

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 113

SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? – April 8th, 2018

First Thing in the Morning

Psalm 5: 3 “My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”

“In the morning.” This is the fittest time for intercourse with God. An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening. While the dew is on the grass, let grace drop upon the soul. Let us give to God the mornings of our days and the morning of our lives. Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night. Devotion should be both the morning star and the evening star. *The Treasury of David*

This bible citation serves as a reminder to me to direct my prayers to God first thing and not neglect to do so. *****

This is beautiful; thank you for this post. In Watches, Prayers, and Arguments given by Mary Baker Eddy, there is a morning prayer and an evening prayer, which I’ve found very helpful. “MORNING PRAYER IN MRS. EDDY’S HOUSEHOLD”

This is God’s spiritual household. Nothing can enter to annoy or destroy. Nothing can enter to manifest sin, sickness or discouragement, for God, good, keeps this household in perfect peace.” (The complete prayer may be found on page 140 on the Web site.)

I also extend this morning prayer to include my family, community, state, our nation and the world. “EVENING PRAYER”

Before you are ready to close your eyes in sleep, be

sure you are not holding anything unlovely in your consciousness, anything unlike God; laying aside every fear, put yourself entirely in His charge. Quiet yourself with the thought that He who has all power will protect you, give you health, and all you need in abundance, and know that whether sleeping or waking, you are safe, because your life is hid with Christ in God.” (The complete prayer may be found on page 70 on the Web site.) *****

The Glory of Human Life

In Mrs. Eddy’s article “Is There No Sacrificial Atonement?” in the chapter “No and Yes” (*Prose Works*), she states, “The glory of human life is in overcoming sickness, sin, and death.” I have thought about that quite a bit recently. People are sometimes apt to think of their lives as boring, mundane, worthless etc., and this is very true of what we call the “Adam Dream.” But here, in this simple statement, Mrs. Eddy tells us of what can change all that! Each day, each and every one of us, has opportunities to overcome the beliefs of sickness, sin, and death. And when we rise to the occasion and work to prove the unreality of disease, sin and death, in all their myriad illusive forms – we will find real purpose and meaning to life, whether we are knowing these truths for ourselves, for others, or for the world collectively. What greater joy can there be than to rise up out of the ashes of mortal belief and to find our real being in God? To come upon this God-given glory, you don’t have to live in a mansion or be a college graduate or to have a big family etc. – you only have to be willing to follow in the footsteps of our Master and Mrs. Eddy. Not always an easy path, but one so worth the effort.

“Dear Lord and Father of us all, forgive our foolish ways; reclothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives

Thy service find, in deeper reverence praise.”
(Hymn # 49) *****

“Dear Lord and Father of us all, forgive our foolish ways; reclothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives Thy service find, in deeper reverence praise.” (Hymn # 49)

Thank you. I love this hymn, particularly because of the selfless sense of it, including ALL mankind just as the Lord’s Prayer’s selfless sense. The selfless demand of the true practice of Science brings James 5:16 to thought: “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

Pondering this, I found a line in a Spurgeon devotional on that verse: “Believer, thou hast a mighty engine in thy hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and thou shalt surely be a benefactor to thy brethren.”

These prayers do not have to be any lengthy petitions, but to declare even short truths with faith to contradict presenting false beliefs have been very helpful. An example is to declare, “there are no accidents in Mind,” when I see an ambulance, “there are no fires in Mind,” denouncing the belief of fires in God’s kingdom with faith, and knowing that God’s law of perfect harmony and Love is governing all has been very useful for me. This discipline clears my thinking and keeps me “acquainted with Him.”

One thing is sure and we are all experiencing this, that when we use what we are learning to help, awaken, and comfort others we are truly blessed ourselves! *****

“The glory of human life is in overcoming sickness, sin, and death.” Thank you. This is so wonderful to contemplate!

The definition of glory in the 1828 dictionary includes, “Honor; praise; fame; renown; celebrity” and also, “The felicity of heaven prepared for the children of God; celestial bliss... Honorable representation of God.”

Society decries our “celebrity culture”, leaving a lot of people feeling “left out”, or desperately seeking those “15 minutes of fame.” (When those 15 minutes are over, then what?) Herein lies the antidote! I can never thank this church enough for helping me to “reclothe us in our rightful mind” and find my true purpose in serving the Lord. Hallelujah! *****

"Mountain Mirage"

Of all the thousands and thousands of Bible verses that Mrs. Eddy could have chosen to open page 1 of her most important book, our textbook, she chose Mark 11:23 – “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

Mark 11:23 makes it clear that I am actively to rise up and speak to any mountain that needs to be removed from my life, not simply to remain passive, beseeching God to remove it.

