of truth will continue forever, constantly revealing itself as the beautiful perennial flowers returning in all their glory every Spring, never failing to bud and bloom – or as described to us in hymn # 329. “The heavens declare the glory of Him who made all things; Each day repeats the story, Each night its tribute brings. To earth’s remotest border His mighty power is known; In beauty, grandeur, order, His handiwork is shown.” While, on the other hand, evil is a big fat 0. It is Godless, has no source, no form, no identity. This truth can and does wipe out its seeming reality. Martha Wilcox wrote a helpful article entitled “Evil Obsolete” which is well worth the study. You can find it in her book on page 175. *****

Foundation of Mortal Discord: Mother-Father vs. mother-father

“[A]nd his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”

And **they understood not** the saying ...”

“The foundation of mortal discord is a false sense of man’s origin” (*Science and Health*, p. 262).

The word “mother” is derived from the Latin “mater,” meaning “origin, source, mother” from which is also derived “matter.”

Thus, the more appropriate term for Mother’s Day is: Matter’s Day. Father’s Day, as well. *****

Thank you! Mrs. Evans maintained that Mother’s Day is the worst holiday of all because it perpetuates the prevalent belief that man is born into matter and will die out of it. This, however, does not mean we throw our earthly mother or any relative, for that matter, out the door! We can impersonalize all the good they do and have expressed and realize it came and comes from our true heavenly Father-Mother God. Mrs. Eddy was extremely fond and grateful for her mother for she expressed Christly love and compassion. Understanding God is the Father and Mother of all enriches our love for all our relationships by keeping God in the middle of it – otherwise it can fall into the trap of human love and human manipulation, human resentment and human ownership, and all the other etcetera’s of the Adam dream. As was sung by Faith and Jon on Sunday, we must simply learn to “rise above the mist.”!

Science and Health, p. 356

Does God Create a Material Man Out of Himself, Spirit?

I've contemplated this basic question a lot, as my previous beliefs had me quite confused about this point. I remember as a child imagining God going through the universe with a bag of atoms, taking some out here to make a star and some there to make a planet. How else but with such a childish thought can we rectify God with the human idea of materiality? I now can see two flaws with that idea:

- The first is that there was a need for that "bag of atoms." The substance God builds from is Spirit, and not matter.
- The second is that God does not wander about in the universe. He is the system within which our universe, our world, and our consciousness "live and move and have our being;" He is not some powerful being affecting it from within. He *is* Truth, Life, Love, Spirit, Soul, Mind, Principle, and all goodness, substance, and reality.

This understanding shows me how absurd it is to think that a dense ball of matter exploded and then billions of years of accidents and false starts and evolution led to the universe, the Earth, and mankind. We teach small children that two wrongs don't make a right, and then later on school teaches them that trillions and trillions of wrongs eventually make up all that is right and good. Insanity! *****

I love how Christian Science indeed feels right. It truly is the Comforter. I believe it was Mrs. Evans who pointed out to her students that "C.S." also stands for "Common Sense"! I liked that because as ideas reflecting the one Mind, we all have that in common, and it all makes sense. I have not found any answers in old theology or material science in attempting to explain the greater questions of the Universe. Christian Science, aka Jesus' teachings, or the Laws of the Universe, explains these laws and how to demonstrate the Truth of Being. What more could one want? *****

Reconciled To God

II Corinthians 5: 16-20

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

From our Web site dictionary in part: reconciled is to be adjusted, made consistent. And this is all done through Christ Jesus. Take heart. We are made new. We are in Christ and we can claim this gift of grace. While pondering this it came to me that we must do this every day... my old theology understanding was that if you didn't get it at a certain point you missed it. Not so! It is never too late to be reconciled to God through Christ Jesus.

Become New

"...old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

I found the article below after a recent discussion on making excuses.

Excuse: To justify

THE EXCUSE-MAKING HABIT

CLARENCE W. CHADWICK

Sentinel Feb. 13, 1909

"One who is learning to follow in the footsteps of the Master must constantly strive to correct and forsake his faults and not to excuse them. Blind faith or profession cannot bring about this practical putting off of "the old man"; it requires spiritual understanding. However plausible the excuse, it can never bring about reformation or regeneration.... Error, no matter in what form manifested, cannot be ignored, concealed, or smoothed over, but that it must be dealt with scientifically and at once."

