

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 129

**SUBJECT: Ancient and Modern
Necromancy, Alias Mesmerism and
Hypnotism, Denounced – December 2nd,
2018**

Thought Mastery

“My thoughts are not your thoughts ... saith the Lord.” (Isa.55:8)

“Thought passes from God to man, but neither sensation nor report goes from material body to Mind.” (See *Science and Health*, pgs.103, 224, 284)

“The time for thinkers has come.” (*Science and Health*, p vii:13)

Christian Science teaches that spiritual thought is the complete opposite of material thought. Spiritual thought is a process of discerning, then allowing only thoughts that are God-originated, while material thought has its origin in mortal self, that is, error. Spiritual thought is not something I conjure from within myself.

Eve’s exchange with the serpent in Genesis 3 is a lesson on how not to have a conversation with myself. Eve obviously opened the door of her thought to the wrong visitant, entertaining it unawares until it was too late. In her passive, Adam-dream-like state, she had tuned out God by tuning into error’s rogue radio transmission.

Throughout his life and ministry, Jesus unfailingly refused to dam the flow of angel thoughts that

heaven is constantly transmitting from God to man. (*Science and Health*, p. 581) During the temptation in the wilderness, Jesus (unlike Eve) abruptly ended three attempts of mortal mind to strike up a conversation with him. He unfailingly tested the integrity of every thought he received by measuring it against the integrity of the Word of God. (Luke 4:3-14)

Jesus did not simply eject an erroneous thought by refusing to think it, but he also made sure to fill with Truth the space that the adversary was trying to fill with error.

Of all the armor components listed in Ephesians 6, I am to take up the shield of faith most especially – *above all* (verse 16). And if this shield is made of faith, what is faith made of? “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” (Rom.10:17) Faith’s deflection shield is constructed of Scripture, line upon line, precept upon precept. As I apply it conscientiously to every detail of my life, the polar magnet of the inspired Word creates a spiritual force field around me that satan cannot penetrate. (*Science and Health*, p.575:26)

Jesus made sure that every thought he met with was not his, but God’s. Every moment. Unconditionally. This is thought-mastery. *****

Thank you for this instructive and thoughtful post. It takes an effort to watch one’s thinking, but it becomes a habit the more one practices.

I can feel the progress I’ve made over the years, thanks to the teaching provided in this church, and I’m grateful. What a difference it has made in my life! *****

Warfare in Science

“Ever since the foundation of the world, ever since error would establish material belief, evil has tried to slay the Lamb; but Science is able to destroy this lie, called evil. The twelfth chapter of the Apocalypse typifies the divine method of warfare in Science, and the glorious results of this warfare.” *Science and Health*, p. 568

I am proofing Chapter 123 of *Spiritual Footsteps* by Carpenter and it happens to be on this topic. “More than all others, Mrs. Eddy, through her life’s experience, has portrayed the hidden workings of evil, as well as the correct solution of its claim to existence and power. Yet the materially-minded, not perceiving the importance of many of the outward evidences in her life, as bearing testimony to the inward spiritual strife, and the vital lessons taught, would desire to expurgate from the record of her life those things which, from a human standard of good, do not accord with the world’s ideal of a patient, loving Christian, meek and long-suffering, traits which we are trained to associate with the life and character of the one approaching perfection. But such traits were not characteristic of Mrs. Eddy’s warfare against evil.

In actual demonstration, Mrs. Eddy’s attitude was similar to that of St. Paul, as portrayed in Acts 16, where his sense of superiority to his enemies was so dominant, that it made them afraid. ... In such an offensive warfare against the claims of evil, meekness and gentleness would be fatal. Mrs. Eddy was a soldier of God, and the record of her warfare is more important for the instruction of the student, than is that of her meekness, love and patience, which were qualities which she exhibited as the fruit of her warfare against evil, but not during such warfare.

