

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 94

SUBJECT: Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force? – June 18th, 2017

One True Cause, Mind

Science and Health, p. 209 Mind, supreme over all its formations and governing them all, is the central sun of its own systems of ideas, the life and light of all its own vast creation; and man is tributary to divine Mind.

From Webster's 1828 TRIBUTARY, noun One that pays tribute or a stated sum to a conquering power, for the purpose of securing peace and protection, or as an acknowledgment of submission, or for the purchase of security.

This gives a beautiful image of God as the only true Cause, above all and all else including man "tributary to divine Mind." One Cause and its effect. This is the "Sun and its rays" concept again; our oneness with our Father-Mother, reflecting all that Mind is! As the Scientific Statement of Being says; All is Infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation for God is all in all! *Science and Health* *****

Mildred Le Blond wrote, "When Mrs. Eddy announced that, 'all is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation,' she did something for the human race it cannot ever escape, and which will do more to lift the human race out of fears and limitations than any statement ever made by anyone." One of Mrs. Le Blond's readers confirmed this, exclaiming, "Yes! It was this very statement that was used by the practitioner who healed my mother of blindness, my father on his deathbed, and my little brother of double hernia. I was seven years old, but I can still hear my parents repeating this statement with the conviction that it would heal them.

"As I have testified before, my mother's sight was restored in three treatments. Then my father asked for treatment and was healed the same day, in one

treatment. When my parents spoke to the practitioner about my little brother's condition, she said, 'You know what healed you, just keep knowing *All is Infinite Mind manifested*.' The next day it was found that the little truss he had been wearing was no longer needed. That same statement in *Science and Health* – understood by the practitioner – had healed him, too. Those three, almost instantaneous, healings in Christian Science have been the watershed experience of my life." *****

Thanks for these references as they affirm that all our studying, striving to understand should lead us ultimately to KNOW this Truth: God's Allness and therefore the nothingness of all else; as in the first commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" Exodus 20. *****

Our Mighty God

Amos 13 For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.

Also, Job 37:5 God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend.

I have been reading the Old Testament and pondering the mighty power of our God. He can and does ALL. This week's Lesson brings out this FACT perfectly. There is none beside HIM, The great I AM who hears our cries. We must listen then for the voice behind us, Deuteronomy 4:36, *Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct us* from last week's Lesson p.2. Thank you Lesson writers! *****

Yes, love how this lesson brings out the absolute awesomeness of God. There is no rival and no other power Omnipotent indeed. I am in awe. *****

Stop the Murmuring

Murmur from Webster's 1828 Dictionary:
To grumble; to complain; to utter complaints in a low, half articulated voice; to utter sullen discontent.

I was struck by how many times the children of Israel "murmured" against Moses and against God. They complained about the bitter water, then about lack of food, then about lack of water.

And yet, every time their need was met, they still murmured. They had been miraculously delivered at the Red Sea, the bitter water became sweet, God provided manna, and again water flowed from the rock. You'd think after a while they'd stop their murmuring!

It got me thinking how much do I murmur/complain during the day? It is a negative state and easy to fall into. It is denying God's Love and care. The antidote: constant gratitude for the good already at hand.

Murmur from Webster's 1828 Dictionary: *****

Thank you for this post! I have been thinking on this a lot, as well.

Their murmuring seemed to come from taking a personal view of Moses as the only man that God worked through. If they had seen that it was God working, impersonally, then they would have seen that murmuring was worse than a waste of time, it was entertaining devils unawares, and therefore an affront to God. Imagine how different history would have been if they all embraced their place as God's expression and manifestation!

It's fascinating how this mirrors what we've been discussing at recent Roundtables, regarding supposed Christian Scientists' treatment of Mrs. Eddy's place and importance. Imagine how different the present would be if the organization would have refrained from entertaining those devils, and instead advanced the Cause by standing on her shoulders, being lifted up as she was lifted up by God.

I have such gratitude that the practitioners here are

always working to have us stand on our own feet, and never seeking to have us dependent on them personally. I wouldn't have been able to feel comfortable coming into another situation where I was loyal to person. Loyalty to Truth and Love, however, makes so much sense!

I am grateful that Christian Science teaches us God's impersonal nature and how to hone our spiritual sense so we know whether it is an angel (right thinking) or a devil (wrong thinking) seeking to be entertained. I am grateful to this church and its practitioners for the unity and support we experience here, for reinforcing right thinking and rebuking wrong thinking, and for keeping us on the path God has set before us so the future won't have to imagine the blessings that could have been. Thank you!

