

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: SPIRIT - 02/7/2016

The Might of Omnipotent Spirit

“...the might of omnipotent Spirit shares not its strength with matter or human will.” (*Science and Health*) This is a good one to be mindful of! How infinitely better it is to align yourself with God’s omnipotent power than to come under all the beliefs of mortal mind or to argue foolishly for your own human will. You can avoid many hard bumps in the road if you remember – “The good you do and embody gives you the only power obtainable.”! (*Science and Health*) *****

Trusting the Spirit

Just thinking about the trust the children of Israel had to keep circling the city of Jericho, and still the walls came down, not by brute force, but the power of the Spirit. Many walls have had to come down in my life, the bricks of my defenses so to speak, and still more to come down, I’m sure. However, it’s comforting to know there is a superior force guiding it all. This reminds me of the first sentence in the first edition of *Science and Health* “Leaning on the sustaining Infinite with loving trust, the trials of to-day are brief, and to-morrow is big with blessings.” *****

Thank you for this: I find great comfort in knowing how Christian Science allows us to prove that Spirit is guiding all!

With all that the children of Israel had been through, their arrival in the Promised Land apparently did not give them the sense that they had “arrived.” For a time, they listened to God and worked in unity. Each of them had to be “Leaning

on the sustaining Infinite with loving trust...” individually for that to happen, which means they all were doing their own work.

It seems like only after they wanted others to take care of the work — such as judges, prophets, and kings — that they started getting into serious trouble. Contemplating this has helped me see why the unity at this church is so important: The only true unity happens when we are all guided by Spirit. Such a blessing and responsibility to be a member of this church! *****

Both Small and Great (Servants of God)

The part of a Lesson citation referred to in my Forum topic, both small and great, (Rev. 19:5) reminds me to address the temptation to envy those who are more advanced in Science, in their spiritual progress, (or in any other way) or to be troubled by the comparison. The following Bible verse has in the past, and does today, so address this need for me, “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” (Hebrews 13:5) It’s hard to imagine greater comfort or assurance. Thank you Father for speaking to each of us where we are or seem to be. *****

Who says anyone is ever better in any way than yourself? Is God saying that? Of course not! God’s Love is impartial and infinite. Understanding and all good comes from reflection alone – it is never a personal endowment. Covetousness is the ploy of the devil. It puts you in the wrong mind, disobeys God and His commandments, and should never be tolerated! When I realized that fact and shut the door on this devilish suggestion, it enabled me to make progress I could never have made otherwise.

When I was busy wishfully thinking about what I perceived as other people's progress, understanding, and the like, I was ignoring my own "wheat field" and not being grateful for the good God had bestowed upon me and so limiting myself from gaining the great good that God has for all His children. There is a reason we have the command – "Thou shalt not covet."! *****

Be Strong and of Good Courage

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua)

This is great assurance that wherever we need to go, wherever God sends us, we can go safely and without harm. I remember Mrs. Evans teaching us years ago that before we go into any situation—a meeting, visiting someone in a hospital, anything out of the ordinary, or even anything that might seem ordinary—to pause, and to declare, "Christ goes before me; the way is prepared and I am protected." This acknowledges God's presence and protection, and His absolute control of the situation, and we can go without fear. This has been such a help to me many, many times over the years. *****

Yes, thank you. For the past month or so I have been praying the following before I leave home – "Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest." Gen. 28:15 *****

The Angels of His Presence

"And the angel of his presence saved them: In his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old." What a beautiful and comforting passage from Isaiah and one well to remember for it is the truth. Even in our darkest moments, these angels surround to guard and guide if we but realize this. The angels of his presence surround those you love. Perhaps you

can't be with them or don't even know where they are – but God's presence is always with them. This verse has done much to relieve worry and stress – knowing and affirming God's ever-present love for His children. *****

Yes, how comforting to remember His presence. To go with this is always the assurance that God ALONE is power. These simple spiritual facts really do give strength in those times when error's taunting can give a false sense of helplessness, weakness, or discouragement. The following are helpful to commit to heart:

Luke 9: 43 And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God.

Ps 62:11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.

Science and Health, p. 109: 32-12 The three great verities of Spirit, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience,

— Spirit possessing all power, filling all space, constituting all Science.

Science and Health, p. 192 Evil is not power! Next time all appears to be "down," may we remember the POWER of God which is everywhere!! *****

God Is Always With Us

I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Joshua 1:5

This promise has been proven to me many times. No matter what situation I am in, God is right there with me. He has never deserted or disappointed me or abandoned or withdrawn from me. He is there in the good times and in the testing times. No matter how long it takes me to get out of a problem, I know God will always be with me. Never get discouraged or want to give up. Keep working through the problem and you will be the victor in all situations. This is the truth for all God's children. *****

I copied this from Bicknell Young's "Oneness." God is with us as long as Mind is our Mind.

