

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT- SPIRIT 08/10/14

Worship In Spirit and In Truth

Because we Christian Scientists don't worship materially (no candles, incense, long robes, funny hats, ritual, etc.)... what is spirit and truth? cerebral, not of this world, passive and lovely?

Was there any indication that either Elijah or Elisha were like that? When the 50 prophets spoke to Elisha, he told them to "Shut up!" Both were powerfully active - they never took the easy route by going along with the crowd. They would "rip the head off" of anything and anyone that would interfere with their relationship with God. That is spirit and truth.

"If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." (Rom 8:13). MORTIFY!!! let's look that up...*****

From Websters (1828): Mortify: 1. To subdue; to abase; to humble; to reduce; to restrain; as inordinate passions. 2. To subdue or bring into subjection, as the bodily appetites by abstinence or rigorous severities. *****

I see this as a call to independent action. The 50 prophets were followers who were freaking out that their leader was leaving. What would they do now???

Would habitually turning to your practitioner for help be material worship? I have been told several times to "hold your peace" (quiet mortal mind) and go to God.*****

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6)

No physicality or even mental power here - Paul spoke about this, too. His speech was not impressive by the usual standards - so that the power of Spirit would come through. It is thrilling to think about this - the watching we do when we get out of the way and let God work is immensely powerful. It is a power not understood by "the enemy" - although it is terrified by it's impending doom and would lash out. We only need to remain

faithful to our trust. *****

Another way of worshipping materially would be worshipping "electronically." This is prevalent in today's world with all the computers, TV's, iPads, emails, texting etc. This can lead to not having any direct contact with one's neighbor or very little. Avoiding one's neighbor is not loving one's neighbor - "for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how he can love God whom he hath not seen?" (John 1) Have you ever been to a restaurant and noticed everyone seated at a table looking at their iPhone and not even speaking to each other? Of course, when distance is involved - electronic communication is a God-send as with our Web site!

Identity

Science and Health: "Identity is the reflection of Spirit, the reflection in multifarious forms of the living Principle, Love." p 477. How wonderful it is to be learning this, the true identity of each one of us as God's idea. All of us, the one idea of the one Mind, are the reflection of Spirit, of Love. To keep recognizing this in ourself and others is to be filled with gratitude and the desire to work for God.

Sounds a little airy-fairy. Most of us are deeply entrenched in a false identity - born into matter, family, etc.. Are you suggesting we can just leave all that intact and start recognizing that we are spiritual and all will be well? *****

It is more important to understand why we are spiritual...if we are the image and likeness of God, it means we must reflect Truth, Life, and Love because those qualities are the nature of God. Man as the image and likeness of God reflects, Life, Truth and Love. (*Science and Health* p 94)

Also, if matter was our source, Christ Jesus (our way shower) would have taught that...."The

supremacy of Spirit was the foundation on which Jesus built." (*Science and Health* p 138)

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How do we keep uppermost in thought? Is this an intellectual thing? NO. It is practical. "Prayer, watching, and working, COMBINED WITH SELF-IMMOLATION..." emphasis added S&H Is it possible to keep this understanding in thought and yet be perennially anxious? Well, we have generations of CSRs to prove that it is - at least it is possible to fool yourself into thinking you have this understanding and yet live with guilt and anxiety/disobedient to the understanding. The only way to "keep this understanding uppermost" is to strive to be obedient to it, in other words, consistent with it. Anything less is blah, blah - the hallmark of the CS culture! *****

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No hope involved. The only way, if Mrs. Eddy strove right until her last days with us, to bring God into more details of her life...

There is no hoping in Science - (imagine a computer programmer or mathematician HOPING they will correct the problem!!) - but rather an absolute certainty that "All things work together for good to those that love God." *****

"We worship spiritually, only as we cease to worship materially." (*Science and Health* p. 140) Here it is again. In Science, you cannot simply start worshipping spiritually, or identifying yourself as

an idea of God.

You must cease the old in order to make room for the new. It is as though, by ceasing the wrong, that which is true naturally shines forth.

As we cease identifying with material man, our true nature shines forth.

As we cease to hate, resent, be irritated by people, Love shines forth.

As we cease to seek material causes for physical effects, we find what is really bothering us and can correct it.

As we cease seeing person, we can behold Principle! *****

This verse resonated with me "**Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.**" (11 Cor 1:22) It tells me God's work is finished, in fact it is sealed, plus we have within each one what it takes to awaken to our true being! NO THING can change it. I need to do what is listed above.

Plus, I must understand that "love, joy, peace, and confidence in good are laws of God, and therefore of our being; that whenever we tolerate fear, anxiety, worry, doubt, or grief, we are breaking the law, and living a lie: that harmony, health, strength, action, life, express the laws of God, and that whenever we tolerate, without protest, thoughts or feelings of sickness, pain, weakness, inaction, or death, we are breaking the law, and living a lie." Kratzer. Doing these keep God uppermost (practically) in my thinking and leads to the realization of true being. *****

Proof of God

"The physical senses can obtain no proof of God. They can neither see Spirit through the eye nor hear it through the ear, nor can they feel, taste, or smell Spirit." On page 74 of the book *Collectanea*, Mrs. Eddy gives the following definitions: "Sight: spiritual discernment; Hearing: spiritual understanding; Feeling: divine consciousness; Smell: intuition of character; Taste: relish of Truth." These are the spiritual senses to be aware of and to cultivate in order to know and love God and in order to prove His existence in our lives. We had an interesting roundtable discussion about this on June 29, 2014 (Christian Science lesson).

