

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 112

SUBJECT: Reality – March 25th, 2018

Ghostly Beliefs

Science and Health, “The age has not wholly outlined the sense of ghostly beliefs. It still holds them more or less. Time has not yet reached eternity, immortality complete reality. All the real is eternal. Perfection underlies reality. Without perfection, nothing is wholly real. All things will continue to disappear, until perfection appears and reality is reached. We must give up the spectral at all points. We must not continue to admit the somethingness of superstition, but we must yield up all belief in it and be wise. When we learn that error is not real, we shall be ready for progress, ‘forgetting those things which are behind.’” and as St. Paul says, “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.” I appreciate all the opportunities we have to learn the truth at Plainfield. It has been taking time for me to understand this great truth, and to begin to “give up the spectral.” And I’m very grateful to Mrs. Eddy and now Plainfield for opening the understanding. *****

From *Science and Health*, 1st edition, page 42: The most scientific man of whom we have any record, Jesus of Nazareth, called the mortal body that we suppose substance, “ghost”; and his body that others called spirit, “flesh and bones”; showing that substance to his understanding was the deathless Principle that embraces man and is forever inseparable from Soul. But the Jews, strongly material, called the real idea of God, even the body that was not matter, a spirit or ghost; and the body they laid in a sepulcher, substance. By this error they lost logic and Truth, therefore lost sight of Jesus at the very moment when he

presented more than ever the real idea of God, and because of this belief, the idea was taken from them. The higher he wrought the problem of being through spiritual science, the more odious he became to the materialistic world that understood him not. Life, Intelligence and substance to them were matter, but to him they were God, the Truth of man; therefore he reckoned himself not matter but Spirit; not sense, but Soul. Said he, “Spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have,” but this he said three days after his burial, before relinquishing the belief of substance-matter; after that, his disciples even could not see him. *****

Until God Strips off Their Disguise

Science and Health, p. 472. All reality is in God and His creation, harmonious and eternal. That which He creates is good, and He makes all that is made. Therefore the only reality of sin, sickness, or death is the awful fact that unrealities seem real to human, erring belief, until God strips off their disguise. They are not true, because they are not of God.

Learning so much more about the healing spirit and power of the First commandment is so effective in realizing the utter emptiness/powerlessness of all the false beliefs that manifest as the discords we have to face, challenge and overcome. It does require discipline, perseverance, willingness resulting in spiritual understanding, to finally accept and honor the FACT that God alone is real and true, and that all else are the effects of false beliefs entertained. This has gradually become very clear because how could I experience something that I have never either become aware of and believed or entertained in my thinking?

This is why our remedy preventatively or curatively is to hold to God, (Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth and Love) His Supreme Being, and man as that likeness, making all else outside/apart from that pure spiritual Allness. This Truth when acknowledged and held to will strip off the disguise of every false belief, whether it presents as, depression, envy, jealousy, injustice, inharmonious relationships, selfishness, sensuality and sexuality, a wound, a growth, an accident, pain, infection, a cold, allergies, a fall, even death! We awake to see every error's unreality and triumph with the reality of only God, Good! *****

To Break This Earthly Spell

“To break this earthly spell, mortals must get the true idea and divine Principle of all that really exists and governs the universe harmoniously.” (*Science and Health*) I had such an interesting call from someone new to us this week. She said she had been an active member of her branch church but kept getting the strong thought to withdraw. At first, she fought this thought, thinking it came from animal magnetism, and involved herself with committee work etc. all the more. After a time, she found she was no longer experiencing any healing and finally obeyed the command to withdraw. Even though her so-called friends from church no longer wanted to have any contact with her, she began to feel a wonderful sense of freedom. Healing was restored to her as well. She knew she was on the right track! Obedience to the message was having its reward. She also began to study the history of the Christian Science movement, for Mrs. Eddy has said a good practitioner needs to know my history and the history of this church. It was quite a revelation and one the organization would like to keep hidden. Another important point she realized was that when she was involved in the organization it was strangely mesmeric – an “earthly spell” that is broken when one learns the true facts about Science, the “divine Principle of all that exists”. Mrs. Eddy once told a student that those who were right would find their way out of the organization. This is another wonderful demonstration of

someone doing this! *****

Exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men: For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet life and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.” (I Timothy) This verse goes hand-in-hand with something I love from *My*. by Mary Baker Eddy on page 220 – “Each day I pray for the pacification of all national difficulties, for the brotherhood of man, for the end of idolatry and infidelity, and for the growth and establishment of Christian religion – Christ’s Christianity. I also have faith that my prayer availeth, and that He who is overturning will overturn until He whose right it is shall reign. Each day I pray: ‘God bless my enemies; make them Thy friends; give them to know the joy and the peace of love.’” What a beautiful and all-encompassing prayer. I have a copy of it on my desk to remind myself to keep it in my heart and to pray this prayer each day. “The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation.” – Exodus 15: 2

This lesson has salvation mentioned all through it. In *Science and Health* p. 593 Mrs. Eddy defines it as, “SALVATION. Life, Truth, and Love understood and demonstrated as supreme over all; sin, sickness, and death destroyed.”

Carpenter writes in *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps*, Chapter 45

“It used to be easy healing sickness: anything, a man all cut to pieces. But now we are meeting sin; I would rather have a man with his head cut off, to heal, rather than sin.” (statement told to student by Mary Baker Eddy) ... Thus, our Leader recognized that today, in order to heal the sick scientifically through spiritual means, the claim of sin must be handled, where sin is defined as the malicious intent of organized mortal mind or animal magnetism, to hinder and stop the march of Truth on earth. ... Thus, Mrs. Eddy wanted the students at Pleasant View not to become discouraged, when they heard about the miracles that she and the early students performed so easily, as if they possessed spirituality far above any present possibility. The early workers

had less organized interference. Mrs. Eddy knew, that if we had been healing in those early days, we would have performed the same great works with the same ease. In the above statement, by the term sin, she unquestionably meant the malicious tendency of organized opposition, endeavoring to obstruct the path of Truth in its onward and irresistible march; she realized, that she would rather have the worst case to heal, than to meet and overcome this malicious element in mortal thought. Yet she did meet it, and so can we.”

