

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 52

**SUBJECT: MATTER - 09/20/2015**

**"One Infinite God, Good..."**

The last passage in *Science and Health* (340: 16-29) is one of my favorites. This time reading it, though, I spent a bit more time with the latter part and expanded it:

One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations

One infinite God, good, constitutes the brotherhood of man

One infinite God, good, ends wars

One infinite God, good, fulfill the Scripture, "Love thy neighbor as thyself"

One infinite God, good, annihilates pagan and Christian idolatry

One infinite God, good, annihilates whatever is wrong in social, civil, criminal, political, and religious codes

One infinite God, good, equalizes the sexes

One infinite God, good, annuls the curse on man and leaves nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed.

"The First Commandment is my favorite text. It demonstrates Christian Science." Mrs. Eddy says. This gives much food for thought! \*\*\*\*\*

**Is Substance Called Matter?**

In my experience I am finding that the material senses are constantly arguing and suggesting that I

live in a material body.

In *Science and Health* there is a passage that I have worked with a lot, and which is very meaningful. It is on page 38, and the part that stands out to me is: "...the material senses shut out Truth..."

The material senses shut out reality, Mind! In Christian Science, we learn that the divine Mind, God's Self-awareness, is the only thing that is real, the only thing that really exists. The divine Consciousness then must be the only substance. There is nothing else!

It must be my substance! I must think and feel as God does, or as the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:16, I should have the mind of Christ.

Every time I am frustrated, annoyed, irritated, angry, or when I have feelings of dislike, hate, lust or fear, I am losing my substance, and become one with the substance of mortal mind, which is nothingness! Mortal mind is nothing! The divine Mind knows not such a thing.

It does not exist. But it constantly clamors for my attention, I have to scratch insect bites, I am hot, cold, hungry, sleepy, feeling not well and so on and on and on. Material sense is ever trying to draw me out of my substance into the lie of nothingness.

In 1 Corinthians 6:17, it says that he that is joined, or united to "the Lord" is one Spirit. Further on it says that the body is a temple of the Holy Ghost in us, or Mind in us, and that I should glorify God in my body and in my spirit, which are God's.

Our substance is Mind only, and this is our daily constant warfare, not to lose our substance and become nothing. I realize I cannot accomplish this on my own. I need God's help every moment.

Quiet Lord, my froward heart, ...make me as a little child.... Hymn 291. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! What you share is probably what we

are all confronted with daily. It's good that we have been given how we tread in overcoming error. Hymn 195 is ever helpful too.

We are to bind the strong man, as the parable says, that must be our everlasting quest with conviction of the supremacy of God's power and All-ness.

The more grateful I am for the healing of the false sense of lack, the greater becomes my riches toward God; because some time ago that false sense felt so real and it seemed I would never see through it's lies. But the mesmerism did break, the frozen ice did thin very gradually, until its final melt. This healing is so significant in my life because when I think of it, I am assured that all else can be healed if I do not stop knowing what is true! Whatever error calls itself, as listed above CAN be overcome because someday I can see it never really existed, and be free of its torment.

The article "The Frozen River" couldn't be a better illustration of how, if we do not quit, error's unreality yields to the supreme reality of good, God.

The parable of The Strong Man and His Goods, found in the useful links under General study on this Web site is extremely helpful. I find it useful to declare often; "I am ever conscious of my unity with God, I listen for His voice and hear no other call. I separate all error from my thought of man, I see myself and him only as my Father's image." (Some truths along the way)\*\*\*\*\*

### **"The Grand Human Capacities of Being"**

"Moses advanced a nation to the worship of God in Spirit instead of matter, and illustrated the grand human capacities of being bestowed by immortal Mind."

"The grand human capacities of being." Wow! That's really something for me to remember every day. Grand--not limited by matter or mortal so-called laws. Not relying on material means--not strong enough, not smart enough, not enough human education or training. The grand HUMAN

capacities--being expressed right here, right now, not in some far-off "future life." And that grandness bestowed by immortal Mind--God! What a way to start every day! \*\*\*\*\*

### **The Kingdom of Heaven**

Jesus' teaching and parables are so relevant for us today. He likens the kingdom of heaven to a net, "that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away."

