

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: God – January 7th, 2018**

## "IF...THEN"

Golden Text – “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

Too many times the phrase “the truth will make you free” has been quoted as though it were a true statement all by itself, leaving out the fact that it is part of a much weightier “if/then” conditional clause: John 8:31-32 states clearly, “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue [abide] in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Thus, two extremely important things — knowing truth and being set free by the truth — are completely dependent upon continuing in the truth; in other words, faithfully, intractably, ceaselessly acting upon the Word of truth.

So, worshiping God in Spirit and truth means not only hearing the Word of truth, but responding to it by rendering worthy service to God in doing explicitly what the Word says (James 1:22) as I am led of the Spirit.

Christ’s Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:24-26) prompts me to take heed that the same torrential rain came down, the same raging rivers rose, the same winds beat against the house of the one who heard the Word only as well as against the house of the one who acted upon the Word, but only the latter house remained safe, intact, and unharmed.

“The error of the ages is preaching without practice” (*Science and Health*, p. 241:17-18).

## Audience with Spirit

11. “The Father in secret is unseen to the physical senses, but He knows all things and **rewards according to motives**, not according to speech. To

enter into the heart of prayer, the door of the erring senses must be closed. **Lips must be mute and materialism silent, that man may have audience with Spirit**, the divine Principle, Love, which destroys all error.” Mary Baker Eddy

Sunday, during the Roundtable, we talked about, “O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me” and the importance of going to God with pure motives and your whole heart. Then, during the service, we had several songs about stillness.

A couple of lines from the beautiful duo: “...can you hear the still small voice,... let it lead you by the hand,...prepare your heart you cannot force it, ...beyond the noise of tempest still small voice”

From Hymn 74:

“Go, take the little open book  
From out the angel’s hand  
The word of Truth is there for all  
To read and understand  
What though the seven thunders roll?  
That still small voice shall make thee whole.”

Hymn 57:

“Should the vain cares that vex our days increase,  
Comes with its calm the thought that Thou art o’r us:  
Then we grow quiet, folded in thy peace.”

These messages brought home to me again the importance of being still, in heart, mind, activity, so that I can hear God speaking. I thought these two lessons coordinated so beautifully with the “little book”, preparing your heart and hearing God.

12. “Spirit, God, is heard when the senses are silent.” Mary Baker Eddy. \*\*\*\*\*

Beautiful! How awesome that we can go to these inspired hymns and songs to quietly listen to God speak to our hearts.

I have found such times most moving, especially in the middle of the night, when it appears there is no one with whom to talk. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for these posts. I love very much Mrs. Eddy's chapter on "Prayer" and the idea that we may enter into the heart of prayer, and when we obediently close the door to the erring senses and silence all materialism, we can actually come into the presence of Almighty God! This a very sobering thought! It makes me question how often am I aware of His presence, for the gift of prayer, and am I always grateful for it? Mrs. Eddy continues, this audience with Spirit, this divine Principle Love, is what destroys all error. So, as we humbly come before the throne of Grace, whatever our troubles may be, all pain, sorrow, etc. are destroyed by His All-powerful presence! Thank you, Mrs. Eddy, for these revelations and for teaching us how to prove them all to be true! \*\*\*\*

### Denial of The Claims of Matter

This morning, when I heard the lesson being read, these words leapt out at me: "Denial of the claims of matter is a great step towards the joys of Spirit..." followed by "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (*Science and Health*)

It occurred to me that the claims of matter are clamoring for us to worship them as a god! When we have a problem, we can tend to focus on it, instead of focusing on God, in a way that *we don't even realize that we end up worshiping the problem!*

If to worship is to respect, to honor, we may be giving a problem respect, and honoring it with a lot of attention, instead of realizing its nothingness! And kicking it out! And going to God and asking, what do YOU see here? Let me see things with YOUR vision, Lord! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! This is awesome! I know that I do this and it brings it right to my attention so I can stop focusing on the physical "clamoring" that seems to be there. I appreciate your sharing of this revelation with us. \*\*\*\*\*

A friend once told me about an important lesson they learned from their teacher, Paul Stark Seeley (whose article was recently published in the "Love is the Liberator" November 2017 publication) in regards to this topic, specifically having to do with

harboring hatred for someone. What he told her was that if you hate someone, you are just as consumed with that hatred as if you worshiped the ground they walk on...hence making them your false God.

