

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Sacramento – July 10th, 2016**

## Self-Immolation

*Science and Health*, p 11:21 –“Wisdom and Love may require many sacrifices of self to save us from sin. One sacrifice, however great, is insufficient to pay the debt of sin. The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner’s part.” In referring often to what Mrs. Eddy said about herself in such humility: “The little that I have accomplished has all been done through self-forgetful, patient, unfaltering tenderness.” This is something I work with in trying to live the Christian life, but it’s an ongoing strife!

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Thank you! Beautiful quote from Mrs. Eddy and yes, one to live up to! \*\*\*\*\*

And it is the most rewarding work that anyone can do. The sacrifices of “self” are the burning off of selfishness, self-righteousness, self-love, etc. These are the things that prevent us from realizing our highest good, our greatest potential, for they keep us from hearing and obeying God. We should rejoice when we burn them away and let the light of Truth shine on our hearts.

And if it seems painful at times to have these “self” hindrances burned off, that only shows that we are clinging to them and need to let go. Whenever I react to a rebuke, I now recognize it as a sign that something has been hit that needs to be burned away. It wasn’t always so. And if I seem to be “losing” something or someone that I cherish, put it in God’s hands and let Him determine what is really best for me. This is how selfishness and all the other “selves” are burned away – self-immolated. This is a process that is definitely worth practicing, for the rewards are unspeakable. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for these posts. I am beginning to understand “one sacrifice is insufficient...” The

burning away is often painful...I see how I cling to old behavior and beliefs. Yes, purify me with hyssop for I desire to dwell in the house of our LORD.

## Present Your Bodies

“Paul had a clear sense of the demands of Truth upon mortals physically and spiritually, when he said: ‘Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.’ But he, who is begotten of the beliefs of the flesh and serves then, can never reach in this world the divine heights of our Lord.” (*Science and Health*). This is such an interesting statement – to present your BODIES a living sacrifice. I sometimes ask myself this question – am I giving my body wholly in service to God? Do I trust him for all my needs in this regard? Do I trust Him to feed, clothe etc. and to keep my body in perfect working order? Or am I looking to matter and material laws for this aid – always checking, probing, weighing, exercising? If so I will never reach the “divine heights of our Lord.” We are also admonished to be “absent from the body and present with the Lord.” In service to Him – this is always the best and only way to live. Sing and memorize hymn #324. It is a wonderful reminder to present our entire self in total obedience to Our Maker! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you. I have thought about how to give my body as a reasonable living sacrifice and then be absent from this body...give it and then let it be ... be with God. I like the hymn because it tells us HOW to do this and then my favorite part,” I am Thine, and I will be EVER, ONLY ALL FOR THEE.” What I am learning is not only to see my own body differently, but the bodies of others. As Mary Baker Eddy has said, One God, One body, One activity. \*\*\*\*\*

'Present your bodies a living sacrifice' Living: vital functions in operation; not dead. Producing action, animation and vigor, opposed to stagnant. Dead: Perfectly still; motionless. Empty; vacant; Unemployed; useless; unprofitable. Dull; inactive; (Which Elijah proved Baal was) \*\*\*\*\*

## It has Been Proven

Matthew 26

36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Before coming to Plainfield, I had read the Bible, but never with understanding, and certainly never with compassion. Now to be here, learning and working, and going through the trials that church work can bring, I can read this with a tiny bit of understanding of what he went through. I certainly don't know the full extent, as I can see that successively higher demonstrations bring equally higher degrees of resistance, but for what I know right now, I can feel for him.

