

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Matter – September 16th, 2018**

## The Dear Father's Face Looks Out from the Clouds

“Then he arose and rebuked the wind and raging water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.... for he commandeth the winds and water, and they obeyed him.” (Luke) I am sure it is no coincidence that this story of the Christ rebuking the storm is in our Lesson this week. It is God’s lesson and reminder for all of us. Yesterday, we issued a special watch to handle the storm that is approaching the Carolina Coast and all of us have a responsibility to be earnestly praying about this. Mrs. Eddy had work done daily in her home concerning the weather. She was never off guard about any mental work that needed to be done. How important that we follow her example! This is from “Watches, Prayers, Arguments” given by Mary Baker Eddy pages 105-106

“When I have made a storm disappear, I did not argue, ‘There are no clouds.’ I said, ‘God’s face is there, and I see it,’ and the storm would break and disappear. Handle the weather, just as you do any belief of mortal mind. You are not a Christian Scientist, until you do control the weather.”

“The gentle clouds and the gentle rain fall upon the just and unjust; no electricity, no thunder and lightning, no cyclone, no tornado, no destruction, for the dear Father’s face looks out from the clouds in love and in harmony. No malice, and no hatred – for there is nothing to interfere with His government in Love....” \*\*\*\*\*

Your inspirational post led me to reread *Handling the Weather* in the Blue Book, Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps. On p. 272, Carpenter writes:

“It is a self-evident proposition that the student cannot possibly work on the weather selfishly. He cannot pray for a private rainfall or fair weather, any more than he can open a private door in heaven through which God will pour a personal blessing, because the door to God’s blessings is a universal door which opens for all.” “Heaven in the heart of one, means heaven in the heart of all,” is the beautiful way Mrs. Eddy once expressed this ideal to me. Handling the weather scientifically is one of the best methods of restoring man to his rightful place, which the thought of weakness, subjection and fear has taken from him; for it gives him a glimpse of his infinite possibilities and his need of using them, so that wisdom and Love may again be present in cause, and be demonstrated by man under the government of God. Then they will express themselves in effect.”

So thankful for a greater understanding to claim God given authority; dominion over the flesh, the devil and the world. God is all good, always. \*\*\*\*\*

In working for the approaching storm, the thought came to me that “the power of God dissipates any storm of discontent.” And wouldn’t that seem to be encircling the world right now. But it has no energy, no power — and it certainly can’t organize. The truth is that man, as God’s child, is contented, satisfied, and peaceful — and that is all that can be made manifest in the atmosphere. “In atmosphere of Love divine, we live, and move, and breathe” (Hymn 144). That holy atmosphere — the only place we live — cannot be disrupted by any false storm of discontent! God IS the only power!! \*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Eddy spoke of 2 weather-belief challenges, the first easier than the second (from “Watches, Prayers, Arguments”) — [The first challenge:] “When I work for the weather, everybody wants fair

weather, only they believe there will be bad weather, and I only have to overcome that belief;”

[The second challenge:] “[B]ut when malice comes in and declares there shall be storms, then I have a task to overcome that.

“Now make real to yourselves: There is no envy, malice, hate nor revenge. God is Love, and Love is All. All is health and holiness. There is no opposite.”

Mrs. Eddy is saying here that if desire for fair weather (a constructive thought) is prominent in the thoughts of those around her, then it is a relatively easy thing to dissipate the “bad-weather” thought.

But if something beyond merely “bad weather,” such as a series of violent storms (a destructive thought), is prominent in the group-thought, superseding the “desire-for-fair-weather” thought, then greater thought-effort, mightier insistence on the supremacy of Spirit, is required for successful outcome.

The media habitually dramatize hurricanes and is currently reporting the possible arrival of a “storm of biblical proportions.” Millions of people are presented with this “information” and contributing, consciously or unconsciously, to a group-malpractice mentality confirming the “reality” of the storm.