Isaac Newton once wrote: "If I have seen a little further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants." Certainly a better thought than trying to knock everyone down to ground level. *****

Thanks for your insights! Last night while reading *Science and Health*, I came across Mrs. Eddy's quote: "It is error to murmur or to be angry over sin." (369:31-32) Because of the Bible lesson, her sobering words hit me in a deeper way. I began to see how my comments to myself on the world were self-righteous, and even more important why even entertain a lie. I went to bed with a resolve to be more vigilant for the Truth and to claim it. The testimony from Wed. night came to mind: "The universe is filled with spiritual ideas, which He evolves, and they are obedient to the Mind that makes them." A feeling of freedom washed over me. Divine Mind is in control always. It was very healing to stop tending the Regulator.

I have often marveled at how, having crossed through the Red Sea and rejoiced for what God had done, the Israelites could begin complaining (within 3 days!) But that whole story illustrates how powerful the magnetics are within this dream. The emotional, mental and physical needs are demanding! I can see that perhaps they were going through a fasting of sorts: a cleanse. When God did provide the manna in the wilderness, it's interesting that it would appear each morning and would only last for one day, so no hoarding - a lesson to trust in

God for their every need.

One definition of WILDERNESS in the Glossary: “the vestibule in which a material sense of things disappears, and spiritual sense unfolds the great facts of existence.”

MORNING: “Light, symbol of Truth; revelation and progress.”

CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: “The representative of Soul, not corporeal sense; the offspring of Spirit, who, having wrestled with error, sin and sense, are governed by divine Science.” *****

God In Control

Thank you lesson writers! I love this lesson and how practical it is to aide me in my daily watches and know that God is in control.

“O Lord, how manifold are thy works!...thou renewest the face of the earth...the Lord shall rejoice in his works.”

“God creates and governs the universe, including man. The universe is filled with spiritual ideas...and they are obedient to the Mind that makes them.”

“...the ideas of God...are complete and forever expressed...”

The bogus suggestions of hatred, lack, bad health, weather problems, political dissension, or any other of the myriad falsities of mortal mind disappear when we recognize that God is running the show. *****

And yes, He is the only one running the real show. Sometime, as promised, the Christ rule of all nations will be revealed! *****

SUBJECT: Christian Science – June 25th, 2017

Christ Science, Our Comforter, is Here

Science and Health, p. 385 Christian Science is neither made up of contradictory aphorisms nor of the inventions of those who scoff at God. **It presents the calm and clear verdict of Truth**

against error, uttered and illustrated by the prophets, by Jesus, by his apostles, as is recorded throughout the Scriptures. (Emphasis added).

How important it is that I no longer act as a helpless victim, but in reverence and with gratitude, love, and praise what God gave the world through Mrs. Eddy, as the Bible prophecy promised.

The Comforter’s Truth does teach, comfort, and heal with the assurance of God’s power, presence and rule! In it, we have something great to educate us out of our ignorance of evil’s supposed reality. Its truth of eternal life is a powerful comfort and healing grace for those grieving. As error is uncovered as a falsehood of mortal mind, hence powerless and nothing, we get a clear view of our perfection now, free from the taunting lies of sin, sickness and death. *****

"The Bright & Morning Star"

“I am the bright and morning star” (Revelation 22). “Evening. Mistiness of mortal thought; weariness of mortal mind; obscured views...” (*Science and Health*, p. 586)

Mrs. Eddy’s revelation has come at such an evening time in the experience of earth’s civilizations, so let me continually watch and pray mightily in the spirit of “Mother’s Evening Prayer”:

“Keep Thou my child on upward wing tonight,” (which means: *Keep Thou her child, Christian Science, on upward wing tonight*) to hasten the dawning of the daystar of Science in the hearts of more and more people everywhere, every moment, every day.

Let me make sure that “God...owns each waking hour” of my life, that He possesses more of each of those hours, to make sure each moment of communion with God in this matter is more powerful and effectual than the last. *****

What a beautiful example of the practical application of Mrs. Eddy’s beautiful hymn. I have referred to this particular hymn on so many different occasions as a prayer of great comfort, and healing.

I appreciate this new view, to “*Keep Thou her child, Christian Science, on upward wing tonight*”.

According As His Work Shall Be

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” (Revelation)

One thing that I have learned in Christian Science is that the rewards for our actions come quickly. It is not what we say that matters, but, rather, what we do and the motive for our doing that matters. I have seen many people misled into thinking that they can live their lives by repeating “truths” to themselves or others, and doing nothing else. Keeping the truth steadfastly in thought is clearly essential, but it is only a prerequisite to living a right life.