I see now that this habit is disobedience and self-justification which Mrs. Eddy tells us in Science and Health is, "... the adamant of error, — self-

will, self-justification, and self-love, — which wars against spirituality.” An excuse is not an antidote to mistakes, but makes it seem more real.

I am grateful for the clear teaching here, for with it we can gain the spiritual understanding to follow Jesus’ footsteps. I now understand why we are told we must not let things build, but clear our slate every day. The better use of my time, energy and worship is obeying God to the best of my ability.

SUBJECT: Soul and Body – May 21st, 2017

Jacob's Evil Twin?

Thanks for this lesson! As with so many terms in her Glossary, Mrs. Eddy describes “Jacob” as having 2 opposite meanings, one derived from sense and the other from Soul.

With his estranged twin brother pursuing him to avenge a wrong done to him years before, it was Jacob’s darkest hour; yet it was as though Jacob knew better than to regard an external twin as the problem; instead, it was time to immolate his own mortal, sense-derived selfhood, insisting on its own reality, badgering him like an evil twin at his side, holding tireless watch, bent on gaining supremacy over Jacob’s true, spiritual identity.

On a practical level, this story is a wake-up call for me to allow neither whisper nor roar derived from the 5 tricksters, the corporeal senses to deter my footsteps up the mount of spiritual attainment, but rather to wrestle down and overthrow the mortal self that Jesus called out as a liar and the father of lies.

“Be of good cheer; the warfare with one’s self is grand; it gives one plenty of employment, and the divine Principle worketh with you, and obedience crowns persistent effort with everlasting victory” (Misc. 118:24-28). *****

Jacob's Prayer

Thank you Lesson writer for this reminder of how Jacob’s wrestling is an example for us all. Every

time I read this story, I remember my own desperate moments when alone, with deep humility I have had to turn completely to God for His help for me to see the unreality of a claim!! I am so grateful that without fail the light of Truth has always come through to my aid. This proves God is always at hand to bless!! *****

Yes! And it is worth noting that, although Jacob was tempted to stop wrestling, he refused to do so until he was blessed by the experience. Mrs. Evans taught us to “demand the blessing” from every experience. No matter how tough or painful the experience may be, there is always a blessing in it, and we should always demand to be blessed by every experience we have. This is consistent with having a positive expectancy, whether we are in prison, in sickness, or in a bad relationship, we can and should demand the blessing from our wrestling, and not stop wrestling until we are blessed. *****

When I first heard the phrase “demand the blessing,” it felt like a brazen thing to do. Yet now, after learning more about Christian Science, I see how it is a natural part of living in obedience to God. His goodness permeates all creation; permeates me! So...why would I have to demand it? Because the human mind is constantly claiming I don’t deserve good, or that there is no good to be had. If I am awake, however, it is plain to see all the good and all the blessings that God is imparting.

I am grateful to this church, and Christian Science, because, like Jacob, I would have continued to “demand the blessing” from people, instead of God. How much good can a human father’s blessing give us, whether we gain it honestly or through trickery? Only our Father’s blessing counts! Only that brings healing, gives purpose, and makes “the day breaketh.”

Thank you, Plainfield, for teaching me where to look for good and for blessings, and to keep wrestling until I gain it. *****

The Good Fight

“The result of Jacob’s struggle thus appeared. He had conquered material error with the understanding of Spirit and of spiritual power. This changed the

man. He was no longer called Jacob, but Israel, — a prince of God, or a soldier of God, who had fought a good fight. He was to become the father of those, who through earnest striving, followed his demonstration of the power of Spirit over the material senses; and the children of earth who followed his example were to be called the children of Israel, until the Messiah should rename them.”