This topic was also covered in an article I once read where the question was posed: Who do you love? God? Or some faulty view of some person? The point was that the writer of the article realized they were in fact breaking the first commandment. The writer recognized they had to redirect their affections towards God and away from some person, and this led to their healing.

This question can be asked of any problem we seem to face. Are we consumed with the problem? Is it occupying most, if not all, of our thought? Are we worshipping a problem we face? Then it's time to revisit the first commandment and do our best to obey it. \*\*\*\*\*

### Nothing Possesses Reality Nor Existence

331 The Scriptures imply that God is All-in-all. From this, it follows that **nothing possesses reality nor existence except the divine Mind and His ideas.** (Emphasis added)

Is this not what all the striving is for? That I can know, without question, that God is All-in-All? If this is my desire, then I can say I am active in Truth, awake in it, and KNOWING that evil (the false claims) do not exist and therefore cannot harm me or make me afraid. As one writer puts it, "if something does not exist, how can it harm or frighten me?" A good question to answer. \*\*\*\*\*

No excuses because I'm being taught at Plainfield to discern through motives. To 'see' things 'spiritually' through Christ consciousness, to divide (divide as used in Gen. 1 means to COMPLETELY SEPARATE) the real, God's creation, from everything that isn't. Ok, I know more and more readily which is Truth of God, so now I just have to stop believing (instead of pretending) in the un-real.

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them .... \*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT: Sacrament – January 14th, 2018**

### **What is Sacrament?**

I have always found these two passages from the chapter on “Questions and Answers” in Misc. by Mary Baker Eddy, to be very helpful in gaining a better understanding about the concept of “matter” and “material belief.”

“If you will admit, with me, that matter is neither substance, intelligence, nor Life, you may have all that is left of it; and you will have touched the hem of the garment of Jesus’ idea of matter.” (pgs. 74-75)

“Every material belief hints the existence of spiritual reality; and if mortals are instructed in spiritual things, it will be seen that material belief, in all its manifestations, reversed, will be found the type and representative of verities priceless, eternal, and just at hand.” (pgs. 60-61)

I thank God for Mrs. Eddy’s clear explanations of matter found throughout her works! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for your post! In the 1828 Webster’s dictionary, the definition of sacrament reads in part, “an oath”, or “In present usage, an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace.”

I think that those disciples of the Lord who truly strive to be obedient and do His will exude that “inward and spiritual grace”. On page 32 in *Science and Health*, on the subject of sacrament, in a paragraph entitled, “Spiritual refreshment”, Mrs. Eddy states, “Jesus prayed; he withdrew from the material senses to refresh his heart with brighter, with spiritual views.” When we are refreshed “with spiritual views”, we can then give “simple seekers for Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert” “a cup of cold water in Christ’s name, and never fear the consequences.” (p. 570) \*\*\*\*\*

### **Lord, What Wilt Thou Have Me To Do?**

#### **GOLDEN TEXT: ACTS 9 : 6**

**“Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”**

I really love this verse. It seems so simple, but I remember vividly all the years I felt I had no direction and no possibility of making a right decision. Now I’ve been shown that God was

indeed guiding me all that time; and yet, to learn here the value of earnestly asking “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” (And how to listen for the response, and then how to act on it), this has changed my life. I am grateful for His guidance each day, and for this church for teaching me this logical and practical Science. \*\*\*\*\*

Amen! I don’t know how I missed it, but for years, I didn’t really go to God for guidance on what He would have me to do, but more on how He could help me with my agenda! Fortunately, the teachings in this church set me straight, and put me on a clear path. What a difference this has made! \*\*\*\*\*

### **Go and Do Likewise**

“Implicit faith in the Teacher and all the emotional love we can bestow on him will never alone make us imitators of him. We must go and do likewise, else we are not improving the great blessings which our Master worked and suffered to bestow upon us.” Mary Baker Eddy

From my experience and watching the trend of thought tending toward a new age approach to religion, the lack of knowledge of the Bible, Jesus’ teachings, and misuse of words, creates a euphoric state that doesn’t recognize danger. One of the biggest lessons for me since attending here is how to live the Word, rather than just repeat and memorize statements.

