

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 103

**SUBJECT: Adam and Fallen Man –  
November 5th, 2017**

## The Blessing of the LORD

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it.” (Proverbs) This is such a helpful and comforting verse to know and to work with because in the human scheme of things we are often taught to believe that with every bit of good there must come some bad etc. Statements like “this is too good to be true” are often used. And yet, when the blessing comes from God, it can only bless and continue to bless for why would a good God give His people anything less?! What blessing has God given you – a new job opportunity, a new home, a child, good health, a new understanding of Him, a more joyous disposition, a beautiful day? God gives us all kinds of blessings every moment and as we see all good coming from Him and are genuinely grateful for His Love towards us these blessings will continue to bring joy and satisfaction. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (James) Always remember this and never let error trick you into believing otherwise! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this. From glory to doom was a false sense I entertained for a long time. So grateful to be free of it through the understanding that in God, who is the only Life, it is from glory unto glory. He does not give today and withhold tomorrow nor does He give anything less than perfect! We have to trust in God’s Love for us all. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! The life-philosophy of: “With every bit of good there must come some bad” is no different than proposing that for every  $2+2=4$  thought, there is an equal and opposite  $2+2=5$  thought. This is, of course, eating of the tree of knowledge of good and `evil, believing that both good and evil are valid and have equal standing in the sight of God, who

stated conclusively that “everything that He had made” is not only “good”, but “very good.” This is the tree of thinking both correctly and incorrectly simultaneously; the tree of thinking “I can” and “I can’t” simultaneously; the tree of telling oneself to “Press on!” and “Give up!” simultaneously; the tree of knowledge of God and devil, holding both in mind simultaneously.

*James 3:11-12* – “Can both fresh water and bitter water flow from the same spring? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.” See also *James 1:8* and *4:8*. All of these verses are very direct in admonishing me against eating of the tree of double-mindedness. \*\*\*\*\*

## "God Made Two Great Lights"

Genesis 1:16 ‘God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night.’ There are two lights; the greater light is spiritual understanding, the lesser light is human intellect. The sun rules the day, the moon rules the darkness, ignorance, etc. It is darkness, fear, belief, false science, etc. We are the sons of righteousness; we rule the day, the light of understanding.”

“The human mind lusts upon human intellect, has the wrong idea of supply; lusts upon friends, has the wrong idea about persons, believing that the individual is man rather than God; lusts upon home, has not the true concept of home. Home is heaven. Heaven is harmony.”

{Essays and Other Footprints (the *Red Book*) by Mary Baker Eddy, pg. 89, lines 1-12}

I must see all men as they are as the individual image and likeness of God. It is God alone that exists and there is nothing else. All is God. So helpful for me. \*\*\*\*\*

## Seven Steps of Emerging Understanding

On May 6th, 2017, we covered Genesis 1 in the Bible Study, and toward the end of the discussion, it occurred to me that the seven days of creation are like the steps of emerging understanding. I have been thinking on that since, so it felt right to share now. (Bold text is from the *Glossary of Science and Health* used in Genesis on those days.)

*First:* My thought has no form, and I have no clue on how to progress, or perhaps that I am supposed to. Then the light comes!

**NIGHT. Darkness; doubt; fear.**

**EVENING. Mistiness of mortal thought; weariness of mortal mind; obscured views; peace and rest.**

**MORNING. Light; symbol of Truth; revelation and progress.**

*Second:* At first, I feel overwhelmed, like being thrown in the deep end of the pool, but then I start to gain a foothold.

**FIRMAMENT. Spiritual understanding; the scientific line of demarcation between Truth and error, between Spirit and so-called matter.**

*Third:* Things begin to get clearer, but I'm not ready to demonstrate this understanding. The seed, however, is growing. Always seems important at this stage to be quiet, and let it grow without talking too much – or at all – about it.

*Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth:* I start to see more clearly the distinction between Truth and error – in regard to this understanding – just a little at first, but enough to know when a judgment based on the understanding is erroneous or not. Successively, I am called to demonstrate using this understanding. The obstacles and resistance get bigger, but the reward of using the understanding is getting too immediate to avoid. (Thank God for practitioner support, especially at these stages!)