It is similar to our Alertness to Duty in the church manual, in which Mrs. Eddy writes: “By his works he shall be judged, — and justified or condemned.” God doesn’t ask us to do anything that we are not able to do, but it often requires courage and unselfed love to get out of our “comfort zone” and do for others. And it is quite comforting to know that our reward is commensurate with our works. *****

My wife recommended that I clarify something. When I wrote that the rewards of our works come quickly, I did not mean that the human rewards that we might expect or want for our actions would come quickly. They may never come in this lifetime. The reward for right doing is a clear conscience and a sense of dominion over evil, even though you may be humanly uncomfortable for years. The reward for disobedience to God is a disturbed conscience and a sense of fear, even though your human condition may feel “comfortable” by all human standards.

When Paul began his mission after his conversion, he prayed to God to heal him of an infirmity. God’s answer was “My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.” The rewards that come quickly are those of the heart and conscience, but not necessarily of the flesh. It all depends on what best promotes your spiritual growth. *****

Thank you for your clarification. I see it as soldiering on, knowing in one’s heart, “Not my will, but Thine be done.” What is in our heart and

conscience is of the most vital importance, no matter what the sense testimony may or may not look like. Our spiritual sense assures us of what is right, in our thinking and consequently in our actions. It took me a while to get to this point as I stubbornly clung to what I didn’t want to let go of, thinking I might “miss out” on something.

“The reward for disobedience to God is a disturbed conscience and a sense of fear, even though your human condition may feel “comfortable” by all human standards.” Check—been there, done that! And I wouldn’t return there for anything. The only thing I missed out on, for years, was the blessings I was depriving myself of by festering in the swamp of material error, even while clinging to the life raft of Christian Science. The teachings in this church pulled me out of the swamp, washed me clean, and gently pushed me forward onto the straight and narrow path I had always been afraid of. Now I love this path! *****

How Can I Progress?

“Question. — How can I progress most rapidly in the understanding of Christian Science?

Answer. — Study thoroughly the letter and imbibe the spirit. Adhere to the divine Principle of Christian Science and follow the behests of God, abiding steadfastly in wisdom, Truth and Love.”
(*Science and Health*)

I would often ask myself how could I make better progress in Christian Science? — and Mrs. Eddy, all the while, was giving me very clear and specific instructions. The questions I needed to ask myself were — “am I willing to spend the time involved to “thoroughly study the letter”? And then, most importantly, “am I willing to imbibe the spirit?” The word “imbibe” means “to drink in; to absorb.” Science is not in any way superficial. It must be lived and as stated here, Truth must be adhered to and be steadfastly abided in! I am grateful for the teaching I have had at Plainfield. It places the things of God first and foremost in life so progress and a deeper understanding of Christian Science then becomes an everyday occurrence and reality. It can for anyone who desires it deeply enough — no

exceptions! *****

Thank you. I appreciate this topic. It wasn't until I came to Plainfield and started to follow the teachings and example that I realized most of my reading was not being absorbed, and therefore not lived - adhered so the spirit was not imbibed. As I slowly break the habits of intellectualizing this Science of Christ, I am able to see progress that was not there. Step-by-step it is helping me place the things of God first. It was a huge shock when I first began to wake up to how far I was from living/abiding in Truth and Love.

“...follow the behests of God...”

BEHEST', n. Command; precept; mandate.
[Antiquated, except in poetry.] (Webster's 1928)

Below from 500 Watching Points by Carpenter he writes, “The following statements by Mrs. Eddy illustrate this point. ‘It is good to be afflicted, to drink in the experience by which we are made meet for the Master’s crown. Love is in itself a purifier, and if we reach its glorious behests, we must be purified in the process.’ ‘The Christian Science student’s affection, fidelity, and devotion are born in the furnace and blossom in wisdom won by experience. This is the price and reward of taking one’s treasure out of material vessels.’ ‘Oh! how good it is to experience, to learn the meanings of God by what we suffer.’ ‘It is good to be afflicted, when the results prove its uses.’”

Below is part of a poem by Mary Baker Eddy entitled “Come Thou”. She put the lines below it on the very first pages of her 1910 *Science and Health*:

“Oh! Thou hast heard my prayer; And I am blest!
This is Thy high behest: –
Thou here, and everywhere.”

