

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Spirit – August 6th, 2017

An Obligation to Follow Spirit!

Romans 8: 12-14 reads:

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

To better grasp the meaning of the first verse (“we are debtors, not to the flesh”), I went to the Amplified Bible:

12 So then, [a] brothers and sisters, we have an obligation, but not to our flesh [our human nature, our worldliness, our sinful capacity], to live according to the [impulses of the] flesh [our nature without the Holy Spirit] — 13 for if you are living according to the [impulses of the] flesh, you are going to die. But if [you are living] by the [power of the Holy] Spirit you are habitually putting to death the sinful deeds of the body, you will [really] live forever. 14 For all who are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

In the 1828 dictionary:

Debtor: 2. One who is under obligation to do something.

So, it's clearer to me now that we are under no obligation to the flesh, but we have an actual **obligation** to always be in tune with our spiritual sense, to follow Spirit! *****

Thanks for this post! It shows Spirit's supremacy. Spirit is my substance.

JOB 33: 4 “The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” This from the lesson clearly states I am made from Spirit and Spirit is what gives me life. I must

therefore learn to accept this, think this, know this and understand that I am spiritual! My spiritual substance is incapable of destruction, disease, and death; that which makes “being” is health, holiness, and immortality.

The conclusion of all this to me is: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.” This “me” is Spirit.

Science

“The first demand of this Science is, ‘Thou shalt have no other gods before me.’” *Science and Health*, by Mary Baker Eddy

Science (Webster's 1828):

1. In a general sense, knowledge, or certain knowledge; the comprehension or understanding of truth or facts by the mind. The science of God must be perfect.
2. In philosophy, a collection of the general principles or leading truths relating to any subject. Pure science as the mathematics, is built on self-evident truths;
3. Art derived from precepts or built on principles.

Participating at Plainfield is helping me understand the “Christian” aspect of Christian Science and also the “Science” aspect of it. I am finding in my daily life results (proof) as I practice the principles and precepts, correctly and clearly explained here. The word Science seemed abstract to me. Not really grasping the rules, I was just memorizing statements, repeating words without the spirit. One thing that was lacking was a deeper Biblical background, so integral to this Science. As the confusion and veil is lifting, words I read over and over for so many years mean so much more to me now.

“The term Science, properly understood, refers only to the laws of God and to His government of the universe, inclusive of man.” *Science and Health*, by

Mary Baker Eddy

Mrs. Eddy refers to Christian Science as the, “Science of God’s unchangeable law”, and “Science of God and man”

“So we have goodness and beauty to gladden the heart; but man, left to the hypotheses of material sense unexplained by Science, is as the wandering comet or the desolate star — ‘a weary searcher for a viewless home.’” *Science and Health*, by Mary Baker Eddy. *****

So, I can know that God’s laws, the laws of health, holiness, harmony, right activity, right accomplishment, justice, all things good, and Love, govern me. How wonderful is that? This is why Christian Science understood should make us extremely grateful and joyful as we journey for even greater conviction of the Truth. *****

You Are Now in the Kingdom of Heaven

Thank you for the powerful Bible lesson and all the wonderful resources I just received from your bookstore. Last night I poured over 500 Watchpoints, and want to share this one.

258. WATCH lest you lose sight of the fact that you are now in the kingdom of heaven, and that the only reason you do not perceive it, is because your spiritual senses, which alone can testify to this fact have become atrophied, or been covered up by falsity. The only way to develop or resurrect these senses is through use. We rarely seek to use spiritual sense, unless we are confronted with a problem or question that defies solution by the human mind, or human methods. Hence, we should seek such problems and rejoice when we are confronted by them. They are to be found in the Bible, in Mrs. Eddy’s writings, in her life, as well as in our own lives.”

I am so grateful to be growing spiritually stronger through your powerful teachings.

Overcome

When the first symptoms of disease appear, dispute the testimony of the material senses with divine

Science. Let your higher sense of justice destroy the false process of mortal opinions which you name law, and then you will not be confined to a sick-room nor laid upon a bed of suffering in payment of the last farthing, the last penalty demanded by error. “Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him.” Suffer no claim of sin or of sickness to grow upon the thought. Dismiss it with an abiding conviction that it is illegitimate, because you know that God is no more the author of sickness than He is of sin. You have no law of His to support the necessity either of sin or sickness, but you have divine authority for denying that necessity and healing the sick.

Rise in the conscious strength of the spirit of Truth to overthrow the plea of mortal mind, alias matter, . . . *Science and Health*, p 390: 12-26, 32-2.

It was strongly suggested that I work with this citation by Mrs. Eddy and while doing so, two things occurred to me. First, that this is not just about physical illusion, but mental fears, also. No law of God supports sin or sickness. Actually, fear is a sin because it is doubting God’s Omnipotence. Second, rise and cling to God fiercely, and it helps me to think deeply about the seven synonyms for God. Spirit, Life, Truth, Love, Principal, Mind, and Soul . . . all substance and all intelligence. And then I think of the Christ and how he heals us . . . coming even for the lost sheep. Thank you Plainfield Church, for teaching us all things about God’s care. *****

Thank you! “Rise in the conscious strength of the spirit of Truth to overthrow the plea of mortal mind, alias matter, arrayed against the supremacy of Spirit” also can apply to watching and praying for healing today’s world conditions. After the children of Israel left the cauldrons of Egypt and the wilderness, their next assignment was to overthrow the giants of Canaan and place each piece of territory gained, no matter how large or small, under the jurisdiction of the Spirit of Truth. This is how the Lamb of God (divine Love) overcomes the world and “taketh away the sins of the world.” As more and more of today’s Canaan lands come under the jurisdiction of Spirit through successful spiritual warfare, then more and more of “the kingdoms of this world [will] become the kingdoms of our Lord

and of his Christ” *Revelation 11:18*

SUBJECT: Soul – August 13th, 2017

Open My Eyes That I May See

I read this in a book around Christmas time and sing it often to myself. It has new meaning to me as a result of our study this week.

