

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 27

SUBJECT - MIND - 08/24/14

My Thoughts Are Not Your Thoughts

"My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." Isa. 55:8
This morning it came to me that this statement addresses the human mode of operation, referred to in 1st Edition of *Science and Health* as personal sense - in a word, a mixture of good and evil, matter and spirit, etc.

But God's thoughts are not so: "The exterminator of error...one Mind" "Life, Truth and Love...a law of annihilation" "Truth decapitates error" (*Science and Health* p.266) - there is no room for personal sense, personality, human good with unintended consequences, drugs, food that are sometimes good and sometimes bad...

This is Mrs. Eddy's revelation - in *Science* (God's thoughts and ways), Omnipotence does not share its power! ALL power. Love ALL-power, etc. Hatred is consumed by, utterly annihilated by Love - not from some force, but by uncovering hatred's illegitimacy, its powerlessness - as light annihilates darkness.

In *Science*, we are not claiming a greater portion of power, presence, science for God! We are claiming ALL of it, so help me God!!!*****

Speaking of food, I found this helpful from *Spiritual Precepts* by Gilbert Carpenter, "a wise and alert student does daily work on the matter of food, and this not only for his own sake, but for the sake of the whole world. As he relates food to God, by taking it out of the grasp of matter, he thereby spares himself and others much discord and suffering. One of the wiles of animal magnetism is to take that which students need at the present time, and attach beliefs to it that cause it to become a medium for inharmony and fear; whereas it should be a channel for the manifestation of God's love and care." *****

Thank you for finding and posting that! (We could probably

turn that into a good watch - certainly the world needs it.) I had never thought about doing daily work on food - but here again, if Christian Scientists had been taught to watch in this way, I doubt we'd have the multitude or seeming severity of problems related to food/weight now. It is most enlightening to me to think of food as a manifestation of God's love and not a material substance that can help or harm, etc. I continue to be grateful for what we're learning here! *****

In *Science and Health*, in the chapter "Creation," Mrs. Eddy points out, "In league with material sense, mortals take limited views of all things." Then in the chapter, "Teaching Christian Science", she speaks of a state devoutly to be wished, "If mortals claimed no other Mind and accepted no other, sin would be unknown." Much gratitude for all that's being taught at Plainfield to enable us to know how to work step-by-step to strive to hold "human thought in line with unselfed love" so that we can receive "directly the divine power." (192) *****

God is all there is. The only thoughts which are not illusions and lies are those thoughts which originate in the divine Mind. Love's Self-awareness constitutes reality. There is nothing else. Anything besides All which claims to exist is a lie. The watching points from the WPA are like laser beams, destroying all claims of darkness. *****

Also to keep in mind - "Animal magnetism is powerless - but you must declare against it as though it had all power." !! Mary Baker Eddy (*Precepts* iV page 149) *****

Wrong Motive -> Defeat

"A wrong motive involves defeat. In the *Science of Mind-healing*, it is imperative to be honest, for victory rests on the side of immutable right." *Science and Health* p. 446

Wrong motive: anything that excludes Principle/Love - "I want a harmonious vacation, a successful business, a happy family, a filled church, to be the best that I can be. I know that all this good is the will of God, because He is good. Now let's get on with it!" - This one may get what he wants, but will never express spiritual power,

will never be a follower of Christ, will never approach his divine destiny.

"Imperative to be honest" - "is it peace, peace" that I strive for, or is it the will of God, Spirit, because I know only He knows what is good and right for me and mine? Am I becoming more dependent on Him with this "want" of mine? If not, I am defying Principle! *****

This "harmonious vacation, successful business, happy family" stuff without one iota of God in it - is what totally deadens individual growth. It also has aided in the gradual demise of the Christian Science movement generally. When one gets so enamored with the "golden eggs" and forgets the great Giver of the eggs (so to speak) trouble lies ahead! Harmonious matter (if there ever could even be such a thing) is never the goal. This is why Mrs. Eddy states in *Science and Health*, "Better the suffering which awakens mortal mind from its fleshly dream, than the false pleasures which tend to perpetuate this dream."! p. 196 *****

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"Hmm... I thought religion, and especially this powerful Christian Science stuff, was supposed to make our lives better? Isn't "a little bit better", better than nothing? I mean, isn't this religion better than other religions? Can't I just "use" C.S. to improve my situation? Don't make me work too hard, though...I'm pretty busy..."