It is plain, therefore, that to expunge from her life’s record the positive methods necessary, when she was battling with Goliath, would be to rob the student, and the world, of the footsteps vital to the completion of the knowledge by which, and only by which, man may work out successfully the problem he is required to solve.” To go with this

topic you can listen to a class we had regarding, “Putting on A Christian’s Armor,” June 3, 2017. **

Tread and Trample

I love the Golden Text this week, Psalm 91:13: “Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.” In the back of my mind, I always wondered how one “treads” and “tramples under feet” lions and dragons (the snakes I got). This week’s Lesson made it clear these “fierce creatures” really represent error, also called “ancient and modern necromancy alias mesmerism and hypnotism,” animal magnetism, mortal mind, etc.

From Genesis to Revelation, it is clear that they must be tread upon and trampled under foot else they loom bigger and bigger in our thought until we have a war on our hands. Easier to step on a puffed up adder nipping at one’s heels than a fire breathing dragon taking over one’s life. The Responsive Reading tells us how; “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you,” “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” (James 4: 7,8) and how to put on “the whole armour of God” as described in Ephesians 6: 13-17. Thank you for this powerful lesson and for this week’s Forum posts. *****

I’m glad you referred to the very first verses in Responsive Reading: “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you,” “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.” My first thought was this says it all. And Jesus answered and said unto him, “Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” *****

Mesmerism, Animal Magnetism Denounced

“Divine Love always has met and always will meet every human need.” from *Science and Health*, pg. 494:10

“Let us know with the greatest compassion that God is meeting the needs of all His children seeking to illegally enter the US border for desperate purposes. His presence is with them now sustaining and comforting each and every one. Their right place is assured. The answer to all problems is found only in Him. His will be done. God will lead each one aright.

“Let us also know the rules and laws of our land must be respected and obeyed. There is a right way to enter our country and to illegally break these rules cannot be tolerated.”

This is part of a quote from our Thursday Unity Watch. I believe that the so-called action at our southern border is modern day animal magnetism that must be held in check, and divine Love is the only real solution. Innocent minds CANNOT be controlled by evil forces to cause chaos and divide our country. WE ARE ONE NATION UNDER GOD! *****

**SUBJECT: God the Only Cause and Creator
– December 9th, 2018**

No Room For Discontent

In our responsive reading, it is clearly stated, “Be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create:” And in *Science and Health* it says “Deity was satisfied with His work.”

So the instruction is clear that there is no room for discontent since God’s work is finished, perfect, and always at hand. The commercialization of this season tends to artificially induce a sense of discontent, and make us inclined to be glad and rejoice only if we get what we want. Instead, let’s rejoice in the light that Christian Science sheds on the truth of creation, and that it is a present reality.

The Gabriel of His Presence Has No Contests

3. Luke 1 : 5-8, 11 (there)-16, 18-22, 24 (to 1st), 57-60, 62-64, 67-80
12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.
13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.
14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.
18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.
19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.
20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

This reminded me of Mrs. Eddy’s words about Gabriel in *Science and Health*, pg. 567 :

The Gabriel of His presence has no contests.

Gabriel came to bring good news from God, not to argue, so when Zacharias started listing reasons why it couldn’t happen, Gabriel shut him up in the most definitive and effective manner. There can be no contest between human doubt and God’s will!

I am very grateful for the Bible Study from Saturday, December 8th, 2018 for bringing such clarity on this to me. Thank you! *****

The Pattern Showed to Thee On The Mount

“...through divine influence, ‘according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.’” *Science and Health*, p.236 (The pattern, or blueprint God gave to

Moses designed to implement God's purposes, obedience to God and His precepts.)

This is a beautiful Lesson and treatment for beliefs attached to human generation.

During Sunday's Roundtable Dec. 2, 2018, the topic spiritualism was addressed. When I first started working with a practitioner at this church, she discerned my need to correct my thinking regarding the false system of spiritualism. She had me read the chapter on "Christian Science versus Spiritualism" from *Science and Health*. This reading and working with her educated and cleansed my thinking. While I was not taught at home to believe in ghosts or spirits, I did pick it up from other sources. The last couple of years, I have noticed a rapid growth in popularity of spiritualism in our society, having millions of followers. You can find it paraded before the public through talk shows, movies (even Disney), magazines and books, not to mention the many tv shows in which people claim to be able to "channel" or communicate with the dead.