As to the nature of any mountain of sin, disease, or death that confronts me, Mrs. Eddy breaks it down in the 1st edition of *Science and Health*, pgs. 37-38:

“...God is the only Intelligence and cannot believe because He understands. There is neither substance nor Intelligence, in the *mountain mirage* that seemeth what it is not, and such is mortal man; nor in a face reflected from the mirror; but such is not immortal man the image of God. Intelligence is Soul and not sense, Spirit and not matter, and God is the only Intelligence, and there is but one God, hence there are no believers! So far as this statement is understood will it be admitted, and the true idea of God, which is the only real man, will appear to the understanding, and the old belief of Intelligence and Life in matter, named by Paul ‘the old man,’ will disappear or ‘be put off,’ for ‘dust

thou art and unto dust shalt thou return;’ man never dies, it is only a belief of man” [emphasis added]. It is important to note that the word “believe” in Mark 11:23 is derived from the same root as the Greek word for “understanding” — it has nothing to do with wishful thinking. Mrs. Eddy’s use of the word “belief” is examined in Webster’s 1828 dictionary: “In some cases, the word is used for persuasion or opinion, when the evidence is not so clear as to leave no doubt; but the shades of strength in opinion can hardly be defined, or exemplified. Hence the use of qualifying words; as a firm, full or strong belief.”

This is a major theme in Mrs. Eddy’s writings: “Until belief becomes faith, and faith becomes spiritual understanding, human thought has little relation to the actual or divine” (*Science and Health*, p. 297). A wonderful practical example of this achievement is Elisha walking the floor, walking the floor, walking the floor, patiently building up his faith until, finally, he attained the understanding requisite to remove the “mountain mirage” of death and restore the Shunnamite’s son back to life. (2 Kings 14:36)

Mark 11:23 makes it clear that I am actively to rise up and speak to any mountain that needs to be removed from my life, not simply to remain passive, beseeching God to remove it.

*“...God is the only Intelligence and cannot believe because He understands. There is neither substance nor Intelligence, in the **mountain mirage** that seemeth what it is not, and such is mortal man;*

Thank you so much for this post! It speaks to all our suffering because the understanding that whatever phase, however incessantly error screams at us or pounds us (in belief), if we could but for even a moment gain the clear realization that we are overcoming a **mirage**, and nothing real or powerful, that would help us realize our strength from God to use the Truths we know.

This is why Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*, p. 418” “Speak the truth to **every form of error**. Tumors, ulcers, tubercles, inflammation, pain,

deformed joints, are waking dream-shadows, dark images of mortal thought, which flee before the light of Truth.” To every form of error means every form, inharmonious relationships, work situations etc. I love that thought of removing every “mountain mirage” from my life! I can feel the power with which Mrs. Eddy gives this admonition, it must be the kind of strength Elisha gained after pacing the floor for however long to build up his faith. Thank God Mrs. Eddy has given many arguments in *Science and Health* and the *Blue Book* to help us do this work! *****

We Have a Powerful Antidote!

Thank God, Christ Jesus, and Mrs. Eddy for making clear that to all our fears there is the one powerful antidote, God.

Simply, when I hear, see, or feel any sense of sin, disease, or death, I can declare with conviction LIFE, TRUTH, and LOVE!!

The latter I must know is GOD, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscience and Omni-action! The more understanding and conviction I gain from this, the more I should quit acting like I am a victim, without any defense; that is a lie.

Even without so much understanding, I should in humility and obedience accept, obey, and use what God has said.... “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Amen. Matt 28:20 *****

SUBJECT: Doctrine of Atonement - April 15th, 2018

"Show us the Father"

John 14: 8, 9

Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

“Philip here referred to some outward and visible manifestation of God. God had manifested himself in various ways to the prophets and saints of old, and Philip affirmed that if some such manifestation should be made to them, they would be satisfied. It was right to desire evidence that Jesus was the Messiah, but such evidence “had been” afforded abundantly in the miracles and teaching of Jesus, and that “should” have sufficed them.” *Barnes’ Notes on the Bible*

“There is a world of sadness and tenderness, of suppressed pain and of grieved affection, in the first words of our Lord’s reply. ‘Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip?’ ... This man was one of the first disciples, the little original band called by Christ Himself, and thus had been with Him all the time of His ministry, and the Master wonders with a gentle wonder that, before eyes that loved Him as much as Philip’s did, His continual self-revelation had been made to so little purpose.” *MacLaren’s Expositions*

So even in the presence of Jesus, this disciple questioned the evidence of God and the works that Jesus did. This brought to mind how the human mind tends to brush aside and not give credit to God for the good that occurs daily. When a healing occurs, whether it be little or big, sometimes one will suggest it would have happened anyway or doubt the presence of God because He can’t be seen humanly.

