

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Substance – March 11th, 2018

"Heredity is not a Law"

Science and Health, p. 178:8-12

There have been many times, when conversing with family members, this false law of heredity has reared its ugly head to mesmerize, and instill fear. We constantly hear from the world and medical profession the dire prognostic, if somebody in your family was afflicted by a condition, there is a good chance you or another family member will "inherit" the same malady. When Jesus was asked by the disciples, (John 9:6, 7) his response was "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents". I'm so grateful for Mrs. Eddy's clear teachings on this subject, as she clearly states: (*Science and Health, 228:7-8*;) "Heredity is a prolific subject for mortal belief to pin theories upon;" I have many times wrestled with this false belief of heredity, and it is such a comfort to read, (*Science and Health 63:5-6*.) "In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry." *****

Thank you for the post! This is so true! And worse still is when a pregnant woman is asked the same questions about family history of illnesses. This is insensitive, since it can create needless fears and worry about other false beliefs. How wonderful it would be, if instead of all these "matter laws" the emphasis was on what God is; the Creator, the giver of all good and the true Father-Mother of all. Science indeed is the Comforter, teaching what the real man is and what our true substance is. *****

CHRIST-THOUGHT vs. HEREDITY-THOUGHT

"Sickness is neither imaginary nor unreal,— that is, to the frightened, false sense of the patient. Sickness is more than fancy; it is solid conviction. It is therefore to be dealt with through right apprehension of the truth of being" (*Science and Health, p. 460*).

One of the greatest fear-inducing myths in modern medicine is the law of heredity, which condemns people to disease, even before they have exited the womb, often long before the predicted disease is supposed to manifest itself in the body. It takes the fear-inspired rumination process described in Mrs. Eddy's allegory of the "The Trial" (*Science and Health, p. 430*) to an even more exaggerated level of disharmony. It is like arresting, trying, convicting, and imprisoning someone for committing a crime not yet committed, in the belief that it will be committed in the future. "Genetic counseling" is no different than the now-defunct theology of predestination, which posited that a newborn baby's destiny – heaven or hell – is the unalterable, arbitrary decision of a distant, sovereign Judge.

"It was Fear who handcuffed Mortal Man and would now punish him. You have left Mortal Man no alternative. He must obey your law, fear its consequences, and be punished for his fear'" (*Science and Health, p. 436*).

Although intended to be helpful and friendly, this chaotic way of thinking about illness dreamt up by modern medical thought is not friendly at all. What is the solution to this? "...*There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother*" (Proverbs 18:24): the Christ-thought, embodied in the promises of God: "*Perfect love casteth out fear.*" "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" "*Lo, I am with you always.*" The heredity-thought is the anti-Christ thought, error posing as a friendly shadow that is "with you always", fiercely seeking to stick even more closely, nearer than hands and feet, a wolf in sheep's clothing with one purpose only: to replace the Christ-thought with itself, and then "to steal, kill, and destroy" (John 10:10). *****

Endless Genealogies

"Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than

godly edifying which is in faith.” (I Timothy) This is a great verse and one I don’t ever remember seeing in a lesson before. Many people these days are checking out their ancestry, and while this may seem intriguing, isn’t it really much better to know and to declare, “In Science man (me) is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his (my) ancestry.” (*Science and Health*) Isn’t that a much better way to think of oneself - To identify only with the “beautiful, good and pure” and to stay completely away from the belief of fleshly inheritances? In the 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy states, “Man is the offspring of Spirit; the beautiful, good and pure ARE his (my) ancestors.” (Caps added) What a liberating thought – all that is beautiful, good and pure – they are my ancestors and I can’t think of anything better than that! *****

Spirit Will Form You Anew

“Correct material belief by spiritual understanding, and Spirit will form you anew.” *Science and Health*, p. 425: 24-26

At the last Roundtable, *The Healing Power of Obedience* gave this above citation new meaning for me, along with this Week’s Lesson, which was a perfect follow up to the discussion. It was brought out that the statements from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy’s writings are not just nice talk/words, but give us specific directions, Christ commands. To practice these steps is obedience to God. We have a God-given right to get out from under a belief never created by God. The ultimate answer is found in God.

