

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 98

SUBJECT: Mind – August 20th, 2017

Unfathomable Mind

The last passage in *Science and Health* reminds me of this passage in Ephesians 3:15-21:

“Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is *the breadth, and length, and depth, and height*; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Mrs. Eddy writes: “Unfathomable Mind is expressed. The depth, breadth, height, might, majesty, and glory of infinite Love fill all space. That is enough!” *****

Perfect in Knowledge

What daunting task do you find yourself faced with today? I have found two passages in the book of Job found in this week’s lesson to be very helpful. “He that is perfect in knowledge is with thee.”

“He knoweth the way that I take: when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. For He performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with Him.”

When you think about it what more help can anyone ask for? God’s perfect knowledge is with you directing and guiding and then of course always remembering He is the one doing it. Our work is never about “us” trying to accomplish some great thing, but it is always about God letting His plan and purpose operate through us.

Sometimes we can get too intense about what we are trying to achieve – I looked up the definition of the word “intense” and it means, “literally strained, stretched; violent, vehement, as intense heat.” Not a good thing and it is no wonder our bodies end up feeling “strained and stretched.” So anytime a feeling of intensity rises up, it is time to stop and take a break and remember who and what is doing all things well. When our peace returns we will accomplish the work with ease being totally submissive to God and His will.

“Ye shall not to your daily task without your God repair,

But on your work His blessing ask and prove His glory there.” (Hymn #247). *****

Thank you so much for this beautiful post. I have tears of joy for the Love and Wisdom shared here. It strikes at the heart of what I am experiencing right now. And how blessed am I for this powerful and clear instruction. Wow. Magnificent guidance. I am so grateful for this blessed Church activity. Thank you dear Father.

It was immortal man that Jesus beheld perfect in Science and so must we. *****

How true it is to let God do the thinking! About once a year I use a trailer on my vehicle which means connecting the wiring for the trailer lights temporarily because I could never figure out the easy solution. This time I approached it with “God will show me the way!” In no time I was shown the simple solution that had escaped me for several years so now it can be quick and functional each time rather than ‘glued’ together with band aids and at risk of falling apart during use:) *****

It’s interesting to watch how Divine Mind naturally directs and guides. Recently I received the book, *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps* by the Carpenters along with many other helpful resources from the Plainfield Church Bookstore. The Carpenters’ book was on the end table in the living room and last week my husband picked it up and

began to read at random. This passage moved him so much that he was guided to read it aloud at the Wed. night testimony meeting in town. (We attend but are not members.) Someone came up afterwards and asked for a copy of the quote.

“Students of CS must take their cue from their Leader and build up confidence in the power they reflect, establishing the glorious fact that their spiritual consciousness has the very powers of the universe back of it; that nothing can stand before it; that it has a speed greater than that of light; that it goes wherever it is directed, acts instantaneously and does accomplish that whereunto it is sent.

Being with Mrs. Eddy was of great assistance to me in my effort to realize the infinite range of spiritual thought as reflected by man. It aided me in my effort to throw off the mortal mind sense of limitation which we are tempted to place about our spiritual capacities. Unless the student recognizes the coverage and range of his spiritual power, he will not use it as he should. He will resemble the farmer who buys an automobile and then drives it within the limits of his old horse and carriage, both as to speed and distance.” *****

Thank you for this quote from our dear friends the Carpenters. It is one I often use and think about before a watch. Always good to be reminded of the tremendous power that is behind unselfed prayer.

What Do You See?

In *Science and Health* it says “Mortal mind sees what it believes as certainly as it believes what it sees.” This means to me that what I see is more a function of what is within me than what is out there. This also points to the necessity of looking at things as God sees them, which is an important discipline to take on. This would eliminate the quick judgment and faulty influence of human thinking, regardless of how reasonable it may seem, but is the cause of so many problems. What mortal mind sees is largely what is popular at the moment, but only what God sees will stand the test of time and experience and will prove to be right.

Without question the most important battle to win is within my own consciousness. All the years prior to coming to Plainfield I knew the goal was to be at one with God but didn't put it into practice very quickly so thank you very much for this reminder!

Every comment, however simple it may seem when based in Science helps tremendously:)

But There Is A God.....

Dan 2:28 **But there is a God** in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.

Yes, there is a God who is All knowing and All seeing; and the questions to myself are: Have I accepted Him as my true Father/Mother, my everything, do I hallow His holy name as I should, am I grateful for all He has done? If am endeavoring to sincerely do these, then my trust in Him should be increasing and my doubts and fears lessening.

Dan 2: 20 Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:
22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

And the words of Hymn 224: When all material streams are dried
Thy fullness is the same;
May I with this be satisfied,
And glory in Thy name.

Seeking to know and love God, must be my most important desire! Excellent lesson, thanks to the writer. *****

Thank you! I found it very telling to note in just a few of these Biblical verses Daniel refers to his “God” seven times. Daniel knows so clearly he can do nothing without his Father. He continually draws reference to His Holy name in total submission to His power and presence. It was this unyielding obedience and trust in God that enabled Daniel to interpret the dream – and under seemingly great pressure and duress, by the way! He also was quick to give God all the praise and all the glory when the answer was revealed – taking none for himself. There is no problem, no matter how great it may

seem to be, where God is not there to lift you up and out, when you turn humbly and unreservedly to Him. *****

This relationship with God is so inspiring and a lesson for us all. It gave Daniel the courage to go to the king and ask for more time. He then told his friends about the need, – friends whom he knew had that same strong relationship with God. Then they all turned whole-heartedly to God in prayer for an answer. When he got the answer, he immediately thanked God. Then, when the king recognized the answer as the correct one, Daniel made it very clear that it was God who provided the answer.

