

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 24

**SUBJECT- SACRAMENT 7/13/14**

*Is it really sorrowful, or does it just feel that way when your spiritual oil is running low?*

## **Spare Us Not One Individual Experience...**

In *Science and Health* it says, "Jesus spares us not one individual experience if we follow his commands faithfully; and all have the cup of sorrowful effort to drink in proportion to their demonstration of his love, till all are redeemed by divine Love." p.26

What is the cup of sorrowful effort? Is the sorrowful effort and redemption similar to the last supper and the morning meal?

What makes the effort sorrowful? I thought "the warfare with oneself is grand" -- and that sorrow was a condition of the human mind.

Is it really sorrowful, or does it just feel that way when your spiritual oil is running low? \*\*\*\*\*

When we follow the Christ, we face the resistance of mortal beliefs, which we are denying, opposing. And if there is any personal sense in my thought (and there is!), then my relinquishing all personal attachment to anyone or anything will feel painful or perhaps sorrowful at the time. We will be maligned and ridiculed by those we once thought loved us. We may have to stop being with people we once admired or thought friends. It will shake things up in our lives, so be prepared.

But the promise is clear: "that your joy may be full." (John 15:11) We will have built a relationship with God that brings a joy and dominion that nobody and nothing can ever take from us. And until we stand up to whatever is wrong, and take the heat, as Jesus did, we will never gain that joy and dominion. "It is the living Christ, the practical Truth, which makes Jesus 'the resurrection and the life' to all who follow him in deed." (*Science and Health* p. 31) \*\*\*\*\*

Jesus was in anguish in Gethsemane, not because his spiritual oil was low, but because he was willing to subject himself to the world's hatred in obedience to his Maker. "Jesus experienced few of the pleasures of the physical senses, but his sufferings were the fruits of other people's sins, not of his own. The eternal Christ, his spiritual selfhood, never suffered." (*Science and Health* p. 38 )

In the 1st Edition, "Those who gain the essential points of the science of Life will suffer from the sensual world more than even the primitive prophets and disciples did; but the science of being supports its followers amid shoals and quick sands."

This kind of suffering, the reward of righteousness, burns off the baggage, the pride of life, all false concept of self, etc., to enable the ascension. \*\*\*\*\*

But what is it that is suffering? Jesus subjected himself to the world's hatred. But, the Christ doesn't suffer, and doesn't suffer if the world hates it. Likewise, those who gain the essential points of Science - is it the "human element" remaining that suffers, until it is destroyed (released?) through suffering? Did Jesus suffer in Gethsemane because he still had false beliefs to work through? (*Science and Health*) paraphrase: "when the human element in him struggled with the divine ..." What was the human element Jesus was struggling with? (Perhaps not a useful question, since it's certainly above my level of struggling!)

So, with the cup of sorrowful effort - is it that when one loves as Jesus loves, one will have no choice but to release false beliefs - and this process will feel sorrowful at times, like you're losing something you think is part of you - until you get beyond that hurdle and see that it was never a part of you - you are redeemed, and the sorrow is no

longer sorrow, but joy. \*\*\*\*\*

I think so... - distinctly different from the Christian misconception that suffering is somehow righteous in and of itself. "The design of Love is to reform the sinner." (*Science and Health* p.35) and any self apart from God is sin and must be destroyed through suffering or Science, etc. The Heart and Soul of Christian Science. \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, it is Love purifying us. Perhaps that is why we see this compared to the purification of gold - it happens only in the fiery furnace that burns off the dross.

Yet, to your point, the gold does not feel sorrow at losing the dross. \*\*\*\*\*

It is mortal's inability to have that Mind and to be that Mind. We constantly are aware of a physical body with its needs and wants, and of an evil, incomprehensible material world, outside of us. Mind is the only thing that exists. Mind should be the only thing we acknowledge.