Mrs. Eddy’s revelation of the Bible is the true teaching. We are Jacob as we struggle to understand Spirit and become soldiers for God. Striving, always striving, to overcome material sense and find peace and joy in Spirit and are then worthy to be called the children of Israel until... “the Messiah should rename them”. Thank you to our Lesson writer. *****

The good fight is so that we are not blinded anymore from what is the Truth...our perfection in God. All the striving is so that we can attain a fuller view of our glorious heritage. Hence the admonition to stick to the Truth of being even if it is only a glimpse of what is true about us! We cannot allow the false concepts and senses to dominate. *****

Humble Servant

“. . . man, who is the humble servant of the restful Mind.” *Science and Health*.

This statement stood out to me. To be humble I need to not have any pride, or assume I know what is best. I need to listen with an open heart to the commands of my master, God. I am to obey his commands and do as He directs. I do not question, for I know His will is always right. The restful Mind is calm, quiet. There is no anxiousness, anxiety, or stress in this peaceful Mind. *****

Restored

“Restored his Soul” *Science and Health*, p. 7 God created man in His image and liken

ess-perfect, spiritual—everyone. Thus, man always was spiritual if Soul was restored, recovered, renewed, not just created. What a blessing it is to know our spiritual reality - reflection of God.

The Gift of God

I am so grateful for this wonderful Science Mrs. Eddy gave us, the gift of God. I no longer have to fear when a physical or mental claim comes up. *Science and Health*, “Health is not a condition of matter, but of Mind; nor can the material senses bear reliable testimony on the subject of health... the divine Principle of Science, reversing the testimony of the physical senses, reveals man as harmoniously existent in Truth, which is the only basis of health;” *****

SUBJECT: Ancient and Modern Necromancy... – May 28th, 2017

Powerless Unreality

Science and Health, p.6 Jesus uncovered and rebuked sin before he cast it out. Of a sick woman, he said that Satan had bound her, and to Peter he said, “Thou art an offence unto me.”

Science and Health, p.234. We should become more familiar with good than with evil, and guard against false beliefs as watchfully as we bar our doors against the approach of thieves and murderers. Sin and disease must be thought before they can be manifested. You must control evil thoughts in the first instance, or they will control you in the second.

Whether evil appears as a physical claim or a character trait, am I saying “Get thee behind me” or “Thou art an offence unto me?” Or am I giving it audience with, “Oh! Why this” or “How did this happen.” Either of Jesus’ commands to the appearance of any claim denotes that I recognize its unreality and therefore its powerlessness? The fearful alarming questioning kind of response gets us into human reasoning; because we are already mesmerized, believing the evil is real and in the human mind we remain fearful looking for material justifications or material remedies.

Patient persistence in consistent uncovering and rebuking of sin, controlling thought to have the things of God dominant in our thinking is what gets us “familiar enough with good.” Rejecting resentful thoughts, selfish ambitions, judging/condemning

others, favoring some and not others, forgiving, being compassionate, loving enough to warn of evil will all help the reflecting of the Christ Mind. And that Mind is a bar against evil, it recognizes it and repels it while being a citadel preserving the purity of one's thinking. *****

A Falling Away First!

“For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there be a falling away first. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” (I Thessalonians)

“Except there be a falling away first.”!! This is an important warning to stay awake and obedient to the Father. As I, our nation, and world become more and more secular, it will also slip further and further into the Adam dream. This is where our work comes in as Christian Scientists – “holding crime in check” (S&H) as was read on Wednesday night and keeping ourselves watchful, sober, and dwelling in the 91st Psalm. We can be so grateful for Christian Science and for the peace and comfort it brings. Let us, as good stewards, continue to keep our lights shining brightly - for only in that way can we dispel the darkness and attract all mankind to our door! *****

The Voice We Listen To and Then Express

Genesis 39:7, 8, 14, 15

7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

8 But he refused,

14 ... she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

I have learned at this church that the voice of Truth and Love is constantly speaking to us through our

spiritual sense.

I have also seen how the ‘voice’ of error lifts itself up, trying to drown out our spiritual sense, to confuse and mislead.

I have lifted my voice for the right reasons, and also lifted it for the wrong. I have seen that people want to do good. They want to be on the side of right, but sometimes have no idea how to start. I know that was true of me, and after years of searching, I began to feel that perhaps there was no right. In that place, it is easy to look to the narrow confines of your family, friends, and culture to try to determine what is right. That rarely works out all that well, unless God is the focus!

