

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 126

**SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? – October 14th, 2018**

## "The First Duty"

“You will learn that in Christian Science the first duty is to obey God, to have one Mind, and to love another as yourself.”

This sentence stood out to me because I grew up in Science... and yet.... I was in the dark. I had no idea what it really meant to be obedient; I had no clue about the difference between the one Mind and the human mind; and I had little understanding of what it truly meant to “love one another.” I must say that after coming here to Plainfield and getting correct teaching on Christian Science—I would even say, some much-needed “tough love”—this one short sentence in *Science & Health* now makes sense to me. It came alive for me; they were no longer words I just glossed over. This was a seismic shift for me and I can’t thank the teachers here enough! \*\*\*\*\*

## Science and Health, p 149: 3-7

“Mind as far outweighs drugs in the cure of disease as in the cure of sin. The more excellent way is divine Science in every case. Is *materia medica* a science or a bundle of speculative human theories?”

This is such a powerful lesson!! This whole section from *Science and Health* tells us in a nutshell what the stance should be when disease, sin, etc. comes knocking at our doors. “Mind as far outweighs drugs in the cure of disease as in the cure of sin,”

and “The prescription which succeeds in one instance fails in another, and this is owing to the different mental states of the patient.” “These states are not comprehended, and they are left without explanation except in Christian Science.” These statements have given me much food for thought; working in a mostly medical-oriented environment, I’m privy to the many failures of medications, and in many cases, there is no certain explanation as to why this happens. We are constantly bombarded with advertisements about different kinds of drugs in the market via TV or ads. The small print of side effects are usually so small as to be impossible to read, or the list is so long as to make people give up reading it. However, if taken the time to read, it is almost like reading a horror story, enough to give you nightmares of “what if.” No doubt the medical professionals mean well, but their fear of disease and dire consequences if certain rules of hygiene or preventive measures are not followed, leaves the patient full of fear and with little strength to fight back the insidious error. I want to thank whomever wrote this Lesson. It is a “keeper” one that I will be returning to read and re-read. Thank you. \*\*\*\*\*

## Obedience to Truth

“Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength. Submission to error superinduces loss of power.” (*Science and Health*, p.183).

We have been discussing a lot the last few weeks about that power which comes from God and obeying Him and challenging anything that would take us down the road of negative victim thinking, a loss of power. Gideon did not roll up in a ball of hopelessness when faced by the terror of the invaders, but responded to God’s call to overthrow the idol of Baal in his camp and face the enemy

under God's direction. We are warned at length about the downfall of blame and victim thinking and the importance of not forgetting the moral and spiritual law. This week's Lesson covers obedience to moral and spiritual law, which gives strength, healing, and a way out. Mrs. Eddy tells us if we submit to error, we lose power. This is exactly what I am doing when I blame and feel the victim. It can be very hard to break the mesmerism of this negative thinking, but thanks to Christ Jesus, Mrs. Eddy, and this church, we have practical strategies.

The moral law tells me to follow the First Commandment. I can catch myself starting to blame. Instead of entering the negative zone, I can ask myself, "Do I want to stay stuck?" "What or who am I giving power/control over me that is not God?" "What am I excusing?" "Where am I placing my happiness?" I can attack victim thinking with specific Truths. I can be proactive and make choices. Talk with God. Memorize Scripture and lines from Mrs. Eddy's writings. Be grateful. Do work for God. Ask God, "What do I need to do here?" This is just a small list of things that we have been given to do. \*\*\*\*\*

The early part of the Book of Isaiah makes vivid the curses that befall God's people for the sin of idolatry. The latter part of Isaiah makes equally vivid the blessings that overtake God's people as a natural result of destroying their idols and returning to God. These blessings and cursings are mentioned throughout the law of Moses, most especially Deuteronomy 28.

"I have . . . saved . . . when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God" (Isaiah 43:12).

This is why the reforms of Gideon and Hezekiah parallel each other, as do the great victories following those reforms. The inside enemy must be dealt with first; this being done, victory over any outside enemy becomes a very simple matter, indeed.

"The idols of civilization are far more fatal to health and longevity than are the idols of barbarism" (*Science and Health*, p.173:30-31).

Just one example of such idolatry: opioid use has become so widespread that these substances are now polluting municipal water supplies of major American cities. Prenatal exposure to opioids has resulted in babies addicted at birth.

"If God created drugs good, they cannot be harmful; if He could create them otherwise, then they are bad and unfit for man; and if He created drugs for healing the sick, why did not Jesus employ them and recommend them for that purpose?" (Misc. 25:27-31.)

See also: [http://www.ourcivilisation.com/medicine/usa\\_med/deaths.htm](http://www.ourcivilisation.com/medicine/usa_med/deaths.htm) – a record that should keep us awake and watchful until this idol of today's uncivilized civilization is cast down from its high place and destroyed forever! \*\*\*\*\*

## Seek and be Guided

*Deuteronomy 4: 29* But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.  
*Isaiah 58: 11* ... the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. This Lesson makes it perfectly clear that when you seek God with your whole being and look to no other idols ancient or modern, you shall be guided ... and fail not.