The “biblical proportions” description is typical of mortal mind, which is constantly trying to intimidate me into viewing things based on an erroneous (physical) frame of reference: comparing my allegedly puny human size with that of a hurricane; when, in reality, I only need compare the hurricane’s size with the size of God, the boundless magnitude of the Power of God, the all-transforming energy of the Omni-Activity of God, that overrules and nullifies the existence of all storms, the infinite immensity of the Presence of God, which dwarfs the size of the universe itself — as David did with Goliath.

So, I must remember that “one with God is a majority” and carry out an inspired watch, waiting, and if necessary, tarrying long in God’s presence, stopping only as the Spirit leads. \*\*\*\*\*

*“The ‘biblical proportions’ description is typical of mortal mind, which is constantly trying to intimidate me into viewing things based on an erroneous (physical) frame of reference...”*

These words leapt off the page in the Lesson: “Mortal mind is ignorant of itself, – ignorant of the errors it includes and of their effects.” (S&H p. 408) Therefore, mortal mind is destitute of knowledge, a seeming void, as Mind fills all space, with “the boundless magnitude of the Power of God, the all-transforming energy of the Omni-Activity of God that overrules and nullifies the existence of all storms, the infinite immensity of the Presence of God...” (as Parthens states above)

Thank you for these posts, so helpful in handling the weather. \*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday night, when a heavy rain started, I opened *Watches Prayers Arguments* to the following article. After working with this article for a few minutes, the rain slowed to a gentle rain. This is helpful for handling hurricanes, too.

Thank God for Mrs. Eddy and her writings.

## MOTHER’S LESSON ON RAIN

The gentle clouds and the gentle rain fall upon the just and the unjust; no electricity, no thunder and lightning, no cyclone, no tornado, no destruction, for the dear Father’s face looks out from the clouds in love and in harmony. No malice, and no hatred — for there is nothing to interfere with His government in Love. There shall be the gentle and beautiful rain upon the earth to water the whole face of the earth.

Do not take up, there is no thunder and lightning; know that God governs the elements, and there is nothing destructive or harmful. God sends the rain that watereth the earth. Human will cannot come in and govern. You would not argue diphtheria, if the

case was consumption; neither do you argue thunder and lightning, when it is sin (malice). If thunder and lightning come, then know, forces are of God and are not destructive. If too much rain, realize harmony. If drought — no drought. *S&H*, p.102:9 (268th edition).

*Watches Prayers Argument* by Mary Baker Eddy page 105-106

## Be silent, O all flesh

“Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord.”  
Zechariah 2 : 13

SILENT, (Websters 1828)

1. Not speaking; ... Still; having not noise; ... as the silent watches of the night; no proclaiming....  
Calm; as, the winds were silent.

To me **not** reacting is one way for me to silence the flesh. Mrs. Eddy mentions in the article “Taking Offense” several ways to counter the pride, ego, self-will, (the flesh) that gets challenged daily with a, “thousand million different human wills, opinions... that each person has a different history.” She tells us to have the “smallest expectations,” “largest patience,” a “keen relish for and appreciation of everything beautiful, great, and good...” a “temper so genial that the friction of the world shall not wear upon our sensibilities;” an “equanimity so settled that no passing breath nor accidental disturbance shall agitate or ruffle it;” and a, “charity broad enough to cover the whole world’s evil,” and “sweet enough to neutralize what is bitter in it...” These are all active qualities that can be lived in place of being demanding, critical, over sensitive, complaining, resentful, all of which take my peace and keep me from hearing God. As we were told at our last Roundtable, we need to have, “infinite patience with others’ stories.” \*\*\*\*\*

“The Science of Life, overshadowing Paul’s sense of life in matter, so far extinguished the latter, as forever to quench his love for it. The discipline of

the flesh is designed to turn one, like a weary traveler, to the home of Love. To lose error thus, is to live in Christ, Truth.” by Mary Baker Eddy from Misc. p. 33 \*\*\*\*\*