I thought it appropriate to share here this week. It is from a hymn by Clare Scott.

Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.

Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear *****

This is a beautiful prayer since it was Jesus’ correct view of man that healed the sick! We must all desire this view so that we can see ourselves correctly and see others in the same true light. As one author put it: Father you were there, what did you see?

This is a wonderful question to ask ourselves when animal magnetism presents its false pictures; we can always expect that what God reveals to us is the opposite harmonious view contrary to the lies of mortal mind! *****

Ears in Tune with the "Tone of Truth"

“The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them.” (Proverbs).

“Mozart experienced more than he expressed”
Science and Health, 213

During the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, people were bombarded by newspaper headlines, radio and TV broadcasts, all focused upon the nuclear annihilation of the world. Like the rest of the world, New Yorkers had also been saturated with these relentless doomsday reports. It seemed so real, so logical, so inescapable, that the Cold War between Russia and America had now at last heated up, and there was nothing anyone could do

to restrain it from setting the whole world on fire.

Walking the streets of NYC, observing all the glum faces passing by him, composer Noel Regeny wondered how he could possibly write a new Christmas song, assigned to him by a producer. But then suddenly, amidst all of this intense fatalism, he saw two babies smiling at each other from their sidewalk strollers, and immediately a song came to him in a flood of inspiration: “Said the night wind to the little lamb, ‘Do you see what I see?’ ... Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, ‘Do You Hear What I Hear?’” Shortly after this, the Cuban missile crisis was over.

At the beginning of every day I must ask myself the same question, “Where art thou? To what sound have you attuned your ears today, Truth or error? Are your ears attuned to the still, small voice of the Lamb of God? Or to the inharmonious messages of mortal mind, broadcast day and night so insistently? Thus Mrs. Eddy admonishes, “Do you not hear from all mankind of the imperfect model? The world is holding it before your gaze continually...”
Science and Health, 248

Noel Regeny had experienced great sufferings during World War II. Nevertheless, by the grace of God, he was able to transcend those traumatic memories, choosing to live in the now, a state of harmonious receptivity that directed him to 2 bright angels on the gray streets of a city which, like so many others all over the world, had been brought into a tale of discord. Through that harmonious encounter, he was then able to tell the true story, uplifting, as never before, the God of “All-Is-Well!”

See <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/do-you-hear-what-i-hear-the-story-behind-the-song/> for more details. *****

Thank you! What a beautiful story! Yes, I am always hearing and listening – let it be the “still, small voice.” “We would hear no other voices, we would heed no other call.” (Hymn #58) *****

Changing Our Circumstances

Thank you for the powerful Bible lesson! Since finding your dedicated church, I have read many of the healing resources you so freely share, I’ve

noticed a change in my altitude. In this week's lesson, Jesus had to take the blind man out of town before he could be fully healed. In Jesus' first attempt to heal his sight, the man saw men walking as trees. In other words, his vision wasn't fully rooted in the Christ consciousness. When Jesus put his hands on him a second time, and made him look up: he was restored and saw every man clearly. Sometimes, we need to change our circumstances in order to have a healing; we need to get out of "town" to gain true perception. Since coming to Plainfield, I have been "looking up" and seeing more clearly. Thank you for sharing Mrs. Eddy's teachings and the true Christianity as taught by our Master, and for your devotion to God. ****

The words "looking up" stood out to me, too. It is mentioned at least three times. It emphasizes the need to rise above the material senses; use our spiritual sense/spiritual discernment. Mrs. Eddy in some instances "looked away" from the material sense testimony in order to get the clear view, which revealed the present perfection.

What wonderful examples for us to follow. ****

Hath Versus Hath Not

For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Matthew 13: 12

This statement has been one that confused me before. Humanly, it seemed almost cruel. Today, however, I read it and thought that the first "hath" seemed to be referring to whoever has gratitude, and joy, and love for God and mankind, to this thought more will be given. But if we don't have gratitude, or joy, or love for God and mankind, we will lose whatever we have that is in place of these things, until we finally become receptive to what is real and true and good. ****

From the Amplified Version of the Bible follows:

For whoever has [spiritual wisdom because he is receptive to God's word], to him more will be given, and he will be richly and abundantly supplied; but whoever does not have [spiritual wisdom, because he has devalued God's word],

even what he has will be taken away from him.
Matthew 13: 12

I love how you stated this: ... "until we finally become receptive to what is real and true and good." Because the fact is, God is always speaking to us. It's just a matter of when we finally get on board—and listen to Him! ****

Freely Given

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

I Corinthians 2: 12

This statement stood out to me. We have received the spirit of God, so that we might know the things that are freely given to us. Freely given. No strings attached. The spirit of things - we discern them spiritually, not materially. Not to one nationality or gender, or scholastic achiever, or financial bracket. Everyone is given it. We need to open our thought and hearts to receive it, and then make it our own and use it for good.

Matthew Henry says, "Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things freely given to us of God; not the spirit which is in the wise men of the world, nor in the rulers of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, or proceedeth from God. We have what we deliver in the name of God by inspiration from him; and it is by his gracious illumination and influence that we know the things freely given to us of God unto salvation"—that is, "the great privileges of the gospel, which are the free gift of God, distributions of mere and rich grace." ****

Thank you! I especially like to think about the gift of the gospel. The teaching of the Bible at Plainfield has opened up a whole new way of thinking and praying. A whole new understanding that is unfolding. ****

"Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind, and happiness would be more readily attained and would be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul. *Science and Health*, p 60:29-1