*Seventh:* I have the understanding, and have proved it – to myself, anyway – enough to know it is mine. I can rest with this, until I feel led to use it again.

*The Next Step:* I must protect this understanding from the mist that tries to take it from me. There can be no pride in my understanding, or envy of another's; no fear of losing it; no failure to use it;

no misconception of where it comes from; and, no reversal, as God's work is done. I must be ready to use this understanding as He directs, when He directs. I must be ever grateful for the blessing that each bit of understanding brings. The battles won and victories gained here encourage me, when God calls on me to learn and understand even more. \*\*\*

## Fight All Claims of Evil

“Whence comes a talking, lying serpent to tempt the children of divine Love? The serpent enters into the metaphor only as evil. We have nothing in the animal kingdom which represents the species described, — a talking serpent, — and should rejoice that evil, by whatever figure presented, contradicts itself and has neither origin nor support in Truth and good. Seeing this, we should have faith to fight all claims of evil, because we know that they are worthless and unreal.” Mary Baker Eddy

At the Roundtable this last Sunday, we talked about the danger of “ruminating” and “the accuser”.

I found the synonyms of “ruminate” a very helpful reminder of the many ways “...comes a talking, lying serpent to tempt the children of divine Love...”:

worry; dwell; stew; sulk; languish; bleed; fret; gnaw; speculate; think about; eat one; grieve; lament... These are habits of thought that pull us into the picture of a life separate from God. It is modeled all around us and considered justified. They were the habits of thought I entertained all my life until I came to Plainfield and have been able to break. I no longer see it as normal, necessary, unavoidable, or incurable. Thanks to the correct teachings on the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings, I am gaining the tools to combat this evil. We can have dominion over this through Christ and the Word of God.

A Bible dictionary defined “accuser” as, “seeking to uphold his (satan) influence among men... with the view of weakening their influence and injuring the cause (Christianity) with which they are identified.”

“Alertness to Duty – 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.” Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 6 \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this post! I love the way Mrs. Eddy explains the falsity of Genesis 2 and 3. One of my favorites is to remember that there is NO talking, lying serpent to tempt us away from who we really are. Romans 13 in the Lesson states, “...now is high time to awake out of sleep: for NOW is our salvation nearer than when we believed.” High time to remember that we are God’s creation and never in the Adam dream! \*\*\*\*\*

### **Our Real Grandeur?**

*Science and Health*, p. 516:9 “God fashions all things, after His own likeness.” How wonderful is that?! Mrs. Eddy on pg. 39 of S&H, referring to Christ Jesus says, “**Meekly** our Master met the mockery of his unrecognized grandeur.” It was the conviction of this grandeur, as the image and likeness of God, the expression of Soul that sustained Him and made Him triumphant over all wrong, even death! Thus He loved enough to recognize the grandeur of others and healed them! (Emphasis added).

In one of Bicknell Young’s articles on *Aggressive Mental Suggestion and Malpractice* he asks us the question; “Don’t you think it would heal you to recognize your real grandeur?” I suffered needlessly, as has many, because of this lack of self-knowledge. I felt unworthy and was fearful for so long, until Christian Science taught me my real grandeur, as the image and likeness of God.

This Lesson is waking us up to the Truth of our being. It is telling us we are not fallen, we are not matter, we need not suffer any longer if we will obey what God alone knows about us, what is our real grandeur! From “A Prayer,” an excerpt from *Collectanea*, on the carousel now, we read; “I am that spiritual man, I am God’s image and likeness, reflecting a full, perfect image of Life, Mind, action, etc., not under material laws or limitations.” How grand is that? \*\*\*\*\*

What an awe inspired idea that we should behold

of ourselves and others now! \*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals – November 12th, 2017**