I am learning that Jesus demanded radical change of thought and action. This isn’t a dreamy self-centered retreat with pleasing words and symbols nor a monk-like existence of personal escape from “things”.

This learning has turned my views completely around, for it has required diligence and discipline in order to watch the door of thinking, a deeper honesty, giving up self-will in many forms, to name just a few. By getting new views, I am seeing a powerful difference blessing my life that psychology, mysticism, medicine, matter worship, getaways, etc. never could produce.

I always thought I would reach a comfortable plateau and be able to drift along, but this wrong sense of peace is gladly being replaced by the

Science of Christ, which gives you a tool in one hand, a sword in the other, and a peace in serving God. \*\*\*\*\*

## A Matter of Qualifications

Thanks for this week's important lesson, reminding me that to become a master over sin, disease, and death requires more determination, persistence, patience, and self-sacrifice than that of the most dedicated student seeking to master a musical instrument. I cannot simply look at the violin in its case, do nothing but appreciate it for hours, dreaming, with torrents of emotion, of all the great violin masters of the past, and then expect God to place me suddenly at the footlights of Carnegie Hall. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! I think this is one of the most helpful things to keep in mind, and you've illustrated it so well.

I often remind myself of this passage in *Science and Health*, p. 462: "Whoever would demonstrate the healing of Christian Science must abide strictly by its rules, heed every statement, and advance from the rudiments laid down. There is nothing difficult nor toilsome in this task, when the way is pointed out; but self-denial, sincerity, Christianity, and persistence alone win the prize, as they usually do in every department of life." \*\*\*\*\*

## Rise Up and Follow Thee

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him." (Matthew) I have always been touched by this story and the example of these simple fisherman who were willing to drop everything, all earthly plans and belongings, to follow Christ Jesus, without any reservations, recognizing his teachings as the "pearl of great price." Years ago, before, and also during the time of the law case proceedings, there were many who left their homes and jobs to move to Plainfield to become part of this holy mission. In

those days, we did not have our far-reaching Web site, which now allows our out-of-town people to become more active members. There is much to be said, however, for that willing state of thought which is humbly ready to leave all for Christ and to have in their hearts the earnest question, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts) "In simple trust like theirs who heard, Beside the Syrian sea, The gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word Rise up and follow thee." (HYMN #49) \*\*\*\*\*

## The Torch

*Science and Health*, p. 202 If men would bring to bear upon the study of the Science of Mind half the faith they bestow upon the so-called pains and pleasures of material sense, they would not go on from bad to worse, until disciplined by the prison and the scaffold; but the whole human family would be redeemed through the merits of Christ, — through the perception and acceptance of Truth. For this glorious result, Christian Science lights the torch of spiritual understanding. How wonderful to be aware that "Christian Science lights the torch of spiritual understanding." Christian Science as taught here at Plainfield, certainly does light the torch of understanding for me.....and opens the way for "perception and acceptance of Truth" for all to be "redeemed through the merits of Christ." Thank you to God and Mary Baker Eddy and Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent for bringing Truth to "light".

## Promise Perpetual

We are each an idea of God—no one is left out. Nothing is impossible. We have the privilege of doing God's work, for all time. Let's do it with joy. *Science and Health*, p. 328 "Jesus said: 'These signs shall follow them that believe, ... they shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.'" "Jesus promise is perpetual. Had it been given only to his immediate disciples, the Scriptural passage would read you, not they."