I can see some of my previous views of Christian Science in your post! You've brought up such a good point here. The problem with just "using" Christian Science to keep things smooth... is that when things get tough, and they do, you're

unequipped, because there has been no understanding of the Principle. The defeat I suffered as a result of my own wrong motives, fortunately led me to Plainfield. Because I knew that Christian Science was "the way" and somehow I was not getting it right.

Subsequently, I found the "straight and narrow way" was not the restriction I thought it would be, but freedom! *****

"harmonious vacation, successful business, happy family" stuff"

This prayer actually is error talking - wanting to remain covered - when what is needed is the complete expulsion of it. I had a vacation recently in which I felt pretty lousy about 40% of time. I was forced to go to God and work more. Eventually on that trip I found peace and got stronger. When does human perfection ever force us closer to God?

And yet, somehow the world thought is strongly this; that the more humanly harmonious, successful etc. the likelihood that you are living rightly, you are doing things right, God is blessing you! *****

Vanity, vanity, vanity - all laid out in Ecclesiastes (Bible). No peace, security, or happiness in material things, only distraction from the one God, Life, Truth, and Love, which is the only source of peace, security and happiness. If we are not acknowledging God in all our ways, we are denying Him, embracing sin, disease, and death! Quite simple, really, no matter what the physical senses might say. *****

On the other hand, it is almost always suffering (and a correlating desire for harmony) that turns us to God, and starts our progress.

We should not accept discord, lack, etc., in our experience as from God.

There is also a line of thought that rejects abundance as being not Godly, and is judgmental of those who drive nice cars and wear nice clothes as being vain by virtue of those things.

So, what is the guide? Is it that our motive should be to seek God? What about the person who is suffering - would they seek God if such seeking wouldn't give him the relief he was desperate for? *****

What is God? Is it not the limited, perhaps ill-conceived God that is the problem? *****

From Gilbert Carpenter's 500 Watching Points:

212 — WATCH less you attempt to remove the top layer of the human problem, without recognizing that there is an under layer which must finally be eliminated as well. The top layer is sin, sickness and death, which is superimposed on the bottom layer, or the belief in materiality. Our initial demonstrations in Christian Science seek to remove the top layer, in order to have harmonious materiality, and this is legitimate if we do this to prove the power of God, and to set our religion before the world in such a way that they will be drawn to it.

The wise student, however, knows that animal magnetism works through the belief in materiality. Hence it is not scientific to try to separate discord from that upon which discord is based, in an effort to establish for mortal man a permanently harmonious Adam dream, except as this is done to prove the possibilities for harmony that lie in the demonstration of Christian Science. This is only another way of saying that we must not linger in the second degree as set forth on page 115 of *Science and Health*, but hasten on to the third degree. If you were digging for treasure and came to that which was valuable, if you but knew that below lay the real treasure, you would not stop digging merely because you found a small treasure. The second degree, or human harmony, is a treasure, but it is only a treasure that points to the real treasure, which is found in the third degree, — namely, spiritual harmony. *****

The Book of Job teaches that it is not suffering in itself that makes me grow spiritually, but how I react to the suffering, how I keep the first of the 10 commandments in the midst of it.

Before the test-flight plane crash that left him paralyzed from the eyelids down, MetLife

multimillionaire Morris Goodman summed up his spiritual life as lukewarm at best: "It wasn't that I didn't believe in God, but it was kind of like I let God do His little thing, and I did my own little thing. But I think the accident in retrospect was probably the best thing that ever happened to me." Immediately after the crash, Morris mounted an offensive of nonstop inner prayer for God to come to his aid. The makers of the film, **The Secret**, curiously left this all-important fact out of its 3-minute segment on Morris:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=morris+miracle+man.