For me, this is referring to my consciousness, for where is the kingdom of heaven anyway, but in our consciousness? As we go through the day, a lot of stuff comes to the entrance of our consciousness (the net). Things we see, hear, and think. The question is, "What do I allow to stay in my consciousness (my vessel)? Do I treasure the love of God? The wisdom of God? That which is true and good and honest, and just, and lovely and virtuous, as Paul instructs in his letter to the Philippians? Do I cast away the desire for material goods? Do I cast away anything that would cause me to be untrue, evil, dishonest, selfish, or unjust?"

This is the process we must go through each day in order to have the kingdom of heaven within us. And it's not like we can stop our diligence once we "arrive." Stuff keeps coming to us each day that must be cast away. That's why Jesus and Mrs. Eddy both instruct us to "watch, work and pray." Sometimes, I feel like I just want to sit back, relax, and take a break. It's good to take breaks from the onslaught of crap that tries to get into my consciousness. But you can't take a break from standing "porter at the door of thought." It's worth it, though, because the result of doing so is a peace and dominion that money can't buy. \*\*\*\*\*

This Lesson reminds me to be grateful for everything God has done in my life — bringing me out of the bondage of matter. As previously stated, we have the choice of the thoughts we want to accept, to the ideas that are true. We are not victims of this material world, but through Christian

Science, the teaching in the Plainfield Church, the obedience, practice and gratitude for the good we receive we are victors. \*\*\*\*\*

### Out of The House of Bondage...

"I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

This morning, I read in *Science and Health*, 495:10: "...find a sovereign antidote for error in the life-giving power of Truth acting on human belief, a power which opens the prison doors to such as are bound, and sets the captive free physically and morally." I'm sure we've all come out of some form of "bondage," -- I know I have -- whether it be physical, emotional, destructive personal relationships, restrictive or condemning orthodox religion, etc. The bondage of fear, guilt, passions, addictions, etc. It's all "Egypt", and isn't it wonderful that God and His life-giving Truth has brought us out of it. \*\*\*\*

Yes! These Bible passages are relevant to us here and now. "Egypt" isn't some far-off land but represents my own wilderness that I found myself in when I strayed from God (even though I had myself convinced that I hadn't strayed!) I had broken these commandments: "Ye shall not go after other gods... Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God..." (Deuteronomy 6:14, 17)

"Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." (Deuteronomy 6:12) This is a call to continual gratitude and to never forget how God saved me--His hand was on me and pulled me out of the mire that I had thrown myself into. Only then was I ready for the strong teachings at Plainfield, where I landed shortly thereafter.

I thank God for saving me and for this church for bringing me into my right mind--and showing me how to truly practice Christian Science, moment by moment. \*\*\*\*\*

### Teach Them Diligently

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Deuteronomy) In studying for the Bible study occasionally I will read about instances when Jesus took a random opportunity to teach an important lesson. This is certainly true about the parables that he taught. It also did not matter how much opposition he was met with. He was able to gain the attention of even the most resistant thought and teach a valuable lesson in a very practical way. His thought was so in tune with his Father the answer came quickly and effectively. When we are consistently knowing our children are truly the children of the Father-Mother God and we are receptive to His voice and they are receptive as well, we will find teachable moments, (not preachable moments!) – but teachable moments in which we can help point out the way of Truth to a child. And remember, Jesus loved the little children for their receptivity to right. They are receptive to the Truth, when it is given by someone who is living this Truth to the best of their ability.

This was in an Alabama newspaper over the 4th of July week end. My have times changed! “Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main end of his life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life (John 17:3) and therefore to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, let every one seriously set himself in prayer in secret to seek it of Him (Proverbs 2, 3). Every one shall so exercise himself in reading the Scriptures twice a day that he shall be ready to give such an account of his proficiency therein.” (Harvard: 1636 Student Guidelines)

“All the scholars are required to live a religious and blameless life according to the rules of God’s Word, diligently reading the Holy Scriptures, that fountain of Divine light and truth, and constantly attending all the duties of religion.” (Yale 1787 Student Guidelines)

And I love this from Miscellaneous Writings page 126. It is perhaps the best instruction for any parent!

"No reproof is so potent as the silent lesson of a good example. Works more than words, should characterize Christian Scientists."\*\*\*\*\*

### Let All The Earth Keep Silence Before God

I love the verse in Bible cit. 11, Habakkuk 2:20 (the LORD)

"...the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him."