Part of this process was the probing thought, to get to the belief such as heredity (just to name one), to face it, affirm the Truth, and correct the lie. Part of this is the need to be quiet and peaceful and to slow down to enable this process toward healing and learning more about God. One suggestion was to write down your fears (the lies) on one side of a paper, then write the facts (from the Bible and the *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy), the Truth, on the opposite side.

1828 Websters - CORRECT: to set right, remove faults or errors, to bring to the standard of truth. **

Sour Grapes

Jeremiah 31:29 In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.

I never understood this citation and it always bothered me. But that’s because I never bothered to look it up, and also didn’t have the understanding I have now from attending Plainfield.

Jeremiah condemned the use of this proverb and “declared that the sinner is the artificer of his own ruin.” (Pulpit Commentary)

“Men had found in it an explanation of their sufferings which relieved their consciences. They were suffering, they said, for the sins of their fathers, not for their own.” (Elliott’s Commentary)

So, they blamed many of their problems on the sins of their fathers and used that as an excuse for repeating those sins, instead of repenting.

Mary Baker Eddy explains it: *Science and Health*, pgs. 211: 19-23

It should no longer be said, in Israel, that “the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge.” Sympathy with error should disappear. The transfer of the thoughts of one erring mind to another, Science renders impossible.

Not Condemnation, but Compassion

John 9:1-3, 16, 29, 34

1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

It became very clear today that Christ Jesus wasn’t concerned about assigning blame or condemnation to person, unlike the Pharisees. Nor was he busy compiling a list of who was naughty or nice, as the Sunday schools of my youth made it seem. He was here to free people from the hell of mortal mind, not trying to condemn them there.

Learning to see that difference – which is only possible because of Christian Science – makes me understand why “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1) and also, as Bicknell Young stated in *The 1936 Primary Class*, page 82, “The nothingness of anything wrong with them in Love, is the only way to handle anything wrong. Not condemnation, but compassion, is what is needed.”

SUBJECT: Matter – March 18th, 2018

On Earth, as it is in Heaven

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have created it” (Isaiah 45:8).

Here, Isaiah presents a mighty picture of Spirit rending the heavens to rain down its gifts upon a receptive earth.

With regard to Mrs. Eddy’s discovery, the earth-realm was not in a position of openness to receive it until after the American Revolution and the Civil War. The colonists of the Revolution were the first people in history to question the divine right of kings and, with God’s help, banished tyranny from without. And with the Civil War came the end of slavery, banishing tyranny from within. It would have been impossible for both wars to have been fought simultaneously. Liberty advances by footsteps.

Then, in 1866, almost immediately after the end of the Civil War, the heavens were set free to open, at last, to fall on good ground: a softened, more accessible earth after a drought of nearly two thousand years of drab, secularized Christianity emptied, for the most part, of what Paul called “demonstration of the Spirit and power” (I Cor. 2:4). And such an important, liberating step it was! “The voice of God in behalf of the African slave was still echoing in our land, when the voice of the herald of this new crusade sounded the keynote of universal freedom, asking a fuller acknowledgment

of the rights of man as a Son of God...” (*Science and Health*, p. 226:5-13).

But earth is now once again faced with enemies seeking to harden it against absorbing anything falling from heaven, as forces of despotism are working vehemently to impede, halt, or reverse the progress of liberty’s footsteps.