A longer version of this testimony, in which Morris also paraphrases Mrs. Eddy at 27:12 --

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJjRgwWSFIQ>

http://www.cbn.com/700club/features/amazing/morris_goodman071806.aspx -- Morris on his commitment to God. It is evident from his writings, talks, and interviews that this commitment brought him his permanent healing; his constructive-thinking success had its underpinnings not in the secular metaphysics of human presumption but in divine metaphysics, which requires life-changing repentance and humility before God.

In keeping with Watching Point 212 above - "A grain of Christian Science does wonders for mortals, so omnipotent is Truth, but more of Christian Science must be gained in order to continue in well doing" (*Science and Health* 449:3-6). *****

SUBJECT- CHRIST JESUS - 8/31/14

My Father Is The Husbandman

Husbandman: a cultivator or tiller of the ground "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." (Jesus) There is total submission here to the will of God - to the "purging" so that the vine may bear more fruit.

Our correlative on the Homepage:

"The life of Christ Jesus was not miraculous, but it was indigenous to his spirituality." He is our

Wayshower. Obviously it can be painful, this "purging," but there is a joy ineffable in this path, not according to the world's concept of joy - far more wonderful. *****

"There is total submission here to the will of God - to the "purging" so that the vine may bear more fruit."

Yes, it would be important that you have an improving concept of God, so your sense of the will of God and purging isn't daunting.

For example, some may see that the will of God is that we suffer so that we may be made pure and so some wear suffering as a badge of holiness.

But, of course, the will of God is not that we suffer; is not for purging to be painful. Pain (as in, pain associated with purging) is indicative of not submitting - is resistance to the purging. No?

Or another example: What if I'm doing what I think the will of God is, and I feel "pain", so I think, "This is because I'm being purged, so I must keep on doing the will of God," when it's my personal sense of the will of God that needs to be purged!!!

"Pain (as in, pain associated with purging) is indicative of not submitting - is resistance to the purging. No?"

Perhaps - in my own experience, when my pride is hurt, I feel pain while it "burns up" so-to-speak. You could say it is the pride that is screaming to be left alone, on its way out. Then, there is a tremendous freedom as though palpable baggage has been dropped - feels really good! Now if I react to the attack on my pride, and try to protect it, I may avoid the searing pain of its destruction, but I will also miss the opportunity to "go up higher" - to be released from heavy baggage. *****

Scientific Certainty

"Hold perpetually this thought, — that it is the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ, which enables you to demonstrate, with scientific

certainty," Mrs. Eddy is instructing me how to demonstrate. I have to operate with Scientific certainty. When faced with a challenge, I cannot be doubtful, fearful, unsure or involved in guesswork, speculation, or hypotheses as to the outcome. I must do the proper mental work first and understand the Christ is present.*****

"Mrs. Eddy is instructing me how to demonstrate. I have to operate with Scientific certainty. When faced with a challenge I cannot be doubtful, fearful,"

Sounds very human, very self-conscious. When opening the textbook, we should be opening thought to what God has to say to us - not Mrs. Eddy instructing us. This particular statement stresses the divinity of Science, that it is not person who heals, not their work, but "the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ!" We need to stand in awe of this, and whatever effort we put forth is to get out of the way, refusing to admit into thought what seems to be - this is "the proper mental work." "Understand the Christ is present" would be better expressed "Feel the Christ..." "Saw ye my Savior, Heard ye the glad sound, Felt ye the power of the Word. Tis the Christ that made us free..." *****

And is Withered

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." (John 15:6) This is a good Truth to know - for ourselves first, certainly, and for any so-called wickedness in this world. Without God, "it" has no cause, no law, no substance, no source, no power – what else can it do but wither away into its native nothingness?! "For without me, ye can do nothing."! *****

Science and Health p. 18 : 3-5 Jesus of Nazareth taught and demonstrated man's oneness with the Father, and for this we owe him endless homage.

Yes, I owe him endless homage for demonstrating this oneness; proving what we must do; the illustration of the vine and the branch brings this point clearly home. I just need to be cognizant of this persistently!! *****