

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: God the Only Cause and Creator – June 4th, 2017

God The Only Cause

I think it is interesting that the subject of our lesson this week is “God the Only Cause and Creator” – we often think about Him being the only Creator but the concept of God being the only Cause is equally important. Think about all these definitions of the word “cause” from the 1828 Webster Dictionary –

1. A suit or action in court; any legal process which a party institutes to obtain his demand, or by which he seeks his right or his supposed right.
2. That which produces an effect; that which impels into existence, or by its agency or operation produces what did not before exist;
3. The reason or motive that urges, moves, or impels the mind to act or decide.

It is well to remember that God is the Only Cause behind all of these definitions – we can pray and know God’s Cause and what is right and just by Him is all that can be expressed in the court room. We can also pray and know it is God that impels all actions and decisions and because He is the only Cause, the effect therefore must always be Good!

In the responsive reading, David repeats the statement, “how excellent is thy name in all the earth.” It is common in the Bible for statements of profound truth to be repeated for emphasis. Here, the use of the word “name” also was used to mean “nature” in the original language. This puts a new light on the statement for me. To me, the statement means, “All the earth manifests the nature of God, and it’s all perfect.” This is why everything on earth is under God’s control. He is the laws that govern everything. There is no place on earth, and no circumstance anywhere, in which God is not present and in complete control - the only cause and creator. *****

Creative Principle

S&H 1: “The creative Principle — Life, Truth, and Love — is God.”

I don’t think I ever looked up the word principle in the dictionary! I was surprised to learn that it is defined as: (Webster’s 1828)

- 1) In a general sense, the cause, source or origin of any thing.
- 3) Being that produces any thing; operative cause.
- 6) A general truth; a law comprehending many subordinate truths...”

Up to now, I have thought of Principle in terms of a “general truth”, not as “the cause, source or origin of any thing”, or “operative cause”.

I have always loved thinking of God as Principle—the first listed of the divine synonyms for God (S&H p. 115)—and now I have a better understanding why. The 7 synonyms for God are such a gift to contemplate, for me truly the Comforter! *****

"Of Purer Eyes"

II Kings 4:27 – “... her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.”

One would think that Elisha would have been sensitive enough to discern the Shunammite’s seemingly devastating loss of her only son.

But could it be that Elisha had grown so accustomed to the idea of God as the Principle of Life that he could no longer accept the reality of “death” to begin with? Had Elisha so divorced himself from personal sense that he was now, like his Maker, “of purer eyes than to behold” something as preposterous as death? To Elisha, the Shunammite’s son was a perfect manifestation of God as Life and Life only, Life omnipresent, with no room for anything other than Life to manifest itself.

“(Deep-reaching interrogations)

God is the Life, or intelligence, which forms and preserves the individuality and identity of animals, as well as of men. God cannot become finite, and be limited within material bounds. Spirit cannot become matter, nor can Spirit be developed through its opposite. Of what avail is it to investigate what is miscalled material life, which ends, even as it begins, in nameless nothingness? The true sense of being and its eternal perfection should appear now, even as it will hereafter” (SH, 550). *****

Thank you. Beautiful description of that state of mind which raises the dead – total disbelief in anything unlike God! *****

What a Content State of Thought!

11 Kings 4:13 And he said unto him, Say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

What this Shunammite demonstrates here is quite an example for us all; to do good without any hidden agendas.

From John Gill’s expositions:
wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host?

That her husband might be promoted to some post in the court, or in the camp; intimating, that if either of these was agreeable, Elisha would speak on his behalf, having interest in both through his services in Edom:

and she answered, I will dwell among my own people

She was content and satisfied with her present state of life, and the situation she was in, and with her friends and neighbors she lived among, and did not care to remove, though it was to a higher rank of life, and to greater dignity and honour; and she had no suit to make to the king or general, nothing to complain of; and she had friends enough to speak for her, should she want any assistance.

From Matthew Henry: The Lord sees the secret

wish which is suppressed in obedience to his will, and he will hear the prayers of his servants in behalf of their benefactors, by sending unasked-for and unexpected mercies;

This speaks right to us as when we are instructed to put God first and do His will joyfully even if there is something we would like to see “healed” or need an answer to. When we do His will we can trust that He takes care of all our needs, as this woman’s unspoken deep desire was granted! *****

Thank you for this post. Excellent points to contemplate and work toward!

In “Taking Offense” from page 224 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, Mary Baker Eddy wrote, “...we should go forth into life with the smallest expectations, but with the largest patience;” With having just studied this article, it was fresh on my thought and the Shunammite woman’s words showed that she demonstrated this constantly.

I also feel that this story shows that her living all of the other traits that Mrs. Eddy listed in the remainder of that paragraph (her words in bold): “...with a keen relish for and appreciation of everything beautiful, great, and good, [It was her own spiritual sense that recognized and appreciated this “holy man of God”] but with a temper so genial that the friction of the world shall not wear upon our sensibilities; [Telling her husband “It shall be well” when she left to find Elisha, despite the human mind screaming otherwise] with an equanimity so settled that no passing breath nor accidental disturbance shall agitate or ruffle it; [Saying “It is well” to Gehazi, Elisha’s servant, instead of lashing out in anger and frustration at him] with a charity broad enough to cover the whole world’s evil, and sweet enough to neutralize what is bitter in it, [She offered bread and place to stay for Elisha without seeking reward, this must have been such a different thought for him to encounter.] — determined not to be offended when no wrong is meant, nor even when it is, unless the offense be against God.” [She knew it must have been an offense against God, against Life, that her son was in such a state, and so went to Elisha demanding that this blessing remain a blessing. As we learn to work

with in our watches, there is no reversal of good! Then, once her son was healed, she held no negative thought toward Elisha, but “fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground.” Her “smallest expectations” were that God would provide what was right and good, and, of course, He always does. *****

What beautiful posts! Thank you both so much! “Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.” (Psalms) *****

SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man – June 11th, 2017

God My Preserver

PRESERVER, noun. The person or thing that preserves; one that saves or defends from destruction or evil. Webster’s 1828

The understanding that God is Life, and is the Life I reflect, when understood means a lot! It tells me why “I am forever,” since God, Life is forever! This Life is perfect and complete and so is mine. Not of my own, but all that He is, I am preserved because I live, move and have my being in Him! Martha Wilcox’s example of the ray from the Sun beautifully relates to this; I am the ray reflecting the Sun’s light and “should” shine naturally forever!