The belief that we are mortals or human beings is not Christian Science treatment. What authority over sin, disease and death would a human being have? None. What authority would what we call "spiritual man" have, if he believed his thinking separate from God? None. As we know what this Mind knows, what is taking place? We find Mind taking place — we find Mind in full operation. We find that Mind being ourselves. We find the oneness of Being taking place, Principle and its idea operating as ONE, not two. *****

I Will Not Fail Thee

"There shall no man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so shall I be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." There is a simple Truth in this passage we have learned in our church – and that is no problem shall be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life. Sometimes it would seem some unpleasant experience has been going on and on, forever and a day, but here is God's promise – it will come to an end! God is with you and He does not fail you nor forsake you! The problem will be rectified and healed – remain faithful to your God and He will see you through the darkest times. As Mrs. Eddy says, His angels "deliver us from the depths." (Science and Health) *****

SUBJECT – SOUL- 02/14/2016

Set Your Heart and Soul

"Now set your heart and soul to seek the LORD your God." (I Chronicles) This lesson is certainly filled with the importance of seeking God with every part of your being! There are so many distractions in this world to pull us away from this path of devoted love and obedience. I have found it helpful to renew my covenant with God and my

devotion to Him every morning – keeping things fresh and joyful. I know what life was like without Him and it was not good! God's path is never dull or boring (although error would try to convince us it is). God's path is one of peace and joy and love – "moments of surrender to God, of childlike trust and joyful adoption of good..." as Mrs. Eddy describes in her article on The New Birth (Misc. page 15). *****

This lesson definitely resonated with me. Several citations remind us to seek God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with a whole desire. "...if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul." (Deuteronomy 4: 29) "And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul" (2 Chronicles 15: 12) "And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them." (2 Chronicles 15: 15) There was no half-hearted seeking. It was full-blown, energetic, and earnest. Not "Well, maybe I'll turn to God today because I have a problem." *****

"I have found it helpful to renew my covenant with God and my devotion to Him every morning – keeping things fresh and joyful."

Wow, this is a beautiful and helpful idea. I guess I never thought about renewing the covenant every morning but it certainly makes sense. People prepare for the day in many ways that involve cleanliness, exercise, nutrition, proper dress, etc., but the most important would be to take care of one's spiritual nourishment first! Direct from God. God carries me through every moment of the day, so it doesn't seem like it's asking too much to check in with God first thing (like we would with an employer!) to align myself with God's will, what HE has in store. Not just read the lesson and run off, but really bring the covenant into play. God's promises to me require my obedience to Him, and if I've learned anything from Plainfield, it's how important obedience is, and that all good comes from God, and in reality God has only good things

in store for us. Who doesn't want good? (As was stated above, "I know what life was like without Him and it was not good!" Amen to that!)

Establish Judgment in the Gate

"Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate;" (Amos)

When Amos wrote this, the Israelites had lost their way. They had lost their sense of right and wrong and anybody and everybody was entering through the gate into the city. Mrs. Eddy instructs us to "Stand porter at the door of thought." We are not responsible for the thoughts that come to us. But we are responsible for what we do with them. We alone are responsible for protecting our mentality. Devilish thoughts come to us often, trying to get us excited, envious, discouraged, or fearful, but we should bar the door of our thought as vigorously as we lock the doors of our house against thieves. She gives us the test for what thoughts to let in: "Admitting only such conclusions as you wish realized in bodily results, you will control yourself harmoniously." So, when thoughts of fear, lust, anger, or sickness try to gain a foothold in my consciousness, I have the power and authority of God to keep them out.

This is why it is so important to start each day by reading from the Bible and the Christian Science textbook; to fill my thought so much with the truth that there is no room for error to sneak in.

Yes, when "the things of God" preoccupy thought there is less space for error. I was thinking about what Mrs. Eddy says about Jesus' humble, conscientious protests of Truth and wondering how quickly and how consistently I could do the same at "the gate" when error tries. This citation could be one Truth of protest to use to shut out evil suggestions: *Science and Health*, p. 215. Whatever is governed by God is never for an instant deprived of the light and might of intelligence and Life. *****

Forsaking God

"The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you." (II Chronicles 15:2) It occurs to me that if our motive in seeking God's help is to achieve a material goal, then if successful, we'll then think we can go on without God's help, but if our motive is to demonstrate God's care, it is more natural, actually essential, to continue turning to Him. *****

Such a simple and yet very important and profound truth! *****

I love this, "The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and seek him, he will be found of you..." I want to make sure that I am always seeking God. I read something by Martha Wilcox today that helps me. "There is nothing to God and man but consciousness." This means, to me, that since I am conscious and in God's consciousness, I am always aware of my Creator and continue to seek Him all the time. It is possible to be aware of God at all times... and maybe this is part of "pray without ceasing". *****

Yes! Constantly, we are bombarded with all the evil, nastiness, and illness of this "world" that we are told is real. Our healing prayer must be that the opposite is true. It is all lies. God does not think it, know it, or feel it. We must outthink and thus destroy this false sense of reality. *****

Loving God Supremely

"To have one God and avail yourself of the power of Spirit, you must love God supremely." In these few words lies a powerful statement. It invokes the First Commandment, "*Thou shalt have no other Gods before me,*" or as Jesus stated, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*" I love to remember that Mrs. Eddy says, "The First Commandment is my favorite text. It demonstrates Christian Science." I must ask myself, "Am I loving God supremely?"