In this story of Joseph, it seems that in a culture that valued power and the people who possessed it, the master's wife felt her only way to get ahead was to gain more of that power through “acquiring” Joseph. Likewise, in a culture that values complaining, people will seek to complain and disrupt more. In a culture that values money, they seek more money.

I am grateful that this church has a culture that values God, unity, and service, because that helps newcomers to understand exactly what must be done to move forward. If that newcomer arrives and does not “fight the system” then they are set up to move forward in a right way. Eventually, the benefits of what this church has, what authentic Christian Science has, will be obvious and one will do right because it is right by God, and not just right within the culture of the church.

I also think it is important to note that the stated culture must not be a mask for control. If a family says they value education, but just want to control what the child does, the child will feel that distinction, and rebel. Equally, if this church sought to humanly control its members, then it would have failed.

And The LORD Was With Joseph

“And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.”

I have always loved the story of Joseph in the Bible,

but it wasn't until coming to Plainfield that I thought about why the LORD was with Joseph. No matter what came his way, Joseph's love and trust of God never wavered, diminished, or was lost. He never questioned God. He went on, step-by-step, knowing that God was in complete control...a loving merciful God who was and always is available. What a great lesson for us all! ****

JOSEPH'S "ROBE OF SCIENCE"

The "many colors" of Joseph's coat are symbolic of Science (*Science and Health*, p. 568, paragraph heading – "The robe of Science) or what Mrs. Eddy called "truth's prism" (*Science and Health*, p. 556).

Joseph's testing began when his brothers, blinded by jealousy and envy, tore off his "coat of many colors" and sold him into slavery. Joseph's brothers were unable to discern a world beyond their own color-blind, mesmeric, monochromatic viewpoint.

But even as a slave in Egypt, Joseph remained clothed in his right mind, held to the truth that he was created in the image of God, and thus he made sure that his every action in Egypt — no matter how menial — reflected the standards of excellence of the Most High. No matter how difficult the circumstances in which he found himself, Joseph never removed his stately robe of Science, but wrapped himself in it ever more tightly, even after he left his physical garment in the hands of Potiphar's wife, and even after it was exchanged for a drab prison uniform.

How does this apply to me?

"One of Mrs. Eddy's students was very irritable over having to do so much domestic work. She said she did not have time for so much material work. Mrs. Eddy smiled and said, 'I didn't know there was any material work.'" (*Essays and Other Footprints*, page 72). *****

The Supporting Influence and Protecting Power

Science and Health, p. 387: 27-32 The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent Mind, who gives man faith and

understanding whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but from bodily suffering.

What wonderful reassurance to pick us up from those demoralizing, impatient, or discouraging times; to just remember we have that power and protection with us at all times. Also for the faith and understanding that finally reveals the unreality of even those physical claims, that seems so real and unyielding. We can remember God gives us the faith and understanding to overcome all wrong. Thank God, Christ Jesus, Mrs. Eddy and all who have sacrificed for the Truth to be known. *****

Thank you for this post. I love this statement, too. Often I have thought about God's protecting power being with me – and also how comforting that we all have His supporting influence! Often, it is easy to look to a friend, spouse, or some "authority" for support or for influence as to what direction to take. Here Mrs. Eddy is stating it is God who supports us – emotionally, physically, financially, in every way, and also it is He who will always influence us aright! What better protecting power and supporting influence could we possibly have?! *****

In The Strength of The Lord

From our Lessons: "the lord is my strength and song and is become my salvation," and "I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only."

1828 Webster's defines Strength:

2. Firmness; solidity or toughness,
3. Power or vigor of any kind.
5. That which supplies strength; security
7. Spirit;
14. That which supports; confidence.
16. Soundness
17. Vehemence;
19. Fortification;

This strength is from God, not personal will, so we can not be put to confusion, receive with meekness the word, endure temptation, not be weary in well doing, faint not, walk and be led in the Spirit, stand fast in the liberty, obey the truth.