### **Be Ye Holy; For I Am Holy.**

“As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written be ye holy; for I am holy.” (I Peter) Each year, the “holiday” season seems to begin earlier and earlier with all materialism that goes with it. For that reason, I always like to think of this time as “holy days” – a time to become even closer to our Father-Mother God and to feel His presence. “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” (Matthew) It is well to remember not to do anything that is not inspired by God’s loving direction. He will enfold you and yours in His arms of comfort and direct all your paths. One of the definitions of “holy” from the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary is “We call a man holy, when his heart is conformed in some degree to the image of God, and his life is regulated by divine precepts.” Be that man! You will find all your days to be holy ones. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you so much for this post. I think this is such an important reminder that we experience heaven right here on earth, if we recognize that God—the Christ consciousness—is ever with us.

Hymn 139, “I walk with Love along the way, and O, it is a holy day” is another reminder of this precious truth! We must do more seeing as God sees, from His perspective.

Awe-inspiring is this: “Right where you are is holy ground.” (Bicknell Young, “Consciousness, Where Art Thou?”) \*\*\*\*\*

### **Be Ye Angry, and Sin Not**

See *Ephesians* 4:26. The whole idea of being angry and not sinning can seem to be a contradiction. To me, the key is to separate sin from person, and then impersonal sin can get the deserved anger or disapproval, which is directed at sin and not the

person. Then, there is no residue of anger clinging to us because there is no personal sense in our denunciation of evil. So the instruction here to be angry is really the requirement to not be lukewarm in our position on good and evil, to recognize that evil is not any part of anyone, and that the divine character is, and to have a fervent love for this basic truth. Then, sin will feel the heat and melt into its own destruction. \*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for clarifying the application of ‘anger’ and ‘disapproval.’ These nuances, when not understood, can seem like large contradictions and, in the past, when questioning about some of these instances, never got satisfactory answers. How did I know they weren’t satisfactory? They didn’t ‘feel’ right, which at the time, I didn’t understand was actually ‘Spiritual intuition’ which I didn’t realize existed; had been taught forever out of the idea there IS God and He DOES communicate with us.

Heb. 1:9 “Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;” Mrs. Eddy says is about the Christ. I still found it difficult to think it’s good for me to be ‘angry’ or ‘hate’ (since those were such a big part of my consciousness), the right things. I like this lesson that the proper ‘motives’ and ‘acts’ always are the defining point of all we do!! \*\*\*\*\*

### **As Mortals Awake...**

In looking up some references in the *Concordance* on dreams, I loved what Mrs. Eddy had to say in *Miscellaneous Writings*, p.331:30:

“As mortals awake from their dream of material sensation, this adorable, all-inclusive God, and all earth’s hieroglyphics of Love, are understood; and infinite Mind is seen kindling the stars, rolling the worlds, reflecting all space and Life,—but not life in matter. Wisely governing, informing the universe, the Mind is Truth,—not laws of matter. Infinitely just, merciful, and wise, this Mind is Love, —but not fallible love.”

And again, in *Retrospection*, p.21

“It is well to know, dear reader, that our material, mortal history is but the record of dreams, not of man’s real existence, and the dream has no place in

the Science of being. It is “as a tale that is told,” and “as the shadow when it declineth”. The heavenly intent of earth’s shadows is to chasten the affections, to rebuke human consciousness, and turn it gladly from a material, false sense of life and happiness, to spiritual joy and a true estimate of being.

The awakening from a false sense of life, substance, and mind in matter, is as yet imperfect; but for those lucid and enduring lessons of Love, which tend to this result, I bless God.

Mere historic incidents and personal events are frivolous and of no movement, unless they illustrate the ethics of Truth. To this end, and only to this end, such narrations may be admissible and advisable, but if spiritual conclusions are separated from their premises, the nexus is lost, and the argument, with its rightful conclusions, becomes correspondingly obscure. The human history needs to be revised, and the material record expunged.”

I’m so thankful to Plainfield for stressing the importance of other writings by Mrs. Eddy. I’m finding a better understanding, as I read on. Also, I’m staying more alert to this being a dream and therefore not reacting, but standing in the Truth that it has no power.