This week’s Golden Text, “Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord” Zechariah 2: 13 has stood out to me all week. Gradually, while working with this, it became, “Be silent, mortal mind, before the Lord.” And this morning, realized that once mortal mind is silent then it is possible to “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalms 46: 10) When I looked up Psalm 46, I realized that it could have easily been referring to a large storm (mortal mind raging) like a hurricane. In this week’s Lesson, Jesus “arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.” I can, as well. It is just another false idol. Thank you for this Lesson, and to the Lesson writers, and for all the posts this week. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you all! As I have been praying and using our Special Unity Watch, I keep remembering how the weather newscasters watching the storm (that, we all prayed about in 2016), and their surprise about the shift in the storm and the unexpected outcome — right before their eyes! WHAT CANNOT GOD DO! The article explaining this event can be found in the November 2016 LOVE IS THE LIBERATOR, page 23, called, *God Does Control the Weather*. \*\*\*\*\*

**SUBJECT: Christian Science – September 23rd, 2018**

## The Constant Pressure

“Christian Scientists must live under the constant pressure of the apostolic command to come out from the material world and be separate.” (*Science and Health*) Notice Mrs. Eddy says we “must” live under this command – it is not a suggestion or anything to be taken lightly. It is also the only time Mrs. Eddy mentions the word “pressure” in Science

and Health or in Prose Works. I have found when I live up to this command and all it implies, all the other kinds of “pressures” fade away – all the “you must do that,” “you must please him,” “you have to be here,” etc. and so forth. The only thing any of us must do is to obey God – to please Him, and to refuse to be tugged around by the bullying and constant demands of the world. When we do this everything else falls into place and we feel the peace of God, the peace that obeying Him alone brings. \*\*\*\*\*

Command (from Webster’s 1828)

COMMAND, verb transitive

1. To bid; to order; to direct; to charge; implying authority, and power to control, and to require obedience.

2. To govern, lead or direct; to have or to exercise supreme authority over.

COMMAND, noun

1. The right or power of governing with chief or exclusive authority; supreme power; control; as, an officer has a brigade under his command;

It is obvious I was not taking God’s commands as **commands**, perhaps not those from Christ Jesus nor Mrs. Eddy’s. The “Must” statements are not just suggestions or advice. They are **COMMANDS**. No wonder the suffering that went on with such disobedience. I did not even see it as disobedience, but now I do, and I am grateful!! If you want more peace, obey God’s commands, live to please Him, and the peace that only He gives will be yours. \*\*\*\*

Thank you for these teachings. After reading the book by Ann Beals, “The Law of Love,” I’m astounded at the erroneous concepts I had of how I was following the command to Love. On page 115 of *Science and Health*, Mrs Eddy describes the three degrees of mortal mind, and in “the Law of Love,” Ann Beals describes each one in detail. Again, I was astounded by my blindness and how, when we really dig deep, we find we are not really as good as we thought we were, and we still have a lot on which to work. In this Lesson, we are asked to take a good, hard look at our so-called “goodness.” Are we really good? Just because we don’t purposely harm another? or kill, or rob?

There are so many layers, that I’m sure it will take a lifetime or more to discover and resolve teachings in this Church.\*\*

Thank you for these most helpful posts. Here’s a wonderful passage from Mis. 377-2: “Then thought I, What are we, that He who fashions forever such forms and hues of heaven, should move our brush or pen to paint frail fairness or to weave a web of words that glow with gladdening gleams of God, so unapproachable, and yet so near and full of radiant relief in clouds and darkness.” What an uplifting thought from Mrs. Eddy. “Weave a web of words that glow with gladdening gleams of God...”

