

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 117

**SUBJECT: God the Only Cause and Creator  
– June 3rd, 2018**

made practical through Science and Health's message, will change much.

## He Created It Not In Vain

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established (to settle or fix what is wavering, doubtful or weak; to settle permanently) it, He created it not in vain (empty; worthless; having no substance, value or importance; fruitless), He formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.” (Isaiah 45) I have been working with this verse, knowing it to be the Truth about all of God's creation. God created everyone and everything for a divine purpose. No one is left out of His kingdom, a kingdom of joy, peace and fulfillment. The belief that there are those without employment, without hope, without health etc., those who are homeless, or on drugs – is simply not the truth about God's creation. We can know in that very place where these conditions seem to be – is the very presence and power of God declaring, “I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways.” God's voice is thundering and His creation hears Him and is blessed. Nothing is impossible to Him, our loving Father-Mother God.\*\*\*\*\*

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This Truth is needed the world over, since it is the false and wicked sense of being separated from God, unworthy, and all the self depreciating thoughts that come that can and does keep many in bondage of a false heritage. This Truth, plus the teachings of the Bible, correctly explained and

## Getting Into Agreement With God

I had a thought this morning that I'd like to share. I was thinking last night of the story in Ezekiel – how the prophet saw in a dream a valley of dry bones. After seeing the state of dryness of those bones, Ezekiel probably could not fathom how they could ever be resurrected again, but he quickly got into agreement with God, did as instructed and prophesied to the bones, and they came together into a living, breathing, exceedingly great army in an amazing demonstration of God's almightiness. As mentioned in the story of Sarah and Abraham from this week's lesson, there is indeed nothing too hard for the Lord.

Similarly, in this week's lesson, when Sarah was told that she would bear a child even though she and Abraham “were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women”. Surely it had been decades since Sarah had had a menstrual period and she was probably thinking that her reproductive ability was bone dry, and as far as her eyes could see, having a child at her age was an impossibility. Like Ezekiel's story later, Sarah and Abraham had to get into agreement with God's vision rather than the testimony before their eyes.

I understand better what Mrs. Eddy was explaining when she said not to trust the material senses as evidence of God's Truth. \*\*\*\*\*

## Laying On of Hands

This week's lesson contains several wonderful scriptures referring to the hand of God.

Throughout the Bible, any scripture that speaks of the hand of God is making note of God's omnipotence and omni-activity. In watching and praying over any need, individual or collective, it is essential that I understand my way into the knowing place that I am graven on the palms of God's hands (Isaiah 49:16). This means abiding in the knowing place that I am at one with the Principle of the universe that creates worlds. And this was the main point of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper: that each of his disciples be one with the Father, just as he was one with the Father — which he prayed out loud in the presence of his disciples, for their sake, to make sure that they heard it. (John 17:21.)

“They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” — this was the very last sentence that Jesus spoke to his disciples before ascending into heaven to be seated at “the right hand of Power”. While watching and praying in the **knowing** state of being engraved on the palms of God's hands, of being firmly, securely, and steadfastly bound to Him, identified with Him, I am, in effect, resting God's right hand of Power — not my hands or my power — upon the person, place, or thing that I am treating. (Mark 16:18, Mark 14:62, Matt. 26:64.)

“When I have most clearly seen and most sensibly felt that the infinite recognizes no disease, this has not separated me from God, but has so bound me to Him as to enable me instantaneously to heal a cancer which had eaten its way to the jugular vein.” (Un. 7:6.) \*\*\*\*\*

## Good

“The Scriptures declare all that He made to be good, like Himself, — good in Principle and in idea. Therefore the spiritual universe is good, and reflects God as He is.” Science and Health p. 286

Good (from Webster's online): Honest, uncorrupted, valuable, useful, moral, right, benevolent, kind, highest worth, perfect, beneficial, virtue, firm, not weak, complete, opposed to wicked, wholesome, faithful, fidelity, wise, calm, abundance, satisfied.

Last week's Lesson mentioned good 10x, this week it is 12x. I have struggled with the concept of what it means to be “good.” Looking at the definition, I realized it was how I defined the word that got me into trouble such as people pleasing, compliant, cover up, well-behaved, don't rock the boat, let wrong rule the right, conformist, don't say no, don't make mistakes, self serving, etc.- the things I had to do to be “good” for those around me. None of those qualities are in the definition of good. Actually, I was not being “good” according to the true meaning. This led to a state of thinking of self-deception which is hard to break, believing I was good when I wasn't, and the deep quilt when I didn't do what I thought was good. There is such a great contrast to Abraham's true goodness and Ananias' deceptive appearance of good in last week's lesson. Abraham was obedient to God. Ananias was self-centered.

I see now I was on a “mission impossible” in trying to be “good” by human effort and standards. It has been a relief learning only God is good. Getting a better understanding of the Bible and Mrs. Eddy's writings is helping me learn how to live a life of integrity and reflect God's goodness. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this post. After coming to Plainfield, I needed to grow a backbone, and the teachings here helped me do it.

Before, I was self-defeating in my non-questioning willingness to be a doormat—as you mentioned “people pleasing, compliant, cover up, well-behaved, don't rock the boat, let wrong rule the right, conformist, don't say no, don't make mistakes, self serving, etc.” Ha! How this made my life a living hell (although everything looked smooth and pleasant from the outside). At one point, I realized I had misplaced loyalties in people. I simply didn't realize that the center of my life, my focus, should be God and my relationship to Him.

