

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Soul and Body – November 20th, 2016

What Does the Bible Say?

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted with me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.” (Psalms) I have found it very helpful to see how many times the Bible references various parts of the body. On last week’s forum, I wrote about Biblical references to “heart.” You can also find “bones”, “knees”, “bowels”, “hands” and much more. This week, we have God as being the “health of my countenance.” If you are having any problems with the body, see what the Bible says about it. Spiritualize your thought and uplift your vision about what concerns you. Everything about you exists as an idea of God. It is spiritual and perfect now!

In Matthew this week, in the Lesson where Christ Jesus told the man to, “stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like the other,” has really stayed with me, and has helped me to understand that obeying Christ, with not only our bodies, but our lives, heals us. Stretch forth...!

Man Is Servant Of A Restful Mind

Thus it is with man, who is but the humble servant of the restful Mind, though it seems otherwise to finite sense. (*Science and Health*, p. 119)

This got me thinking that if I should find myself entertaining thoughts like “I feel tired, I feel rushed or pressured, I don’t have something needful, I lack courage, I feel sick etc.” it clearly means I am listening to a different “boss,” seeing I am the servant of a restful Mind. To be restful

includes being peaceful, no disturbance or agitation. All those suggestions belong NOT to a restful Mind, but to mortal mind, mind in matter, opposed to my real Mind, God. This is why “..... for matter can make no conditions for man.” *Science and Health*. Let’s stay awake and obey only our true Master!

The thought that I am but “the humble servant of the restful Mind” has helped quiet any stress I may have been entertaining many times! It dissolves all sense of false responsibility. “Drop Thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings ceasing; Take from us now the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of Thy peace.” (Hymn # 49). *****

If They Should Be Written

“And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.” John 21.

I have always found this citation from John fascinating, but didn’t truly understand its meaning until I started working with a practitioner at Plainfield. Before this, my understanding of God was very limited and one-dimensional. It was more of an intellectual exercise, rather than soul-filled activities. I definitely did not know how to get out of the way and let God work.

The Carpenter collections also have been a great source of information about Mary Baker Eddy and how to live the Science she discovered. Slowly, I am seeing the need for active proof in all the things I do and that there is nothing too small to do for the glory of God. I am grateful for all the ways my life has been permeated by God, as the veil of false teachings lift, and walls of pride and self come down.

Now I have been given a glimpse into what the writer meant, because as you turn your life over to God and live according to His precepts, He does

care for all the details so that it would fill books.*****

I love the idea of doing even the smallest things to the glory of God. It's such a practical idea. *****

Rejoice Evermore

8. I Thessalonians 5

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Before coming to Christian Science, I thought if I worked hard and did well by my family, that eventually I would learn to be happy. Yet, in reading this, joy is first, and then comes the activity. What a complete negation of my former thought! So many writings this church offers back this order up.

"...the joy of the Lord is your strength." — Nehemiah 8: 10

WATCH lest you attempt to do anything in Christian Science from any standpoint except that of joy. – Watching Point 1 from *500 Watching Points* by Gilbert Carpenter

In the spirit of Christ's charity, as one who "hopeth all things, endureth all things," and is joyful to bear consolation to the sorrowing and healing to the sick, she commits these pages to honest seekers for Truth. – *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, page xii

While most of human teaching tells us to "fake it 'til you make it," Christian Science shows us how to live joyously now because we are learning to come into alignment with Truth, Love, and Life. I am so grateful for this wonderful change in my life, as I have already found that a Godless life is a steady decline, devoid of hope, fulfillment, and joy. Christian Science is the only way!

The joy of the Lord is my strength... Nehemiah. This was a calendar post last week, as well. It had me thinking that the false sense of fatigue can be overcome with such a simple statement taken into

the heart. If I am joyful, first it means I know all good has already been done; it really also affirms my trust in God's Allness; His Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience and Omni-Action. *****

Don't Scattereth Abroad

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Matthew 12: 30

This sentence reminds me that when we go about our day, we can't be half way in our declarations of Truth or application of Science. It means every moment we actively strive to practice and demonstrate God's Love, but also forcefully handle all error, which can be pounding on the door or knocking gently (bland denial of Truth). It can be easy to fall into "la-la land" when everything is going well or take a "day off" here and there, as was mentioned in the Roundtable on Sunday.

From Pulpit commentary:

"Indifference in this case is only another name for opposition; not actively to help is really to hinder."

From Elliott's Commentary:

"In the great struggle between light and darkness, good and evil, God and the enemy of God, there is no neutrality." *****

Matter Can Make No Conditions For Man

Science and Health. Then the question inevitably arises: Is a man sick if the material senses indicate that he is in good health? No! For matter can make no conditions for man. And is he well if the senses say he is sick? Yes, he is well in Science in which health is normal and disease is abnormal.

The reason being that: Health is not a condition of matter, but of Mind. *Science and Health*.