To know that to go higher in Christian Science brings more to work through would be a deterrent to me, if not for the fact that Jesus proved that it is certain that we will prevail! I need not wish or hope, it has been proven. I was feeling a bit of the Wednesday resistance this morning, but after reading this it went away. For so long I felt similarly that "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death," but that was when I had no Christian Science to lean upon. Now, if I am awake to it, there is always light and joy and so much to be grateful for, and in no small part that is because of what Christ Jesus endured and overcame. I am grateful for this lesson, for his shining example, and grateful to be in a place where we can

reach out to a world in need with what is real and true and proven to work. Thank you! \*\*\*\*\*

Beautifully stated. It is true we should be able to feel even in some small degree what our Master must have experienced. This is possible only as we are willing to walk in his footsteps and follow his example. "A great sacrifice of material things must precede this advanced spiritual understanding. The highest prayer is not one of faith merely; it is demonstration." (*Science and Health*). \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your thoughts, and much gratitude for this lesson about Jesus and his agony in the Garden. I am still trying to come to grips with it, to realize what he went through. And I am touched by his love when he finds Peter asleep, not speaking for himself, but for Peter, warning him: "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." \*\*\*\*\*

Ah, yes, the flesh may be weak, but here at Plainfield we are taught and given the strength, hope, help and direction that truly saves us and the world!\*\*\*\*\*

## Spiritual Signification

*Science and Health, p 32* The true sense is spiritually lost, if the sacrament is confined to the use of bread and wine. The disciples had eaten, yet Jesus prayed and gave them bread. This would have been foolish in a literal sense; but in its spiritual signification, it was natural and beautiful. Jesus prayed; he withdrew from the material senses to refresh his heart with brighter, with spiritual views. *Science and Health, p 33* Let not the flesh, but the Spirit, be represented in me.

Our unity with God is spiritual, our likeness as His image and likeness is spiritual. It is the spiritual self that is forever; it is that which is real, true and when understood and adhered to consistently gain us our freedom of perfection.

Hence our striving MUST be to emerge from the material sense of self and material view of things for the exchange of the correct view of things; for the ability to discern through our spiritual sense. This we must do, to follow Christ's example. There

is no connection of this moral deceptive self with the Christ; and we sure cannot help ourselves and others by holding on to our material history and applying the Truth to it. Perfect God, perfect man, as the basis of healing and demonstration is about our already existing spiritual perfection. \*\*\*\*\*

## Consecration to Christ

*Science and Health, p 28:10-11* “One’s consecration to Christ is more on the ground of demonstration than of profession.” It’s not about just talking but doing for, helping, loving our brother as Christ did. It’s all about giving. Hymn 324 says, “Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.” Let’s be a blessing! There’s nothing more worthwhile!

## Subject- Life – July 17th, 2016

### LIFE IS ETERNAL

(*Science and Health, p 246*) “Life is eternal. We should find this out, and begin the demonstration thereof. Life and goodness are immortal. Let us then shape our views of existence into loveliness, freshness, and continuity, rather than into age and blight.” I have been working on the spiritual fact that there is no aging in God’s universe; we are spiritual. Recently, when human suggestions of aging start to come in, I have been immediately claiming that aging is Strength and Wisdom, and that’s been very uplifting! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank You! Aging is Strength and Wisdom. Perfect! \*\*\*\*\*

“Man governed by immortal Mind, Is always beautiful and grand. Each succeeding year unfolds wisdom, beauty, and holiness.” We need to be governed by immortal Mind or we fall into the human beliefs of age which are nothing but lies, a false belief. I know if I am seeing anything other than these good qualities I am in the human mind and have to get back to God. Thank God for Mrs. Eddy’s revelation. \*\*\*\*\*

## No Other Way

*Science and Health, p 359: 11-14*

Even though you aver that the material senses are indispensable to man’s existence or entity, **you must change the human concept of life, and must at length know yourself spiritually and scientifically.** (Emphasis added)

We cannot reclaim our freedom and dominion in any other way. \*\*\*\*\*

This stood out to me this week as well. Before Plainfield, I tried many avenues attempting to understand why I was here and what I needed to do to move forward. No matter what I tried, or what I read, life seemed a solution-less equation. Then, God brought me here to learn Christian Science. Everything has begun to open up and make sense! I am so grateful for this, because past experience did a wonderful job proving that the “human concept of life” cannot change without this understanding of Science. Now I know the path forward, and — with the support offered at this church — this needed change will happen, and that spiritual and scientific knowledge will be realized so I can finally be what God created me to be. What a blessing Christian Science and this church is to me every single day! Thank you! \*\*\*\*\*