As a side note, I thought that this also said something good about Nebuchadnezzar. God gave him the dream in the first place and the king pursued the dream until he got an answer to it. The fact that he recognized the answer and then promoted Daniel in recognition of his relationship with the one God, shows some humility on the king's part. It shows what one person can accomplish when he/she has a strong and clear recognition of God as the only Mind. He becomes a blessing to everyone around him. *****

SUBJECT: Christ Jesus – August 27th, 2017

Reflection

Science and Health, p 242

There is but one way to heaven, harmony, and Christ in divine Science shows us this way. It is to know no other reality — to have no other consciousness of life — than good, God and His reflection, and to rise superior to the so-called pain and pleasure of the senses.

No other reality, no other consciousness of life – than good, God and His reflection! This is a tall order and must be obeyed or we scare the birds as mentioned in this week's Daily Watch. I realized that I go humming along and lately after listening to some "news" in order to pray aright; I have lost my spiritual poise and away flies my "consciousness of reflection". This has been a good lesson for me to be more alert and diligent as I

grow in my understanding of GOD'S reality. Thank you to our Christ and our beloved Mrs. Eddy for this divine Science that shows us the way. *****

Persistence

A quick thought from the daily Watch (Link here) – no matter how good our understanding, our daily or constant efforts are important. As noted from the Watch – are we leaning on God? *****

How true! I remember having to learn the multiplication table consistently and being tested several times until they became "my own," something a part of me. And even then it is the consistent use of them and persistent knowing of them that makes me keenly aware of what they are and therefore cannot be fooled by their opposite. I find that is why persistence, consistency are emphasized here in this Church.

An article 3 C's and E by Doris Evans has always been helpful with persistence and expectation. Here is the link: <https://articles.plainfieldcs.com/doris-w-evans/three-cs-and-an-e/>

The teaching through Christian Science has taught me to ask: How can I make these Truths the foundation of how I live? With understanding persistence they become how I think and hence how I live.

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Cattle & Creeping Thing: Patience & Perseverance

Genesis i. 24. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

This lesson reminds me of Mrs. Eddy's commentary on the above passage, and of 2 creatures in particular:

Cattle —

Science and Health, p 514 – “In the figurative transmission from the divine thought to the human, diligence, promptness, and perseverance are likened to ‘the cattle upon a thousand hills’”.

And creeping thing:

Science and Health, p 515 – “Patience is symbolized by the tireless worm, creeping over lofty summits, persevering in its intent.”

The paragraph heading here reads “Qualities of thought,” and it is striking that Mrs. Eddy would identify both of these creatures, so physically different from one another, as embodying the same quality of thought: perseverance!*****

...Justified by Faith

RESPONSIVE READING: Romans 5

1. Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

This struck me on the first reading of this lesson, and led me through the following:

Alertness to Duty (from the Daily Duties by Mary Baker Eddy)

It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged, — and justified or condemned.

James 2:20

20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Justify (1828 Webster's Dictionary)

1. ... to defend or maintain; to vindicate as right.
3. To cause another to appear comparatively righteous, or less guilty than one's self.

I wanted to know Mary Baker Eddy's words on faith (I'm very grateful she states everything so clearly!) from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, page 297:

Faith is higher and more spiritual than belief. ... A belief in Truth is better than a belief in error, but no mortal testimony is founded on the divine rock. Mortal testimony can be shaken. Until belief becomes faith, and faith becomes spiritual understanding, human thought has little relation to the actual or divine.

Before coming to Plainfield, I tried to make words act as a buffer between me and any choice. I think the only time I really spoke was when I was trying not to act. But now, while gaining this understanding of Christian Science and spiritual sense, I feel increasingly more comfortable trusting God to guide me through my work. What a healing this has been!

Garden of Gethsemane

Mrs. Eddy's definition of Gethsemane is helpful:

“Patient woe; the human yielding to the divine; love meeting no response, but still remaining love.”

I have found strength through understanding Jesus' agony in the garden. Although he had been forsaken by all those he blessed, God had provided an angel to strengthen him so that he could fulfill his powerful mission.

Luke 22:43 “And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.”

On page 266 (*Science and Health*) Mrs. Eddy writes: Would existence w/o personal friends be to you a blank? Then the time will come when you will be solitary, left without sympathy; but this seeming vacuum is already filled with divine Love. When this hour of development comes, even if you cling to a sense of personal joys, spiritual Love will force you to accept what best promotes your growth. Friends will betray and enemies will slander, until the lesson is sufficient to exalt you; for “man's extremity is God's opportunity.”

On p. 473 (*Science and Health*) “Jesus is the human man and Christ is the divine idea; hence the duality of Jesus the Christ.”

I get such comfort the more I can understand that Divine Love is never absent from any situation, and all trials are designed for my spiritual growth.