SUBJECT: God – July 2nd, 2017

God is Our helper

“And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows.” (Exodus)

Mrs. Eddy has a beautiful and explanatory correlative to this passage in her article “Unity of Good” in which she states,
“If He (God) is All, He can have no consciousness of anything unlike Himself; because, if He is omnipresent, there can be nothing outside of Himself. Now this self-same God is our helper. He pities us. He has mercy upon us, and guides every event of our careers. He is near to them who adore Him. To understand Him, without a single taint of our mortal finite sense of sin, sickness, or death, is to approach Him and become like Him.”

What a Good God we have! And how privileged we are to have Mrs. Eddy’s pure and true explanations of Him! Moses knew these Truths about God and this understanding enabled him to lead the children of Israel through the Red Sea – with the Egyptians hot on their trail. Talk about pressure! And yet Moses, poised in his great trust for his heavenly Father, declared, “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” (Exodus) And so it was. *****

I think what is so wonderful about this statement from “Unity of Good” is Mrs. Eddy saying – God is all things Good to His creation. Yes, He is our consciousness – our very thoughts. He is also our Helper, our Guide, our best and ever Friend – whatever the need is at the moment, He comes and reveals Himself to us, fulfilling that need, in whatever way we can best comprehend. What an awesome God we have! I am so grateful for Mrs. Eddy and for her writings! *****

Thank you for these posts; and indeed how awesome is that? *Science and Health* states p. 487: 27-1: The understanding that Life is God, Spirit, lengthens our days by strengthening our trust in the deathless reality of Life, its almightiness and immortality.

How often am I reminding myself of that, so that I can be firm in my conviction that sin, disease, and death are not a part of that eternal Life. We can all KNOW this if we persist in it and stand ready to shut out the mortal senses and their false capacities; they do NOT tell us anything real!

This from the Lesson seals what needs to be done: *Science and Health*, p. 276, “If God is admitted to be the only Mind and Life, there ceases to be any opportunity for sin and death. When we learn in Science how to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect, thought is turned into new and healthy channels, — towards the contemplation of things immortal and away from materiality to the Principle of the universe, including harmonious man.” I am immensely grateful to learn that!!

Infinite

“...God, the infinite, supreme, eternal Mind.”

Awhile ago, I decided to think more about the word infinite. From school all I could equate it to was in Math when a line never ended. This did not give me the deeper sense I needed to understand God better.

Infinite: (Webster’s 1828)

1. Without limits; unbounded; boundless; not circumscribed; applied to time, space and qualities. God is infinite in duration, having neither beginning nor end of existence. He is also infinite in presence, or omnipresent, and his perfections are infinite.

2. That will have no end.

We read that God is All, omnipresent, omnipotent-not circumscribed (limited, controlled, confined) to time and space or other material qualities - many ways to express God’s infinity. One thing that has been helping me is *Scientific Translations* by Martha Wilcox. “And as we discern the spiritual fact of all things, the material accompaniments such as inanimate life, weight, density, solidity, finiteness, impermanence, insecurity, uncertainty, time and place will vanish from our consciousness and human experience.”

I was trying to understand this concept of “infinite” through my 5 senses. Mrs. Eddy tells us, “The physical senses can obtain no proof of God.” and that, “The true understanding of God is spiritual.” I am grateful for the teachings at Plainfield that cultivates spiritual sense that is replacing my old way of repeating words and memorization that did

not help me feel the meaning nor help me prove this practical Science of Christ. *****

The concept of God’s infinitude is most helpful in understanding ONENESS and also appreciating more deeply the first commandment. It has helped me obey the Truth that there is NOTHING else. All His creation is included in Him! *****

Who Shall Separate Us From the Love of Christ?

Nothing, of course! Good thing to think about when things are not going well.... as nothing has changed. God is present, as always. Never fear. Never worry – of anything that is not of God. Seek a life of serving God and blessing others. God constantly pours out love, showers of blessings, to His children and nothing, can separate us from that love.

Stand Still

6. Exodus 14

13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord,
14 The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

As I learn more of what Plainfield teaches, it becomes clearer that the true battles (and victories!) are in consciousness. Since that is the case, what would I gain by running? Wherever I go, my consciousness is there. So, of course I need to stand still and face the lies with Truth. When I consider it that way, why would I be afraid? Has a lie ever overcome Truth? Can the unreal best reality?

I am so grateful for Christian Science, which is putting all those foolish fears in their place, and showing me how to live for God and mankind.

Thank you! *****

This statement has helped me many times. I say to myself, “Fear not and peace, be still.” I need to stand still and quiet my thought. I can’t try to outline or figure out how something should be accomplished. It is putting my total trust in God. Thank God and Mary Baker Eddy for this Science.