

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Soul – February 17th, 2019

First On the List

Of all the virtues symbolized by various beasts of the field in Mrs. Eddy's key to Genesis, she lists *moral courage* as first and foremost in importance.

So did Samuel Johnson, the great 18th-Century moralist and conversationalist; when his biographer, James Boswell, asked him to identify the greatest virtue, Johnson singled out courage, emphasizing that *without courage, fitness to exercise the other virtues would be insufficient*.

So did Jane Austen's inspiring quasi-autobiographical *Pride and Prejudice* character, Elizabeth Bennet, who said, "There is a stubbornness about me that never can bear to be frightened at the will of others. My courage always rises at every attempt to intimidate me."

So did Mrs. Eddy's moral hero, abolitionist Charles Sumner:

"THREE NECESSARY THINGS.

'Three things are necessary,' said Charles Sumner, 'first, backbone; second, backbone; third, backbone.'"

"A good chance alone is nothing. Education is nothing without strong and vigorous resolution and stamina to make one accomplish something in the world. An encouraging start is nothing without backbone. A man who cannot stand erect, who wobbles first one way and then the other, who has no opinion of his own, or courage to think his own thought, is of very little use in this world. It is grit, it is perseverance, it is moral stamina and courage that govern the world." *****

Thank you for this great post. I find it almost unbelievable as I write this that I only learned the concept of "having a backbone" from the Plainfield Church! And this church helped me grow one and be conscious of the importance of having one – for how can we stand up to error otherwise and send it back to its native nothingness? *****

Thanks for these posts. The Lesson citation from *Science and Health*, p.403 : 14-23 supports this post: "You command the situation if you understand that mortal existence is a state of self-deception and not the truth of being. Mortal mind is constantly producing on mortal body the results of false opinions; and it will continue to do so, until mortal error is deprived of its imaginary powers by Truth, which sweeps away the gossamer web of mortal illusion. **The most Christian state is one of rectitude and spiritual understanding, and this is best adapted for healing the sick.**" (Emphasis added)

From Webster's 1828:

Rectitude: In morality, rightness of principle or practice; uprightness of mind; exact conformity to truth, or to the rules prescribed for moral conduct, either by divine or human laws. Rectitude of mind is the disposition to act in conformity to any known standard of right, truth or justice. Perfect rectitude belongs only to the Supreme Being. The more nearly the rectitude of men approaches to the standard of the divine law, the more exalted and dignified is their character. Want of rectitude is not only sinful, but debasing. *****

The Lord Will Deliver Me

"When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid." (1 Sam. 17:11)

In thinking about what it took for David to face Goliath, I was reminded where Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, “The more difficult seems the material condition to be overcome by Spirit, the stronger should be our faith and the purer our love.” (p. 410)

David responded to concerns of his ability to face Goliath with great faith in God: “...The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.”(1 Sam. 17:37)

I have read that the work of a shepherd is quite demanding and requires great love for the work and skill, to be done well. David most likely learned to listen to his spiritual sense alone in the fields, to be ever so watchful, unselfed in his love, and to trust and listen to God in the care of his flock. We have many of his psalms that express his character. “You should practise well what you know, and you will then advance in proportion to your honesty and fidelity, — qualities which insure success in this Science;” Mary Baker Eddy *Science and Health*, p. 449

This made me appreciate the fact that David also had to have a pure Love for God. By aligning with God, David was able to express moral courage and liberate himself and others from the tyranny that sought to control and enslave others. *****

...Until Mortal Error Is Deprived of Its Imaginary Powers By Truth

cit. 3. I Samuel 17

11 When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

34 And David said unto Saul,

37 ...The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee.

49 And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

S&H cit. 14. 403: 16-20

“Mortal mind is constantly producing on mortal body the results of false opinions; and it will continue to do so, until mortal error is deprived of its imaginary powers by Truth, which sweeps away the gossamer web of mortal illusion.”

I am very grateful that each time a Bible story such as this one comes back around, there is always more to learn from it.

While going over the Lesson this week, I’ve been thinking of how, at Plainfield, we learn about Christian Science and how to use the truth in our lives. The more I study, learn, and live this Science, the more I immediately reach into my bag and sling a nugget of truth at whatever claim is trying to induce fear or anger or whatever. It has been proved over and over to me in my time here that Truth always deprives the claim of its imaginary powers.

Thank you for this Lesson, and for how this church provides freely that ability for people everywhere to fill their bag and ready themselves to fight mortal mind in the only effective manner given: Christian Science. Thank you.