There is so much about how the mind "causes" physical conditions as in psychosomatic illnesses. If this is understood, how can what Mrs. Eddy's revelation says about sickness be rejected? It is good to know that the more we realize our spiritual being, as what is real, the more we can appreciate the control of Mind, God! The understanding that

mortal mind is the perpetrator of all the claims that we face is wonderful; seeing that Mrs. Eddy also gave us how to handle this supposed mind. Christian Science is man's salvation. *****

Thank you. Since coming to Plainfield, this is becoming much clearer. I work to "bind up" this false mortal mind, which tries to keep me from the One Mind. It is constant striving to check my thinking and allow only God to dictate. *****

SUBJECT – Ancient And Modern Necromancy, Alias Mesmerism And Hypnotism, Denounced – November 27th, 2016

Spiritual History

“All forms of error support the false conclusions that there is more than one Life, that material history is as real and living as spiritual history....” (S&H) This is an important statement to clasp hold of, especially at this time of year when past memories may aggressively try to enter thought. The Bible says God requires our past. All that is true about it is in your spiritual development, the ways in which you have made spiritual progress and grown closer to God. Anything else is the Adam dream – merely a passing dream that should never be considered real or true. It is certainly nothing to ever ruminate about. You are giving it a life it does not possess of its own and you are also missing out on the blessings God is bestowing upon you in the eternal now. “Why search the future and the past? Why do ye look with tearful eyes and seek far off for paradise? Before your feet, Life's pearl is cast.” (Hymn #391) *****

Put On the Whole Armour of God

The more time I spend at Plainfield and use the practical teachings here I realize this is the armour we are told to put on.

Mrs. Eddy writes, in Miscellany, “Good thoughts are an impervious armour; clad therewith you are

completely shielded from the attacks of error of every sort.” and “Meekness is the armour of a Christian, his shield and his buckler.” Message for 1902

It is taking me time to see that what protects us is our thoughts and attitudes, right thinking. Working with a practitioner here is building the wall (protection from error, like Nehemiah rebuilding the wall to protect the city) with stones of gratitude, obedience, joy, forgiveness, good-will, courage, strength, humility, and unselfishness, which protects us from the enemy of negative thoughts. Like Nehemiah, I am learning from lack of watching that I don't have time to come off the wall and stop this work of right thinking. *****

Since attending Plainfield, armour went from abstract ideas that I repeated, to an active way of living my daily life. This obedience to Biblical precepts correctly taught here leads to spiritual understanding of what we are reading and studying.

“Absolute obedience, and the whole armour of God is on! Disobedience or indifference and the whole armour is off; we live in our sense of self, which is the ‘bottomless pit.’” from Self-Mesmerism by John F. Linscott Journal 1896.

“Above all he needs to take the shield of faith (spiritual understanding), and also to take ‘the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God,’ as an offensive and defensive weapon.” The Whole Armor of God by Rev. G. A. Kratzer, Sentinel 1906

“That constant radiation of Light is the Armor of Righteousness, which always protects man from his enemy the devil (mortal mind),” Radiation and Absorption by A. Learner. I understand now that constant radiation means how we think and live. As mentioned last week, not doing this (“bland denial of truth”) is mental malpractice, the opposite of the armour of God. *****

Thank you for the insight!! I also found additional verses in Ephesians 6 very helpful; 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: *****

Seek His Face Evermore

The psalmist instructs us to seek God's face evermore. Whenever you stand before someone face to face, the implication is that there is nothing hidden, a sense of trust, and open honesty. God's face, the radiance of truth and love, is always shining towards us. The main question is whether we are facing it. I am sure that experience has shown to us all, that if we want to feel the security of God's presence, we need to turn to him with an open and willing heart. *****

"Seek the Lord and his Strength."

Since the Lord is possessing unlimited power, present in all places at the same time, knowing all things at once and supports, why turn to anything else? God is All. *****

Evil is Not Power

Science and Health, p. 192 Evil is not power. It is a mockery of strength, which ere long betrays its weakness and falls, never to rise.

This citation is so reassuring; that regardless of evil's forms and degrees of severity, we only need to know it is false, that because we have the Mind of Christ we cannot be mesmerized, and that God is all the power and presence there is.

If error had any reality in its taunting presence, David would not have vanquished it with just one pebble (one spiritual fact)! I just love it: to see through error's false, bullying suggestions. God is all, you are NOT!

Thanks for the watching point this week; it clearly refers to error's powerlessness, despite its bullying appearances. This is why we must "Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good." II Chronicles 19: 11

The Matthew Henry commentary on this verse: They must act with resolution. "Deal courageously, and fear not the face of man; be bold and daring in the discharge of your duty, and, whoever is against you, God will protect you: The Lord shall be with the good. Wherever he finds a good man, a good magistrate, he will be found a good God."

It helps to remember that in challenging the claims that come, we must know that the Truth we are declaring is the Christ with us, which has all the power! I remember how helpless and hopeless I used to feel years ago when confronted with error because I did not have that deeper conviction of never being separated from God. The sense of "God with us" gives courage. *****

While doing a watch one evening and reading THE NEW BIRTH in Miscellaneous Writings p. 15, in the second paragraph Mrs. Eddy says, "The new birth is not the work of a moment. It begins with moments, and goes on with years; moments of surrender to God, of childlike trust and joyful adoption of good...." This has helped me a great deal with giving up the false testimony of the physical senses. I sometimes get impatient with my spiritual progress, but it is such a comfort when Mrs. Eddy says further on ... the gradual fading out of the mortal and material sense of man, thought is developed into an infant Christianity....." What wonderful encouragement from our Leader. *****

Fear No Evil

"I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." (Psalm 23) This is a good one to remember throughout the day. It's easy to become fearful about something – to worry about a family member, an important meeting coming up, a physical pain, the morning's news headline.... This one statement from the 23rd Psalm is a readily available answer. Is there anything you are fearing at this moment? Take to heart what the Psalmist David reminds us of. He fearlessly overcame a lion, a bear, and Goliath! Fear nothing for the Lord God Omnipotent is with you!