Therefore, I will keep Isaiah 45:8 close by for watching, praying, arguing to neutralize each of error’s unrelenting efforts to negate “the Word, Christ, Christianity, and divine Science” (*Science and Health*, p. 575:17-20). *****

“Never was there a more solemn and imperious call than God makes to us all, right here, for *fervent devotion* and *an absolute consecration* to the greatest and holiest of all causes. The hour is come. The great battle of Armageddon is upon us” (emphasis added; see *CS Journal*, August, 1886; also, *Misc.* p. 177). *****

Enough is “appearing” on the world scene for us all to heed this call! Thanks for your post. I am so grateful for Christian Science. Mrs. Eddy makes this clear: “You must feel and know that God alone governs man; that His government is harmonious; that He is too pure to behold iniquity, and divides His power with nothing evil or material.” (*Rudimental Divine Science*, by Mary Baker Eddy, p.10) *****

Evil Brought to the Surface Cannot Harm

Luke 4:35 “And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.”

Science and Health, p. 422:5-10

“If the reader of this book observes a great stir throughout his whole system, and certain moral and physical symptoms seem aggravated, these indications are favorable. Continue to read, and the book will become the physician, allaying the tremor which Truth often brings to error when destroying it.”

I am very grateful for the reminder in this lesson that all evil is unreal and harmless. Whether it is hidden quietly in the back of thought or brought to

the surface where it roars and fights back. I am grateful that Christ Jesus healed over and over again to drive home the point that all evil is unreal and powerless. Although it may seem to be real and harmful, it cannot hurt us because it is only an illusion. It never touches our true being. Also, Mrs. Eddy reassures us to not be alarmed if conditions seem to get worse and that actually this is a favorable sign. At one of our Roundtable meetings, it was mentioned that in order to get to the other side of the street, you have to step off the curb. We must face our fears, knowing that we are protected by God, and nothing can really hurt us! All of these reassuring ideas are very helpful to me. Life, Truth, and Love! All God...all man. Rejoice!!

Commotion in the World

To all the apparent commotion in our world, Mrs. Eddy replies from Pulpit and Press 5:30-10: “This book is the leaven fermenting religion; it is palpably working in the sermons, Sunday Schools, and literature of our and other lands. This spiritual chemicalization is the upheaval produced when Truth is neutralizing error and impurities are passing off. And it will continue till the antithesis of Christianity, engendering the limited forms of a national or tyrannical religion, yields to the church established by the Nazarene Prophet and maintained on the spiritual foundation of Christ’s healing.

“Good”, the Anglo-Saxon term for “God”, unites Science to Christianity. It presents to the understanding, not matter, but Mind; not the deified drug, but the goodness of God —healing and saving mankind.”

“This book” referred to above, is *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. God is our help in His Holy work! *****

Shined in Our Hearts

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” II Corinthians 4:6

“...shined in their hearts; and in this light, they saw the glory of Christ; could not bear any secret, hidden, scandalous practices;” *Gill’s Exposition of the Bible*.

This had me thinking of the Pharisees who hated the light Jesus radiated because it brought out the error in their thought. They did everything to silence his voice and discredit his works rather than repent and change. This created a hardness of heart. Those that received Jesus and let this light in were able to experience, “the inward man is renewed day by day.” II Corinthians 4:16

I see if I allow the pharisaical thought of pride, self justification, fake peace, fear, superstition, dishonesty to take hold, I am choosing to stay in the dark. One of the first things in coming to Plainfield that has meant so much to me was the open, honest, and frank discussion. It helped heal deep distress and wounds that were the result of unhealed error. There are so many examples of how the human mind tries to cover up evil. The price is too high! No matter how painful or difficult it is to face the Truth, it must be done so evil can be destroyed. I am so grateful that this church keeps a standard of transparency based on Biblical principles and Mary Baker Eddy’s writings.

The Law of Mind

Science and Health, p. 423: “The metaphysician, making Mind his basis of operation irrespective of matter and regarding the truth and harmony of being as superior to error and discord, has rendered himself strong, instead of weak, to cope with the case; and proportionately strengthens his patient with the stimulus of courage and conscious power. Both Science and consciousness are now at work in the economy of being according to the law of Mind, which ultimately assert its absolute supremacy.”

This is a very encouraging statement, and in receiving help myself, I very much appreciate how my practitioner at Plainfield strengthens me in the word and power of God.