Another heartfelt passage I was led to today: “When the *hearts* of Christian Scientists are woven together as are their names in the web of history, earth will float majestically heaven’s heraldry, and echo the song of angels: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’ ” Misc. 145:27

It’s so comforting to realize that there is no mortal mind to err, only the perfection of the Christ as we surrender and live His life in full gratitude for immeasurable grace. There were two more passages on “web” that came to light. “To weave one thread of Science through the looms of time, is a miracle in itself.” Misc. 99:6 “The divine Science of man is woven into one web of consistency without seam or rent.” *S & H*, p 242:25\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for these posts. They help me to know HOW to, “come out from the material world and be separate.” This has been a hard concept for me. Yes, it is an ongoing work that is possible by knowing God’s great love for us. When I think of pleasing God, it makes me smile, for that is the desire of the heart.\*\*\*\*\*

## Nothing Ails You

*S & H*, p. 460:18-23 “If Christian healing is abused by mere smatterers in Science, it becomes a tedious

mischievous-maker. Instead of scientifically effecting a cure, it starts a petty crossfire over every cripple and invalid, buffeting them with the superficial and cold assertion, ‘Nothing ails you.’ ”

If “nothing ails you” is uttered without the Divine Principle of Love behind it, it sounds like the “Taint so” that has no conviction of the power and force of God’s presence and is devoid of genuine compassion which shines the light of Truth to lead someone out of the darkness of their sick, false beliefs. “Where Is My Divine Love?” This I should ask before uttering empty truths, the sound of which can rather rankle the thought of the sick, instead of bringing comfort and compassion that would uplift a neighbor. Where is my lamp of Truth, burning with the genuine desire to see myself and “man” correctly? That light of Truth, which does help one see themselves upright and godlike again, with the dominion which is their inheritance, as a child of God! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this comment. I just underlined it in the Lesson this morning and was wondering what Mrs. Eddy was trying to convey. So many times I hear from Christian Scientists those words, “nothing ails you,” but they are without meaning or love behind it. Lately, I have strived to apply this in my interactions with family, coworkers and strangers on the street. I’m still far from successful, and regrettably wonder if I’m doing any good when passing a stranger, or a homeless person. I mentally declare “perfect God, perfect man,” but always question myself, have you been truly effective? Or are these just words? Do I love enough? I can only trust God that sees my true self and my true intentions. I always feel surprised when God answers. \*\*\*\*\*

Where’s the Love? To say, “Nothing ails you” in the scenario that Mrs. Eddy describes (*Science and Health*, p. 460) is equivalent to a defense attorney entering a courtroom without presenting a single witness or item of evidence in his client’s favor, yet announcing to judge and jury, “My client is innocent,” then exiting the courtroom – leaving his client open to an unbridled onslaught of attacks from his accusers.

“Love is priestess at the altar of Truth” (*Science and Health*, p. 454).

A priest or priestess is a mediator of reconciliation between God and man.

Divine Love employs Christian Science as Mediator, or Paraclete (another name for the Holy Ghost – *Science and Health*, p. 588 and John 14): Counselor, Attorney, Advocate, and this fact illumines the pages of Mrs. Eddy’s allegory, “The Trial,” in which Christian Science single-handedly triumphs in the Supreme Court of Spirit to reverse the decision of the lower court of the Accuser (*Science and Health*, p. 430-442).

Note the vehemence with which Christian Science so passionately argues against the testimony of mortal mind and its swarm of lying witnesses that have ganged up against the defendant, a dying patient, distracted and overwhelmed with pain and hopelessness. As a defense attorney, Christian Science is neither cringing nor matter-of-fact (unlike a hireling public defender), but battles *pro bono* for the welfare of the accused with a devotion that can only be compared to a parent protecting his/her beloved child from a murderous mob. \*\*\*\*\*

## **Spirit, Not Matter Is The Only Real Foundation**

From John 6 we read: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

From *Science and Health*, p. 269: Other foundations there are none. All other systems — systems based wholly or partly on knowledge gained through the material senses — are reeds shaken by the wind, not houses built on the rock. And no wonder 1 Cor. 1:29 tells us “That no flesh should glory in his presence.” \*\*\*\*\*