“WATCH- ... “You are awake to the Truth, you see it, you realize it, and no mortal mind can hinder you from realizing it.” (*Divinity Course and General Collectanea*, p 40) *****

Attunement

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.... Now then ... as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

So, atonement, reconciliation, is not automatic. It is a process, a two-way street.

At the start of any concert, just before the orchestra plays the first note of the first piece, the concertmaster (first violinist) plays the note A, to which all the players in that orchestra must tune their instruments. The concertmaster does not leave his/her chair to tune each musician’s instrument; each musician is required to listen and to tune his/her instrument alone.

Atonement is attuning my being, day by day, to the keynote of Heaven, the standard pitch set by the concertmaster, Christ.

In his booklet, “Dissolving Barriers,” John L. Morgan summarizes the second chapter of Mrs. Eddy’s textbook, *Science and Health*, (“Atonement and Eucharist”) thus:

“...[I]n this context, eucharist focuses on the price we are required to pay to experience at-one-ment. This price is that we have to give up all personal sense of a separate self.” *****

Anything worth having is worth working for, including atonement, being reconciled to God, attuning to Christ. This is not work, but a blessing. No one can do it for us, HOW WONDERFUL! With God, all things are possible! Thank God! *****

“Atonement is attuning my being, day by day, to the keynote of heaven, the standard pitch set by the concertmaster, Christ.” This is inspiring, thank you! *****

“.....the standard pitch set by the concertmaster, Christ.”

That is inspiringly beautiful! Hence, there are no “discords” from the belief of a self apart from God. It’s all in obedience and in one accord as the concertmaster’s signal. This is a powerful reminder to always strive to realize more of my Christlikeness, by living it in tune with the perfect model, the Truth of man’s Being. Thank you! *****

Exemplification - My Purpose

“Atonement is the exemplification of man’s unity with God, whereby man reflects divine Truth, Life, and Love.” (*Science and Health*, p. 18:1-3)

“What is the purpose of exemplification? Exemplification writing uses specific, vivid examples for the purpose of adding more information to explain, persuade, define, or illustrate a general idea. Likewise, exemplification provides solid support and strong evidence to prove the writer’s main statement.” (Google)

I like this idea of exemplification as applied to writing and consider this statement in my daily walk, reflecting the qualities and attributes of God; divine Life, divine Truth and divine Love. I can see that how I live my life should be an example that magnifies all the divine qualities that God bestows on us naturally. I can ask myself; “Am I being a true example of God’s qualities and attributes... representing divine Life; being joyful, grateful, helpful to others?” “Am I loving my neighbor as myself?” “Do I see all ideas that I behold in thought as coming from God alone or am I letting my thought be mesmerized?” “Am I honest... doing my very best every moment to be that representative that God has made me to be?” At-one-ment is the essence of a true life. It is so worth working for!! Beautiful lesson. *****

Thank you for defining ‘exemplification’ and then having it tied to ‘magnify.’ This brought to mind an article’s beautiful description of ‘prism’ and ‘lens.’

“The truths of divine science are not interpolations of the scriptures, but redolent with love, they bring health and holiness to the whole human race; it only needs the prism of science to divide their rays, to bring out the entire hues of Deity, which scholastic theology has absorbed. The lens of spiritual truth magnifies the divine power to human sight and seeing, we then see the supremacy of Spirit, and the nothingness of matter to heal.” by Mary Baker Eddy, Bible Lessons, CSJ June 1885

Three Statements of Our Unity with God

In the lesson this week, from the book of John, are three important sayings from Christ Jesus we have been taught here to work with on a daily basis. They are: “I and my Father are one.”, “The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works.”, and “The Father hath not left me alone.” Powerful statements to apply in our lives! It is also helpful to note Christ Jesus refers to God as his “Father” at least sixteen times in our lesson. This clearly indicates the tender and loving relationship Jesus had with his Creator. So, if you are ever tempted to feel separate from God, to feel that He is a God afar off, one that you could never feel close to – think about the relationship Christ Jesus had with his Father and know it is possible for you, too. Jesus came to show us the Way. He came to introduce new concepts about God and man. As you work and pray with these statements of Truth, you too will begin to feel your at-one-ment with the Father that loves you. The old and unloving concepts of God, taught by old theology, will thankfully pass away as untrue and unreal. *****

These three wonderful passages remind me of John 14, verse 12: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

Taking these three sayings to heart brings one a step closer to walking in Jesus’ footsteps – something that old theology cannot explain. Mrs. Eddy named a chapter in *Science and Health* “Footsteps of Truth” and just before in the preceding chapter, she states: “We walk in the footsteps of Truth and Love by following the example of our Master in the understanding of divine metaphysics.” Thank God we have S&H with its Key to the Scriptures that unlocks these truths so we may feel our at-one-ment with God. Hallelujah! *****