This false system would act as physicians of the soul, but instead mesmerizes one deeper into harmful beliefs. I mention this because it is presented as harmless entertainment, a comfort, spiritual solution, helpful, and sometimes a religion. When broken down you find this false system focuses on death and tragedy, separation from good, magnifies personality and ego, many creators, mind in matter with many minds and souls, relies on mortal mind reading, gives evil power, godlessness, and falls under the occult. Moses also was very clear in Deuteronomy 18:9–12 regarding these false systems. Since our class Sunday, I have been more aware to counter the attraction to that which would take man away from God.

What we are doing here at Plainfield is so important to counter these lies and deception and to bring out the Truth that saves, heals everything, answers all questions, brings comfort, peace, and lives into obedience to God. What a priceless opportunity we have to have Watches to counter the lies of animal magnetism.

"Spiritually to understand that there is but one creator, God, unfolds all creation, confirms the Scriptures, brings the sweet assurance of no parting, no pain, and of man deathless and perfect and eternal." *Science and Health*, p. 69 *****

Spiritualism "is presented as harmless entertainment, a comfort, spiritual solution, helpful, and sometimes a religion. When broken down you find this false system focuses on death and tragedy, separation from good, magnifies personality and ego, many creators, mind in matter with many minds and souls, relies on mortal mind reading, gives evil power, godlessness, and falls under the occult."

Thank you for pointing this out. A family member likes to watch a TV show where "ghost hunters" explore so-called paranormal activities in spooky locations. I have watched a couple episodes recently since I happened to be in the room, and I end up rolling my eyes. However, just the other day, I told this family member that if he were to watch this show, I would remove myself and not be in the same room. It came to me that it is not in my best interest to even watch it for entertainment reasons because it is so foreign to everything I am learning.

"Between Christian Science and all forms of superstition a great gulf is fixed, as impassable as that between Dives and Lazarus." *Science and Health*, p. 83 ****

Mrs. Eddy: On the Need to Appreciate Each Footstep

In 1888, the CS Journal summarized a sermon in which Mrs. Eddy portrayed Zacharias as representative of those who retard their spiritual progress by refusing to take the next step; faltering, they thus get stuck, incorporating only part of the gospel into their lives, thereby limiting God (cf. Romans 4:20 – Abraham "staggered not" but took the next step joyfully, with firm resolve):

CLOSING SERVICE OF THE SEASON
from CS Journal, August 1888

“Rev. Mrs. Eddy officiated July 29, at the last service before the August vacation. Chickering Hall was filled with an audience large for the season, and very attentive.

“The text was Matthew xxii. 21: ‘Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s and unto God the things that are God’s.’

“The Roman Emperor ruled three-hundred-millions, yet there was one born in Galilee who was to rule a larger and diviner kingdom. Today there is a similar contrast between the world and Christian Science, for whose advent spiritual nature has prepared the way. The chemist may cut his hand with the broken retort, but not with the whole vessel. So if we break the command which bids us love our brother, this error in the premise will lead to lack of love toward God, and therefore to self-inflicted wounds. Popular Christianity is fragmentary, omitting the healing principle. Jesus healed out of the spontaneity of his divine nature. The Christian Scientist must learn this Science, which Jesus had no need to learn, because it was in him; but when the understanding of God is reached, the Principle is the same in Jesus and the believer. True work is in the Spirit, not the letter.

“The speaker remembered bad cancer, before which her faith faltered; but when she turned to God in Spirit, the cancer was healed and the Infidel sufferer was converted.