SUBJECT- SOUL - 8/17/14

Works of The Law

“What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law.” (Romans) I have observed musicians who have practiced and practiced, memorized every principle of music, even played flawlessly, and yet their music is empty for it lacks the beauty of Soul. So it is with our understanding of Science. If we only memorize all the rules and dutifully follow the letter, but we fail to express the beauty and joy of Soul, the warmth and Principle of Love, if we fail to let God express Himself through us – well, what have we done? Not much! *****

Moral Freedom in Soul

I delight in the law of God after the inward man." (Rom 7:22)

Mosab Hassan Yousef, son of Hamas founder and leader who converted to Christianity, made the observation that generally Christians do not know that Jesus redeemed us from religion!

I expect that he was referring to religion: where people get into telling others what they should do and think in order to be righteous.

It is such a temptation to superimpose our idea of how a person should be, instead of allowing that person to be something outside our own limited preconception.

And so, an institution magnifies the whole tendency, and chokes free moral agency.

The Bible and *Science and Health* are certainly adequate to guide the individual!! Our job here is to help move out the rubbish of institutionalized religion, in particular, institutionalized Christian Science - to cut through CS blah, blah, which is self-mesmerism. *****

The premise of moral freedom in Soul is that man as the image or reflection of God naturally does right.

The premise of religious institutions is that man naturally strays and must be saved/restricted from doing so...*****

Interesting, this kind of discussion goes with my "Whatever holds thought ..." post.

We're not told, "do this, do that," or told to judge others on whether they do this or that - that's kind of what religion does.

Instead: "whatever" - if it holds thought in line with unselfed love, it's right. Moral freedom! *****

It is such a temptation to superimpose our idea of how a person should be, instead of allowing that person to be something outside our own limited preconception.

And so, an institution magnifies the whole tendency, and chokes free moral agency.

This is synonymous with personal relations, institution of marriage, where both individuals are not working for the advancement of Spiritual Good.

It feels as if you are selling your treasures to pay off a loan shark. *****

The premise of moral freedom in Soul is that man as the image or reflection of God naturally does right.

What a powerful starting point to see everyone in this light and expect good. This removes personal sense out of thought and clears the way for God's expression to naturally appear.

With this moral freedom comes a duty to perform. *Science and Health* "We cannot deny that Life is self-sustained, and we should never deny the everlasting harmony of Soul, simply because to the mortal senses, there is seeming discord."*****

"Whatever" Holds Thought ...

"Whatever holds human thought in line with

unselfed love, receives directly the divine power." (*Science and Health* p.192)

Interesting, it doesn't say "unselfed love receives directly the divine power." Rather, that which holds thought in line with unselfed love.

And, it's not a specific thing that holds thought in line -- it's, "whatever".

The test, however, is unselfed love. So what might hold human thought in line with unselfed love? Joy, appreciation of good/gratitude, wakefulness, a combination of these things?? Certainly anything with fear involved, latent usually is the trickstery kind, isn't keeping thought in line. A sense of limitation is fear -- so, a limited thought isn't in line with unselfed love.

How does this "whatever" relate to Soul? *****

How about your Moral Fiber? Why do we push onward and upward, watching so the light of Truth shines in every corner of this world? We see these events in the world as an offense against God and we rise against them in His name. That unselfish prayer is answered.

This relates to Soul because our Moral agency is reflected from God. *****

Focusing on "Whatever **holds** human thought in line with unselfed love," the very first sentence of the first chapter of *Science and Health* is relevant here: "The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, — a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love."

Thus, unselfed love is intimately associated with (and in so many ways synonymous with) absolute faith and a spiritual understanding of God. Belief wavers. Understanding holds. That God is the only power becomes no longer a powerless platitude merely believed in or received intellectually, but truth that has become self-evident.

The gateway to understanding is humility - unselfed love - that allows God to think through me that I may think God's thoughts, not my own, "casting down imaginations, and every high thing

that exalteth itself above the knowledge of God" (2 Cor. 10:5).

Unselfed love is not about becoming a blank, but a transparency, a window cleansed of self's cherished dust and debris, and letting God's love pour unremittingly through that transparency. As window of Soul, I must regard self as a chaotic, spray-painting vandal constantly seeking to streak, blotch, and overlay the window as much as possible to render it as light-absorbing and as nonfunctional as possible. Unselfed love, on the other hand, is the solvent that restores and protects the transparency so that the radiance of the full light of Soul may pour through it in vast floodtides, free and unrestricted, to illuminate a world.

"To this man will I look, even to him that is poor [humble] and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at My Word" (Is. 66:2). Such was Joseph in prison in Egypt, indifferent to all the evils done to him, knowing that such self-concern would take his attention off God: a perfect example of impersonal Life lived practically, holding human thought aligned with unselfed love -- holding, holding, never letting go. Such was Mary Magdalene, indifferent to human criticism, ever holding fast to the task of unselfing herself at the feet of Christ in the house of Simon the Pharisee and at Bethany, absent from all things personal to be present with all things God. *****

Soul Changeth Not

The subject Soul properly understood gives me a bright light towards my salvation. That is what helps me identify with the spiritual sense of being. Priceless, leads me to read *Science of Being in Science and Health* over and over again. *****

From *Science and Health*:

Soul or Spirit, is God, unchangeable and eternal; and man coexists with and reflects Soul, God, for man is God's image. p.120:4-6

Man is the reflection of Soul! *Science and Health* p. 31