Since Mind is All-in-all, this all is consciousness. Mortals suffer from the illusion of another God, another reality. Or good is real, or evil is real, both cannot be real. As the belief in a mind apart from Mind. Prove Mind as your Mind. \*\*\*\*\*

"Through all the disciples experienced, they became more spiritual and understood better what the Master had taught." (*Science and Health* p. 34) If we use each experience in the same way, we will rise higher in our understanding of Science, not feel sorrow at losing the dross and be blessed. \*\*\*\*\*

Eustace has a few good things to say, here are some of my notes:

There is no way that Mind can touch a condition or a thing that actually exists. Mind can only deal with thought. We should reduce everything, no matter how materially and real it may appear, to the basis of consciousness. Only as consciousness may it be handled.

We are constantly bombarded by "the news" of an evil world, and by the information our senses give

us. It is pretty convincing. Overwhelming.

Yet only the divine Self-awareness exists, of perfect harmony and bliss.

".... nothing possesses reality nor existence except the divine Mind and His ideas." (*Science and Health*, p. 331). \*\*\*\*\*

## Reflection and Demonstration

The substance of all devotion is the reflection and demonstration of divine Love, healing sickness and destroying sin. (*Science and Health* p. 241). Christ Jesus taught and demonstrated the practical application of the Divine Principle. He prayed for his disciples thus: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17) so that they may be that reflection.

To sanctify from 1828 dictionary is: a) to purify; to prepare for divine service, and for partaking of holy things. Ex. 19. b) To cleanse from corruption; to purify from sin; to make holy by detaching the affections from the world and its defilements, and exalting them to a supreme love to God.

This is why the part of the humble and contrite heart is so emphasized. Slowly the things of this world, even the pleasures (so called) become minimized as the higher enjoyments of the heart are found in the Love of God and man. \*\*\*\*\*

## That My Joy Might Remain In You

I found this in The Biblical Illustrator today, old theology in regard to Christ taking away sin:

The fact that, in a life of selfishness and sin, there is a wellspring of misery which is now taken away. No matter how fortunate the external condition of an unbelieving, evil mind, there is yet a disturbance, a sorrow within, too strong to be mastered by any outward felicity. The whole internal nature is in a state of discord. And this discord is the misery, the hell of sin. How much, then, does it signify that Christ takes away this? For Christ is the embodied harmony of God, and he that receives Him settles into harmony with Him. Just to exterminate the evil of the mind, and clear

the sovereign hell which sin creates in it, would suffice to make a seeming paradise.

I thank God for Christian Science, where the evil of mind is the seeming and paradise is the reality.

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This idea of old theology and taking away sin really got me thinking.

"From Matthew Henry commentary for Micah, I found the following thoughts on sin:

"Men will part with any thing rather than their sins; but they part with nothing so as to be accepted of God, unless they do part with their sins."

Man would rather just be forgiven or offer elaborate sacrifices rather than change their thoughts and behavior also

"In whose name must we come, as we have nothing to plead as our own? In what righteousness shall we appear before him?... Yet they do not offer aright," says to me that man thinks he can do this through human effort/will rather than submit to God. \*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT -LIFE - 07/20/14**

### **Life More Abundant**

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Next comes "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:5)

Sounds like effort to me, "overcoming" - why can't we just have more abundance? In most walks of life, it is understood and accepted that you do not get something for nothing. But strangely, when it comes to God and His goodness, somehow we are just owed it on account of our profession!!

Science reveals to us that the only impediment to a life more abundant is a finite, material sense, a self apart from God or self-centeredness, that which denies spiritual sense in practice. Jesus has given us all we need to overcome this self in the Sermon on the Mount. And if we are actually striving to put it into practice, the path is joyous. Only when we try to fake it does it become arduous. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Life Has No Partnership with Death!!!**

"It is a self-evident error to suppose that there can be such a reality as organic animal or vegetable life, when such so-called life always ends in death. Life is never for a moment extinct. Therefore, it is never structural nor organic, and is never absorbed nor limited by its own formations." (*Science and Health* p. 309)

Are we noticing what a radical departure Science is from the status quo - where death is the ultimatum of life? There is nothing more basic to human existence, nor to typical Christian practice!! We must WAKE UP, WAKE UP. Jesus himself said that if you follow his commandments, you will never see death. And Mrs. Eddy explains why.