This opened my eyes to a greater appreciation of the need to address sin in thought and why to put focus on the physical healing is worthless. I see why Mrs. Eddy stressed the need to, “watch and pray” that we not be tempted. Repeating words, human goodness, and a lack to obedience takes us off the road to salvation. I am grateful to be learning here how to correctly uncover and face sin; and understand the allness of Life, Truth and Love. *****

SUBJECT: Unreality – April 1st, 2018

Displace Material Sense

“We must silence this lie of material sense with the truth of spiritual sense.” *Science and Health*, p. 318. I learned in this church that if you have a glass of water and put a stone in it, the stone displaces the water. This is the same thing that happens when you put a statement of Truth in your thought. It displaces the material, erring thought. When you insert the Truth, error is replaced. A thought filled with Truth leaves no room for erring mortal thoughts but annihilates every thought of sin, sickness or death. This simple lesson has helped me when I felt sick or in a hopeless situation. *****

Thanks! This has always been one of the simple truths that are so vividly practical! It has helped me a lot. I must be eager to give up the material senses in order to gain the only real sense, spiritual sense,

which allows correct and true vision to help me see the true things of God.

This is beautiful, what Mrs. Eddy says in Misc. p 179, “We must lay aside material consciousness, and then we can perceive Truth, and say with Mary, “Rabboni”- Master! *****

Touch Me Not

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Below is from the Christian Science Journal, 1892, in a “Questions and Answers” section: “Why does Jesus say to Mary, ‘Touch me not,’ when later (John xx. 27) he says to Thomas, ‘Reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side ;’ and (Luke xxiv. 39) ‘Handle me, and see; for spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see me have’? — Z.

ROTHERHAM’S translation of the New Testament elucidates the meaning of the passage referred to, by means of a footnote. The literal rendering is: ‘Be not clinging to me,’ or, ‘Do not continue to cling.’”

I love this story of Mary who is searching and weeping, looking for Jesus in the tomb, to find that he has risen. He finds her first and comforts her. She is obedient to his instruction and goes to tell the other disciples.

Over the last couple of weeks, it has been said several different ways and times that even though the man blind from birth could not see Jesus, Jesus saw him and went to him and healed him. The Christ sees us, finds us. My job is to be receptive, become as a little child as was said at our last Roundtable. *****

John 20:15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou

have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

Having read this, who knows how many times, today it struck me how one word “Mary” uttered by Christ Jesus with the correct Spirit completely changed her perception of who she was talking to. Up until that point, Mary, being focused on other things, didn’t recognize to whom she was talking.

I need to ‘follow’ “Shepherd show me how to go” (by Mrs. Eddy) by ‘knowing’ the Christ from ‘strangers.’; John 10:4 “And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. 5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.” *****

And Immediately He Received His Sight

“...And immediately he received his sight” (Luke 18:43)

“If this heart, humble and trustful, faithfully asks divine Love to feed it with the bread of heaven, health, holiness, it will be conformed to a fitness to receive the answer to its desire; then will flow into it the ‘river of His pleasure,’ the tributary of divine Love, and great growth in Christian Science will follow, even **that joy which finds one’s own in another’s good.**” (*My*. page 12, and also *My*. page 18.) Finding that joy is an important part of the resurrection experience that automatically follows the crucifixion of personal sense: “Resurrection [:] Spiritualization of thought; a new and higher idea of immortality, or spiritual existence; material belief yielding to spiritual understanding” (*Science and Health* 593:9-11). This short video: <https://tinyurl.com/mmdc48e> helps to explain it, and most especially, Mrs. Eddy’s article, “Demonstration”. *****

Thank you. The above video also applies to what Mrs. Eddy wrote on pages 94-95 in *Science and Health*, “Our Master read mortal mind on a scientific basis, that of the omnipresence of Mind. An approximation of this discernment indicates spiritual growth and union with the infinite capacities of the one Mind. Jesus could injure no one by his Mind-reading. The effect of his Mind was always to heal and to save, and this is the only genuine Science of reading mortal mind.” We too, should be acquiring this skill as we claim and demonstrate our oneness with the Divine Mind. We will feel the need of our fellow man and by the grace of God be ready to answer that need with His healing presence and power. This is also why Mrs. Eddy gives the definition of “EYES” in the GLOSSARY as “Spiritual discernment, –not material but mental. Jesus said, thinking of the outward vision, ‘Having eyes, see ye not?’ (Mark viii. 18.)”

Easter Messages From Mrs. Eddy

Excerpt from Easter message to First Church of Christ, Scientist, Georgia 1899 *My*. p.189:8-14: You worship no distant deity, nor talk of unknown love. The silent prayers of our churches, resounding through the dim corridors of time, go forth in waves of sound, a diapason of heart-beats, vibrating from one pulpit to another and from one heart to another, till truth and love, commingling in one righteous prayer, shall encircle and cement the human race. *****

Excerpt from Easter message to First Church of Christ, Scientist, Concord, N. H 1902. **My. p. 155:17-25** May this glad Easter morn find the members of this dear church having a pure peace, a fresh joy, a clear vision of heaven here, heaven within us—and an awakened sense of the risen Christ. May long lines of light span the horizon of their hope, and brighten their faith with a dawn that knows no twilight, and no night. May those who discourse music to-day, sing, as the angels, Heaven’s symphonies that come to earth.