It seems obvious now, but how I had struggled, going round and round as if in a hamster cage repeating the same mistakes—until the veil over Christian Science that had been blocking me was peeled away the very first time I walked into the Plainfield Church. The strong teachings in this church have set me straight (it took several years) to the life of good that God has in store for me and for each one of us! \*\*\*\*\*

Sounds to me that both of you have had trials being “good” (small ‘g’ thus mortal basis) prior to learning at Plainfield. I’ve spent most of my life being on the opposite side of most conventional doctrines based on ‘moral’ principles (please note small ‘m’). From what you say, being ‘good’ is a train wreck and I guarantee you from my own experience that being ‘moral’ is a huge train wreck. The solution is to simply reflect God’s Good and Moral Principles; something I’m still trying to figure out. Any time I start from ‘Moral’, things have a way of working out for good in spite of ‘me’. whereas when I start with ‘moral,’ well, hang on for the big crash:) \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man – June 10th, 2018**

### **Get Thee Out**

Genesis 12: 1 Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee.

How much faith Abraham must have had in the one God to be obedient to this command! He was told to sever ties with his native land, his family, and dearest friends. His country and those in it had become idolatrous, and “he could not continue with them without danger of being infected by them, thus God said, Get thee out. Hereby also he was tried whether he could trust God farther than he saw him; for he must leave his own country to go to a land that God would show him; he doth not say, it is a land that I will give thee: nor doth he tell him what land it was, or what kind of land; but he must follow God with an implicit faith, and take

God’s word for it in general, that he should be no loser by leaving his country to follow God.” (Benson Commentary)

“Having faith in the divine Principle of health and spiritually understanding God, sustains man under all circumstances.” *Science and Health*, p 319: 7-9 \*\*\*\*\*

### **"Who Hath Weighed the Mountains in Scales?"**

“Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and *weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?*” (Isaiah 40:12, emphasis added.)

“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).

“Denial of the oneness of Mind throws our weight into the scale, not of Spirit, God, good, but of matter” (*Science and Health*, p. 205:29-31).

Jesus instructs me to speak to my mountain. Until the appropriate counterbalancing weight is applied to the faith side of my faith-unbelief scale (that is, my Mind-mind scale, or Spirit-matter scale), the mountain that appears to be blocking my progress will remain solid and immovable. But as I increasingly apply the weight of scripture, especially God’s promises, Mrs. Eddy’s writings, spending more time in God’s presence (three times a day minimum), the scales must eventually tip in favor of faith, Mind, Spirit, and the mountain will become more and more compliant, nonresistant, porous, until it can be blown away at the slightest breath of the Spirit.

**The more weight I place on the faith side of the scale, the more weightless the mountain becomes.** Then, when I have thus persevered in battle, the mountain that appeared to be so mighty and imposing will have become weightless, without substance whatsoever. Thus committed, I — or anyone — will be able to understand at last: to see even the mightiest mountain for what it truly is, and has been all along: a “**mirage**“. (See Mary Baker Eddy’s *Science and Health*, 1st edition, pages 37-38, examining the unreality of the “mountain mirage.” \*\*\*\*\*)

## God Gives Man Faith and Understanding

I find the following added quotes from the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary helpful. I especially like the idea that God is a supporting influence. We all could use a little support now and then!! “The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs of the supporting (that which upholds, sustains or keeps from falling; to keep from sinking; that which maintains life; to maintain with provisions; to bear without being exhausted) influence (spiritual power or the immediate power of God on the mind) and protecting (to cover or shield from danger; to defend) bestowed on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent Mind, who gives man faith and understanding whereby to defend himself not only from temptation, but from bodily suffering.” (*Science and Health*, p. 387) It is also important to note that God “GIVES man faith and understanding.” (emphasis added) So if you think you lack faith and/or understanding turn to this statement by Mrs. Eddy – and think again! All are without excuse!\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! Faith and understanding have become very important to me and one thing I have been studying, as directed, is Hymn 291. In part it reads: Quiet, Lord my froward heart, Make me gentle, pure and mild, Upright, simple free from art; Make me as a little child.....Let me thus with Thee abide, As my Father, friend, and guide.\*\*\*\*\*

## Faith and listening to God

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6) I am getting a better understanding that faith is really listening diligently (with care and conscientiousness -Dictionary.com) to the “still small voice” (Kings 19:12) within us and trusting God with our whole heart. If we don’t have faith and listen to God, how will we know what to do? How can we please Him? But, if we cherish a right desire and listen and obey God, He will bless it in His own time and way. I can see there is no other way to God than by faith. \*\*\*\*\*

## Even A Little Faith

Matthew 17 : 20.....verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

A few excerpts from Mrs. Eddy’s brief article on Possession under her articles on this website, is very helpful in increasing our faith, no matter how small. Jesus loved the faith He saw in people, and He likened the size of needed faith to a mustard seed, the tiniest seed that grows into a big tree. In the article, Mrs. Eddy says we must take possession of what is ours for it to multiply as the example of the loaves and fishes, “If you take possession of what is at hand for you, it becomes the loaves and fishes for you, the basis of multiplication.”

If I claim even the little faith I have, that can help me increase my faith, as I exercise it in facing the challenges that come. That is better than saying, oh I have such little faith and multiplying the false sense of lack. She says, Keep practicing “this is mine” until the spirit of possession is gained, and you will feel “all things are mine.” It has the same sense to me as, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.” If I let that little light shine everywhere I go, pretty soon the whole place will be bright with light!