In the Matthew Henry Bible Commentary, it says, "Our God will make all the world silent before him, will strike the idolaters as dumb as their idols, convincing them of their folly, and covering them with shame. He will silence the fury of the oppressors, and check their rage against his people....It is the duty of his people to attend him with silent adorings

(Ps. 65:1), and patiently to wait for his appearing to save them in his own way and time. Be still, and know that he is God, Zec. 2:13."

In this stillness, I feel God's presence.  
Thank you for this Lesson. \*\*\*\*\*

*In this stillness, I feel God's presence.*

That is a beautiful thought! It makes His supremacy so real! \*\*\*\*\*

### SUBJECT – REALITY 09/27/15

#### Elisha

The Bible Story of Elisha has always been one of my favorites for many reasons. Elisha had such great faith and understanding that he knew God was with him always and always answered his prayers. Opening the eyes of his servant to see their protection, blinding the enemy and returning them unharmed to Syria via Samaria. Two things stand out for me concerning Elisha and God: The first is

that although the servant of the King of Syria knew of Elisha's power and reported Elisha's location Elisha was totally safe in God's protection. This has to be true for us too when we totally rely upon God. No matter who knows of our righteousness, we are safe. Also the lesson of Elisha has given me peace about the Syrian "crisis" because God's work cannot be reversed. What was true for Elisha is also true for us now.

"How shall we do?" We will pray, hold fast and see! \*\*\*\*\*

#### Fixing Your Gaze

"Fixing your gaze on the realities supernal, you will rise to the spiritual consciousness of being, even as a bird which has burst from the egg and preens its wings for a skyward flight." Such beautiful imagery and within this sentence lies what I call a "big little secret." Error always begs that you fix your gaze on it – whether it be a sensational news report, a negative doctor's report, a pain in your body, an unhappy relationship etc. It begs for you to get swept up into its mesmeric suggestions. The first part of this paragraph admonishes us to "detach sense from body" and to break "away from the mutations of time and sense" and yes, if we can break away and detach ourselves from a mesmerism and fix our gaze on the "realities supernal"- we will rise out of this Adam dream, this false sense of life in matter and find our true being in God! The mesmerism will be broken! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you, Mary...so very helpful. Webster's 1828 definition:

GAZE, noun -- A fixed look; a look of eagerness, wonder or admiration; a continued look of attention.

And a few pages later in *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy writes: "Where shall the gaze rest but in the unsearchable realm of Mind?" \*\*\*\*\*

*"Fixing your gaze on the realities supernal, you will rise to the spiritual consciousness of being, even as a bird which has burst from the egg and preens its wings for a skyward flight."*

It struck me today that it is just as it is natural for us to rise, as it is for the bird to preen its wings, once we fix our gaze.

PREEN - To clean, compose the feathers...to enable them to glide more easily through the air or water.  
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## The Work of Righteousness...

### GOLDEN TEXT: ISAIAH 32:17

**“The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.”**

This week’s Golden Text wouldn’t let me pass without contemplation. So much is held within it! Here are a few thoughts it brought:

Peace is work. It is activity. It isn’t time spent idly and/or thoughtlessly. Being the “work of righteousness” it is the best work we can hope to be a part of.

It reminded me of **“Never breathe an immoral atmosphere, unless in the attempt to purify it.”** (*Science and Health*, p. 452) This helps me to understand a little more the importance of a rebuke, as the “attempt to purify” is the “work of righteousness” and missing the opportunity to do that work will leave true peace unattained. What a way to put the danger of human harmony in perspective for me!

At the end of every week—after the Forum, Bible Study, Roundtable, and Sunday service—I always feel at peace with the lesson and what we have studied. I am sure that is the point, and that feeling is constantly proving this Golden Text to me by bringing the "effect of righteousness." Thank you to the lesson writers, practitioners, and all who take part!