Only those wrong beliefs from wrong education distort this spiritual fact. *****

Thank you for this post. It really is our only preservation to realize that we are God expressing himself. Elisha had such a clear understanding of God as his preserver. When his servant became fearful of the Syrian army outside the city, Elisha told him not to fear, “for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.” He knew that God is more than anything. Infinite, all-powerful, more in every way. What an example for us when we face what may seem to be an insurmountable problem.

And because Elisha did not fear the enemy army,

when God delivered them blind into his captivity, he did not seek to destroy them. Rather, he treated them civilly, as he would want to be treated himself. He led them to Samaria and fed them. When he sent them home, they were flabbergasted at their treatment. They must have been in shock that they were the object of divine intervention. They clearly got the message and relayed it to the Syrian king, for they never returned as long as Elisha was around. *****

Mrs. Eddy's Definition of Angels

“ANGELS. God’s thoughts passing to man; spiritual intuitions, pure and perfect; the inspiration of goodness, purity, and immortality, counteracting all evil, sensuality, and mortality.” (S&H) There are several definitions in the Glossary it was suggested we memorize during our classes with Mrs. Evans and this is one of them. It is a complete treatment and a very good statement to dwell upon. It will help develop your spiritual sense, as well as giving you a complete sense of God’s care and protecting power. Remember, God is inspiring you with His goodness, purity, and immortality and this is the Truth that repels and destroys anything unlike Him. “He knows the angels that you need, and sends them to your side, to comfort, guard, and guide.” (Hymn #9). *****

When Angels Appear

This statement from Science and Health is very dear. “My angels are exalted thoughts, appearing at the door of some sepulcher, in which human belief has buried its fondest earthly hopes. With white fingers they point upward to a new and glorified trust, to higher ideals of life and joys.” A sepulcher is a stone structure where something dead is buried. The whole idea of burying one’s fondest of earthly hopes, aspirations, plans, and the fact that the angel message is waiting at the door when these are released, indicates what a loving God we have to provide whatever good is needed when we bury the selfish desires. This angelic presence obviously points to a better way, but also to a higher trust. There must be a trust and honest acknowledgement of who and what is in control. *****

It is reported that Mrs. Eddy constantly kept on her desk a hymn book open to John Henry Newman's "Lead, Kindly Light." Also, as she observed the "garish day" of pride and creeping materialism affecting the Boston church (especially the Board of Directors), she recommended that this hymn be sung often.

There are hundreds of testimonials bearing witness to the protective and transformative power of this prayer-hymn, how it has lifted so many up and out of seemingly impossible circumstances.

In keeping with the magnificent SH 299:7-17 passage quoted above, is the 3rd verse:

*So long thy pow'r hath blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone.
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile!*

"The morn" signifies the dawning of understanding, awakening to angel thoughts that come to anyone who responds to temptation properly, just as Jesus overcame the devil in the wilderness, and afterward, according to fixed principle, as day follows night, found himself in the company of angels. *****

Seeking Out His Sheep

"So will I seek out my sheep." (Ezekiel 34) This is the nature of Truth. It is always compelling itself on us, guiding us to what is right and good. We have such a loving God, that he is always finding us and speaking to us. Sometimes the voice seems to roar at us. It is always knocking at the door of our consciousness. We only have to open the door to hear the "still small voice" of Truth. Mrs. Evans used to remind us that "truth persists, error does not."

In describing the experience of some of the ancient prophets, who heard God's thoughts as distinct as sound, Mrs. Eddy writes: "If the medium of hearing is wholly spiritual, it is normal and indestructible." The fact is that hearing is wholly spiritual, so it is normal for each of us to hear God speaking to us. When one is in tune with God, following the angel thoughts, you hear everything

you need to hear, see everything you need to see. This is our complete safety, and we have no other safety.

This is why a society that acknowledges God as its Preserver will prosper and grow, and that society that refuses to acknowledge God does not. Yet, God is always there. *****

Angels, God's Thoughts Without Number!

Psalm 139:17 How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!
18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

I love the way angels, as God's thoughts, are compared to the sand, meaning they are around us without number! Who can count sand?

How am I using this Truth? "By giving earnest heed to these spiritual guides they tarry with us, and we entertain "angels unawares." From Proverbs 3:6 we read; "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." If I acknowledge God, angels being His representatives, they guide me, stand porter at the door of thought, point out the evil thoughts I should not heed and "He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." This must result in a protective consciousness, which is at peace. *****

Thank you. This is a powerful fact of God's presence and power in our behalf. This description of the infinitude of God's angels is really a description of the thought of one who has a highly cultivated spiritual sense. When one so naturally follows his/her spiritual sense, God's angel thoughts flow freely and naturally into consciousness, guiding and guarding us every moment of every day. It is only when we stop paying attention, listen to other voices, or lose our gratitude for His love and direction, that the angels don't seem so plentiful.

Power of His Might

Eph. 6:10 "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Turn only to God, not to any person, for all that we do. There is our only safety and strength forever. What a promise!