We have been taught to start the day: "God is Life. God is my life. God is the only Life." It follows that anything that is capable of dying is not life at all - and yet the human condition is obsessed with avoiding death, and staying alive as long as possible - INSTEAD OF LOOKING TO GOD AS LIFE. Our existence is so infinitely more secure in His keeping - there is no underlying anxiety there, but a confident expectancy of good, a certainty that whatever comes into our experience must turn us to God with more fervency and gratitude.

Thought another way - every time we turn to matter for our salvation, we are digging our grave! The security felt in this approach is unfounded indeed. No wonder the message from God throughout the Bible is "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." - not a tyrannical God, but Love itself! \*\*\*\*

Thank you! Wonderful! It reminds me of this statement from Mrs. Eddy - "Immortal Mind feeds the body with supernal freshness and fairness, supplying it with beautiful images of thought and destroying the woes of sense which each day brings to a nearer tomb." So which will it be - "supernal freshness and fairness" or the "woes of sense"?! \*\* Another thought: What happens if we look to Spirit for salvation from matter? Isn't that doomed, as well? .... in the sense that Life has no partnership with matter or material life.

*Science and Health* answers the question of course: "It is sometimes said that Christian Science teaches

the nothingness of sin, sickness, and death, and then teaches how this nothingness is to be saved and healed. The nothingness of nothing is plain; but we need to understand that error is nothing, and that its nothingness is not saved, but must be demonstrated in order to prove the somethingness – yea, the allness – of Truth." p. 346

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### **No reflection, No God?**

"If God, who is Life, were parted for a moment from His reflection, man, during that moment there would be no divinity reflected. The Ego would be unexpressed, and the Father would be childless, — no Father." (*Science and Health* p.306)

What a compelling thought! The reflection is as basic as that which it reflects. One cannot do without the other. If Principle has no idea to be Principle to, it would not be Principle.

We can rest secure in knowing this - our relationship with God is indissoluble! Feel separated? That is mesmerism, illusion. Life, Truth and Love and man One in existence! \*\*\*\*\*

### **We Are What We Believe**

I just feel led to share this anecdote from the life of Mary Baker Eddy. She was walking with a friend, and they saw a man who was drunk. Mrs. Eddy remarked: "If that is the man I see, then that is the man I am." Apparently, she saw a different man, because the man was healed.

A good thing to remind myself when confronted with the innumerable stories of evil actions by human beings. The opposite must be the truth. Confronting the lie with the Truth is what watching must be, I understand. If I do see the "drunk," then we will end up with two drunks, instead of one. Food for thought. \*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Eddy followed Christ Jesus' way in demonstrating Truth; clearly what we must also do: Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God's own likeness and this correct view of man healed the sick. (*Science and Health* p.476-7) This is always a great reminder. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Hid with Christ in God**

I have always loved this but I believe I really missed its deeper meaning. Yesterday, I happened to read chapter 38 of Her Spiritual Footsteps where this above quote is mentioned. The chapter also talks about Life. Between this and this week's lesson, I see I had a very barren sense of life and Life, God.

The book says that we "endeavor to demonstrate Life as the daily reflection of good," that animal magnetism would attempt to darken man's sense of Truth and the student's struggle is to maintain "daily influx of inspiration that feeds the spiritual nature". So to be "hid with Christ in God," I must daily strive and feed myself daily with Truth - hungering and thirsting after God. \*\*\*\*\*

### **In Thy Light**

"For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light we shall see light." When we are brave enough to take that first step out of darkness into the Light trusting in our Father - when we are obediently and humbly willing to expose ourselves to that Light, great changes begin to take place. All the error that once enslaved us is exposed and destroyed as a fraud. It was never ours in the first place for as Mrs. Eddy states - "The eternal Truth destroys what mortals seem to have learned from error, and man's real existence as a child of God comes to light." \*\*\*\*\*

### **Life in God**

It is so true that like many I was not really living until I found my life in God; that is until I started to understand the Truth about God's nature, my relationship to Him and how that taught me who I am! Unquestionably God Is Life; because I found Him and started to live again. \*\*\*\*\*

### **From *Science and Health* p 27:17**

Jesus' parables explain Life as never mingling with sin and death. He laid the axe of Science at the root of material knowledge, that it might be ready to cut down the false doctrine of pantheism, — that God, or Life, is in or of matter.