## Blessed Are They

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."  
*Revelation 22: 14*

This law of obedience to God is stated from beginning to end in the Bible and in this week's Lesson. We see the progression from the Ten

Commandments of Moses to the Blessed Are They of Jesus and John's Revelation, from the relative to the absolute. In *Science and Health* (cit. 2, p. 140) Mrs. Eddy states, "We shall obey and adore in proportion as we apprehend the divine nature and love Him understandingly, warring no more over the corporeality, but rejoicing in the affluence of our God." Thank you for this lesson.\*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT: Doctrine of Atonement – October 21st, 2018**

### **Atonement as Alignment**

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly..."  
(Col. 3:16.)

"...the Word, the polar magnet of Revelation..."  
(*Science and Health*, p.575:27.)

Physically, the definitions of magnetism and gravity are different, but metaphysically they indicate two aspects of the same universal principle discussed virtually everywhere in Mrs. Eddy's writings: the law of attraction. Law of attraction is, briefly: "that which is like unto itself is drawn." In other words, I become what I fasten my gaze upon.

"Where shall the gaze rest?" (*Science and Health*, p.264:9.)

"...we must first turn our gaze in the right direction, and then walk that way. We must form perfect models in thought and look at them continually..." (*Science and Health*, p.248:25-27)

In painting a portrait of Jesus, I can't be occupied with the specter of Judas. This same principle of single-mindedness applies to the sculptor and his model. (*Science and Health*, p.260:3-6, 248:12-26.)

"Man walks in the direction towards which he looks, and where his treasure is, there will his heart be also." (*Science and Health*, p.451:14.)

"We must look where we would walk, and we must act as possessing all power from Him in whom we have our being." (*Science and Health*, p.264:10-12.)

"Mortals must gravitate Godward...in order that sin and mortality may be put off." (*Science and Health*, p.265:5-9.)

"If man's spiritual gravitation and attraction to one Father, in whom we 'live, and move, and have our being,' should be lost, and if man should be governed by corporeality instead of divine Principle, by body instead of by Soul, man would be annihilated." (*Science and Health*, p.536:11-16.)

When an ordinary piece of iron is rubbed against a magnet, the former's electrons become aligned — moving in one direction only — where they had previously been moving randomly, in all directions. Thus, ordinary metal takes on the characteristics of the magnet with which it comes in contact.

By exposing myself continually to the polar magnet of the Word, I cannot help but to align all of my misaligned "mortal feelings, motives, affections, joys, and sorrows" with their immortal counterparts (*Science and Health*, p.587:23-24). Death to self is death to all of self's omni-directional misalignments with the things of God.

Aligning myself — uni-directionally — with the polar magnet of the Word aligns me magnetically with all the characteristics of God, imparts to me the nature of Soul, not sense, a process that is the opposite of "animal magnetism." \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you very much for this post. I love the thought of aligning myself up with the "polar magnet of the Word"! Mrs. Eddy also says on page 102 of *Science and Health*, "There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit. The pointing of the needle to the pole symbolizes this all-embracing power or the attraction of God, divine Mind." I often work with this statement when handling the beliefs of false attraction — alcoholism, drugs, gaming, pornography, etc. Everyone, everywhere is naturally attracted to God, Good, and there is no other attraction! \*\*\*\*\*

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“Mortal feelings, motives, affections, joys, and sorrows” are Mrs. Eddy’s definition for “Heart” in *Science and Health*. This led me to Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” And my favorite from *James 4:8*: “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”

We are constantly being pulled in one direction or another, and it is always thinking of God’s Will that keeps us or gets us back on course. I love the idea of the “polar magnet of the Word”— the voice of God being truly the ultimate attraction. \*\*\*\*\*

## Daily Walk and Conversation

“If Truth is overcoming error in your daily walk and conversation.... This is having our part in the at-one-ment with Truth and Love.” by Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health*, p. 21

The word humility and pride popped out to me in this Lesson. The Website biblestudytools.com stated Pride-“stands in contrast to the word ‘humble,’ ” and “is preferring self-will to God’s will,” and “shifts ultimate confidence from God to self.”

This Lesson is a good reminder of “having our part” by daily following Jesus precepts. It gave me a greater sense of living church when I realized that Jesus expressed church where ever he went. A light went off for me that by destroying thoughts of pride expressed in such things as personal glory, selfish motives, fault finding, criticism, excuses, self pity, victim thinking, comparisons, impatience, worry what others think, the list could go on, I am opening my heart to humility.

I feel the strength in this daily work when I do it and I am grateful to be learning the discipline of this moment-by-moment living, using a Plainfield practitioner for support and participating here. I have a note to remind myself daily to, “Humble your talk, accelerate your walk.” by C. Nieuwhof. \*

## A Minister and A Servant

In this week’s Lesson, in *Luke 23: 39-43*, we get a picture of the crucifixion – the derision, the mocking, the casting of lots... But when “one of the malefactors which were hanged railed” on Jesus, ... “saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us,” it was the rebuke of the second malefactor and Jesus’ response that was most profound.

“But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.’”

“And Jesus said unto him, Verily, I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

Even in the midst of all this, Jesus’ unselfed love touched, healed and comforted the receptive honest heart of the second malefactor. I think this is a good example of what Jesus meant by being a minister and a servant. \*\*\*\*\*

## What is Good

*Micah 6 : 8*

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?