“The Christian Scientist is harmonious in himself, bringing forth fruit in its season. He will not try to break Science into fragments, and live by part of it; but he will move on in straight lines, and where his treasure is, there will his heart be; for true Scientists are, *must* be, the best people on the globe, if they *live* their religion. When Zacharias saw the vision in the Temple he was dumb; but when his heart rose to an appreciation of the spiritual wonders among which he was living, his speech returned; for even speech is not essential to divine Life.” [Italics are in original text.] *****

A Beautiful Lesson

This Lesson brought back joyful memories of when I first read from the pages of Science & Health as a young man serving my country overseas. Like the baby in Elizabeth’s womb...” he leaped for joy when he heard Mary’s voice.” I had been searching for the Truth and when I first read those opening pages in S&H, I too was leaping for joy...for I had found what I was looking for and have never waived in my understanding of God the Only Cause and Creator. We owe Mary Baker Eddy a great gratitude for listening to God and sharing with the world what she received. *****

SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man – December 16th, 2018

The Lord Preserveth the Faithful

PSALM 31 : 23

“O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful.”

FAITHFUL (Websters 1828)

1. Firm in adherence to the truth and to the duties of religion.

Thank you for this Lesson on faith and the “...protecting power 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) This Lesson reminded me to think about what I am being faithful and obedient to. It reminds me that God preserves me as I work to “...not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind.” Alertness to Duty, by Mary Baker Eddy Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 6

“Meekly we kneel at our Master’s feet, for even a crumb that falleth from his table. We are hungry for

Love, for the white-winged charity that heals and saves; ... When the Pharisees saw Jesus do such deeds of mercy, they went away and took counsel how they might remove him. The antagonistic spirit of evil is still abroad; but the greater spirit of Christ is also abroad, — risen from the grave-clothes of tradition and the cave of ignorance. Let the sentinels of Zion's watch-towers shout once again, 'Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.' "Christmas Tide" by Mary Baker Eddy, from Misc. pgs 369-370 *****

GOD'S PRESERVATION OF MAN IS CONDITIONAL

"... for the Lord preserveth the faithful." (Psalm 31:23)

God preserves man to the extent that man preserves Spirit-Mindedness from the intrusions of matter-mindedness.

Double-mindedness means giving divided attention to Mind by entertaining another mind alongside.

Practically speaking, the parable of the wheat and tares teaches that Mind and mind "grow together" in a relative state of double-mindedness until Mind is strong enough in me to subdue mind entirely, thus bringing about the single-mindedness of loving God, not in part, but in wholeness of heart, soul, mind, and strength.

"Progress takes off all shackles and the finite yields to the Infinite. Advancing to a higher plane of action, thought grows new, and rises from the personal to the Impersonal; from the mortal to the Immortal, which is from the material to the spiritual idea of God." (*Science and Health*, 1st edition, p. 221) **

Appeal to Heaven

7. II Chronicles 32

**10 Thus saith Sennacherib king of Assyria,
Whereon do ye trust, that ye abide in the siege**

in Jerusalem?

16 And his servants spake yet more against the Lord God, and against his servant Hezekiah.

20 And for this cause Hezekiah the king, and the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz, prayed and cried to heaven.

21 And the Lord sent an angel, which cut off all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

When I read about Isaiah and Hezekiah praying and crying to heaven this morning, I was reminded of a flag that was shown in the miniseries "John Adams" which had the phrase "Appeal to Heaven." It apparently came from what John Locke wrote in 1690: "And where the body of the people, or any single man, is deprived of their right, or is under the exercise of a power without right, and have no appeal on earth, then they have a liberty to appeal to heaven, whenever they judge the cause of sufficient moment."

This is a thought that feels very much in line with what I have learned here, which is the fact that we don't need to meet mortal mind on its own battlefield, but rather see that it has no place in Truth, Life, and Love. Such an "Appeal to Heaven" will serve to turn error – that "power without right" – on itself, even as it did in the time of Isaiah and Hezekiah.

I was just about to post this, and then I realized it was my own "Appeal to Heaven" that brought me to Plainfield. In the midst of all I was facing, my call to God for help is what changed everything for me. I am so grateful to learn that God is always there for us! Thank you! *****

Very beautiful – thank you. It is so comforting to know whatever our human circumstance is we can always rise above it and make our "appeal to heaven." God is always available to help us and lift us up and out of any seeming problem.