## Out There

Yes, we always think that there is a world out there that needs to be fixed, and is beyond our ability to influence. As quoted from Martha Wilcox, there is no outside to consciousness. In the whole advanced teaching of Christian Science, I find again and again that Mind is All, as simple as that. But no, we have Mind and...this crazy world with imperfect mortals etc. etc. I try to make things simple for myself, so I can cling to Truth throughout the day. This other rule of the thumb is what I have been using lately: GOOD is All, so I am experiencing GOOD, only. There is nothing else to experience, besides mortal delusion. Several years ago, God told me: “Only know Good,” and it has been the most difficult thing to do, because I always tend to know evil, the lie, much better. Mind is All, so God, GOOD, is All, and we experience GOOD only all the time.

God can only help us if we are conscious of GOOD, Truth, only. When we imagine that we have two realities, we have none.

It can be the hardest thing to do. We cannot ignore all this evil, suffering and horror. What should we do? \*\*\*\*\*

As this is never an easy question to answer I will quote Mrs. Eddy from page 563 in *Science and Health*, “Human sense may well marvel at discord, while, to a diviner sense, harmony is the real and discord the unreal. We may well be astonished at sin, sickness, and death. We may well be perplexed at human fear; and still more astounded at hatred, which lifts its hydra head, showing its horns in the many inventions of evil. But why should we stand aghast at nothingness?” As we begin to obtain the divine sense that “harmony is the real and discord the unreal” – this viewpoint will not be callous or unfeeling, but be so filled with God’s Love for His creation the false concept will disappear and give place to the real and eternal. As our hymn states, “From sense to Soul my pathway lies before me, from mist and shadow into Truth’s clear day...” Don’t let the mesmeric picture deceive you into believing its lie. \*\*\*\*\*

## God Governs

Christian Scientists, as exponents of Truth, have sufficient understanding to protect those at the head of our government, to protect our nation and to protect all nations. We should clearly discern that any nation and all nations, our government and all governments, reflect wisdom and intelligence, and cannot be influenced erroneously.” Addresses by Martha Wilcox p. 398 \*\*\*\*\*

“Treatment or prayer is for the purpose of letting our minds approximate the Truth, the parent Mind. The living, conscious intelligence that is released from within, will take care of the ignorance, the illusions.

To perceive with understanding that any inharmony or imperfection is a misstatement, a misconception of a genuine fact, would be to free oneself instantly.

The great need of the hour is that we reconcile our

state of consciousness, or sense of existence, with the Truth of reality, and this reconciliation can never take place outwardly, for it is always within the individual consciousness.” Addresses by Martha Wilcox p. 426

I found the chapter which the above quote is from extremely helpful in helping me understand the term illusion.

## SECTION III

The Word Made Flesh Illusion starts on p. 416

## My Grace Is Sufficient For Thee

“My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” (II Corinthians) This is a reminder that going through a very difficult time can actually be very beneficial for it is during such times, in our extremity, we reach out humbly to God for help – “Save Lord, or I perish.” During such times it becomes perfectly clear we are nothing without our Heavenly Father. He is our very life. Jesus lived every moment of every day with this understanding. He knew that it was the Father that dwelled in him that did the works. What an example!

“God it is that bears us on,  
His the arm we lean upon.” (Hymn #53)

## Afraid?

Our Golden Text states: “The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

One of the things we all must eventually get back to is to feel God’s love for us. Since God is Love, and since God is our life, our lives really are governed by divine Love, and we should feel that love. It goes with the fact that since God is omnipotent and He is my life, I have all the power and strength to do what He has for me to do. Since God is omniscient and He is my life, I know everything I need to know when I need to know it. This is all part of feeling His love for us.

And, as John stated so well, “perfect love casteth out fear.” If you feel God’s love, you will express that divine love; and that state of thought knows no fear.