I am very grateful for the way that Christian Science, as I am learning here, is raising daily the standard that I live by. So wonderful to be a part of this work! Thank you! \*\*\*\*\*

Great Golden text. In this work of righteousness, we keep our thinking pure; the only way we can be of any use to ourselves and others, since our work only takes place in our own consciousness.\*\*\*\*\*

## All is Mind

“Divine metaphysics, as revealed to spiritual understanding, shows clearly that all is Mind, and that Mind is God, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, - that is, all power, all presence, all Science. Hence all is in reality the manifestation of Mind.” It is well to remember that right where any problem seems to be whether it is physical, financial, emotional, political...right in that very place is the power and presence of Almighty God! Why? Because that is all there is!! This Truth will correct what claims to be false and bring into evidence the reality of the situation - for either we understand God is All-presence and All-power or we cling to a false belief that there is something else besides His Omnipotent control! Decide for yourself and let it be on the side of Truth! \*\*\*\*\*

## A Delusion

“The notion that both evil and good are real is a delusion of material sense, which Science annihilates. Evil is nothing, no thing, mind, nor power. As manifested by mankind it stands for a lie, nothing claiming to be something.” *Science and Health*, p. 330: 25 (The)-29 (to 1st .)

Webster says a delusion is “an error or mistake proceeding from false views.” Material sense is a mistake! Not the truth. Science annihilates it – “to reduce to nothing or nonexistence; to cause to cease to be.” It doesn’t make it nice and dilute it. It destroys it. It ceases to be. Not half way, complete. All evil is destroyed by Science and we are learning at the Roundtable and Bible study how to apply truth and destroy false beliefs. It wipes out any lie, so if it isn’t good, we don’t have to have it.

Thank God for Christian Science. \*\*\*\*\*



## **A Strong Nation**

On Sunday at the Roundtable, a description of Plainfield was spoken of. This week's lesson I feel is speaking of the Plainfield Church in Isaiah 60 (citation 4) of the Bible: "21 Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. 22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time." Thank you, God, for the Plainfield Church. \*\*\*\*\*

This story of Elisha is a perfect example of God making strong the righteous. Israel was the most righteous nation at the time, and Elisha was the most righteous prophet in Israel. When Syria attacked Israel, Elisha got the message from God and saved the king several times. When the king of Syria sent for Elisha, Elisha refused to acknowledge the power of evil. He even prayed for his servant so that he would not see evil as power, and that manifest itself in a host of horses and chariots of God round about Elisha to protect them.

Then, rather than killing the enemy soldiers, God blinded them and sent them to Samaria, where Elisha instructed his king to love them. Imagine that! Love them by feeding them and sending them back to Syria! What a perfect example of the power of divine Love. Love your enemies! They took a powerful message back to the king of Syria, which caused him to see that his evil aggression against Israel was futile in the face of Almighty God.

I take this as a good lesson to never react to evil, but, rather, overcome evil with good, as Mrs. Eddy instructs us. \*\*\*\*\*

## **"New Things Do I Declare..."**

"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them."

Matthew Henry writes: Now I will make new promises, which shall as certainly be fulfilled in their season as old ones were; now I will bestow

new favours, such as have not been conferred formerly. Old-Testament blessings you have had abundantly; now I declare New-Testament blessings, not a fruitful country and dominion over your neighbours, but spiritual blessings in heavenly things.

I can attest that since being brought to Christian Science, and the teaching I received in Plainfield Church, many wonderful blessings have come into my life -- not just wonderful things that can be measured physically, but a deeper love and understanding of God, a sense of peace, completeness and satisfaction never felt before. These are the "new things" -- the REAL things -- that God has declared to me. \*\*\*\*\*

## **"All-Absorbing Spiritual Love..."**

"...feel the unspeakable peace which comes from an all-absorbing spiritual love."

When I read this earlier this week, I thought of the peace that comes from loving God above all else. However, this morning I realized that the all-absorbing spiritual love is what God feels towards me -- His idea -- and that realization is what gives me unspeakable peace. \*\*\*\*\*

## **Am I Loving Enough?**

When we love enough (that is from the Scientific meaning of the word) we gain a clearer vision of what is real. This separating of error from person, place or thing, is one of the treasures from the teachings of Christian Science. It has helped me see "individuals" and not attach the evils of a system to them. This is huge since it is not easy to do in any other way! To do this is to love enough to me.

From "The Power of Love" by Bicknell Young: Lack of love is the only trouble in the world today. Love alone will heal the distrust, jealousy, fear, and ignorance of the race. It will also heal poverty and disease.