“In dreams, things are only what mortal mind makes them; and the phenomena of mortal life are as dreams; and this so-called life is a dream told.” (Misc. Writings, 28:8) Thank you for the Bible lesson. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Disappearing Mortals**

*Science and Health*, p 476 Mortals will disappear, and immortals, or the children of God, will appear as the only and eternal verities of man.

Learn this, O mortal, and earnestly seek the spiritual status of man, which is outside of all material selfhood.

Before coming to this church, I really didn’t have a clue as to how, “to put off the old man”. But now I have things that I work with: ideas from our classes, such as the fruits of the Spirit, reading our books in order, thinking about the Daily Duties, doing my best to be faithful over a few things, such as

kindness with a cheerful heart, and from Mrs. Eddy, “Oh Lord, give me more self-abnegating desires.” When I think on these things, I begin to find peace. \*\*\*\*\*

## Passing Through the Belief Called Death

I found this passage comforting, as it answered a question I’ve had about the afterlife.

*Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 42: “After the change called death takes place, do we meet those gone before? – or does life continue in thought only as a dream?”

“Man is not annihilated, nor does he lose his identity, by passing through the belief called death. After the momentary belief of dying passes from mortal mind, this mind is still in a conscious state of existence; and the individual has but passed through a moment of extreme mortal fear, to awaken with thoughts, and being, as material as before. *Science and Health* clearly states that spiritualization of thought is not attained by the death of the body, but by a conscious union with God. When we shall have passed the order called death, or destroyed this last enemy, and shall have come upon the same plane of conscious existence with those gone before, then we shall be able to communicate with and to recognize them.

If, before the change whereby we meet the dear departed, our life-work proves to have been well done, we shall not have to repeat it; but our joys and means of advancing will be proportionately increased.

The difference between a belief of material existence and the spiritual face of Life is, that the former is a dream and unreal, while the latter is real and eternal. Only as we understand God, and learn that good, not evil, lives and is immortal, that immortality exists only in spiritual perfection, shall we drop our false sense of Life in sin or sense material, and recognize a better state of existence.”

I’m so grateful to Mrs. Eddy for her teachings. She gives a great incentive to keep at it so we can graduate and not have to repeat the lessons. It’s all about what side we are weighing in on the scale, Truth or Error.

## The Only-Begotten

“It were impossible for man, under the government of God in eternal Science, to fall from his high estate” (*Science and Health*, p 258:27-30).

Mrs Eddy’s words here are confirmed by Ephesians 2:5-6. “Even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

*Collectanea*, p. 144 – “The sense of dominion is the only begotten of the Father.”

“The footsteps of thought” (*Science and Health*, p. 174), progressing from mortality-consciousness to immortality-consciousness, are those that lead me from the sleep of self-absorption to the place of radiation of the Christ-Light unconditionally, through storm and sunshine, maintaining love for God and all humankind, through every possible test and trial; leading me to that place where I am firm, stable, and serene in the conviction that I am enthroned with Him who is Life, Truth, Love — now “seated with Him in the heavenlies *far* above *all* principality and power”, reigning with Him who is “seated at the right hand of God” and who has “put *all* things under His feet” (*Eph.* 1:21-22, *Col.* 3:1, emphasis added); that place where God has delegated to all His people the same authority that Jesus had: authority over all the power of the enemy, power to do the same works He did, and greater works as well; that place where I am immovably enthroned in the firmament of understanding far above mere belief or faith: so that my sense of being, created in the image and likeness of God, matures into an all-encompassing awareness, demolishes personal sense, and demonstrates unwavering “dominion over all the works of His hands” (*Ps.* 8:6). Only in this way can my works be wrought in God, begotten not of self, but “begotten of the Father.” \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this! This is an excellent explanation of our footsteps forward from a material sense to reality. I love what you said about, “The footsteps of thought...” (*Science and Health*, p.174)... that lead me from the sleep of self-absorption to the place of radiation of the Christ-Light unconditionally. This means to me that we ought to reflect and radiate Love all the time. This saves!