Evil Is Not Power

Science and Health, p.192, “The good you do and embody gives you the only power obtainable. **Evil is not power.** It is a mockery of strength, which ere long betrays its weakness and falls, never to rise.” (Emphasis added)

It is a comfort to **KNOW** that evil is not power; when all over the world mortal testimony screams “reality” about all the different guises evil seems to

be appearing: more diseases, hate, anger, revenge, malice, poverty, greed and many other forms. It is wonderful that the forever Christ appearing, which has not been understood is now becoming clearer as Christian Science is explaining it for the salvation of ALL mankind.

To make it very clear that infinite Mind is all, we read in *Science and Health*, p. 469: “We bury the sense of infinitude, when we admit that, although God is infinite, evil has a place in this infinity, for evil can have no place, where all space is filled with God.”

Evil doesn't even have a place to be....It's good to remember that wherever and in whatever form evil appears to be it is NO POWER, and UNREAL!! Thanks to the Lesson writer. *****

Mind – February 24th, 2019

Growth by Subtraction

Christian Science calculus teaches me that self-subtraction automatically activates the principle of multiplication of God's benefits, blessings, and increase of God's presence in my life. Christ-radiation intensifies to the degree to which self-absorption subsides.

At the beginning of his reign, Solomon grew by self-subtraction. *And Solomon said....O Lord my God...I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.* (1 Kings 3: 6, 7).

But as time passed, Solomon grew in matter-mindedness, self-enlargement, moving in the very opposite direction of the footsteps of his youth.

In her unpublished 1887 sermon on Luke 14:30 — “This man began to build (Unfinished and

Finished),” Mrs. Eddy observes: Solomon was a master builder materially, but spiritually, he was not able to finish with the gold of Ophir and the surpassing skill of art; his temple was unable to stand; his spiritual status was insufficient to draw a plan, so elevated that its building is eternal in the heavens. His foundations were laid in sense, not science; his premises were false: he believed in evil and good; his faith in error was even greater than in Truth. He said “there is a time for all things, a time to love and a time to hate.” This theory had rotten foundations, and his materials were antagonistic to each other and self-destructive; hence he failed to finish his work and ended it by saying “all is vanity and vexation of spirit,” and “how can one know whether he be a wise man or a fool?”

This morning, I was reading the following from *Christian Science Versus Pantheism*, p. 11: 16-19, and it seems to fit what happened to Solomon and what he needed to do:

“If man is spiritually fallen, it matters not what he believes; he is not upright, and must regain his native spiritual stature in order to be in proper shape, as certainly as the man who falls physically needs to rise again.” *****

Thanks for these posts. This is what Mrs. Eddy teaches about self abnegation being a rule in Science.....

A little less of self, every day, does much in revealing my Christ selfhood, with the Christ mind. The Christ Mind cannot be mesmerized, helps me live unselfishly, and do good, without selfish ambition but to honor God and bless mankind.

This is the striving to be better, with diligence, perseverance and persistence in daily “dying to self.” All the gospels and Paul talk about this imperative step: John 12:24, Colossians 3:5, Luke 14:33, 1 Peter 4:2. Luke 9:24, Eph. 4:22-23. John 3:30: He must increase, but I must decrease. Gal 5:24: And they that are Christ's have crucified

the flesh with the affections and lusts.

1 Cor. 15:31: I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

Mrs. Eddy taught and explained self-abnegation so that we may resist the temptation of material-mindedness, know ourselves truly, and find our God-given freedom. *Science and Health*, p. 266:16-19:

“Thus, He teaches mortals to lay down their fleshliness and gain spirituality. This is done through self-abnegation. Universal Love is the divine way in Christian Science.”

And *Science and Health*, p. 568:30-32: “Self-abnegation, by which we lay down all for Truth, or Christ, in our warfare against error, is a rule in Christian Science.”

Doing this effects the death to all “the little foxes” as well as “the creeping things” and the false physical and emotional claims will have to yield to the supremacy of God/Spirit!

Largeness Of Heart

1 Kings 4:29 “And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart...”

Matthew Henry in his commentary says the following which hits the mark: “Note, It is very desirable that those who have large gifts of any kind should have large hearts to use them for the good of others; and this is from the hand of God.”

It reminds me of Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

One can have all the degrees or talents in the world and be called “brilliant”— but if he has no love of

God, it is not worth much for the good of mankind, and can have quite the opposite effect. Matthew Henry continues:

“Solomon’s court was the staple of learning, and the rendezvous of philosophers, that is, the lovers of wisdom, who all came to light their candle at his lamp and to borrow from him. Let those who magnify the modern learning above that of the ancients produce such a treasure of knowledge any where in these latter ages as that was which Solomon was master of; yet this puts an honour upon human learning, that Solomon was praised for it, and recommends it to the great men of the earth, as well worthy their diligent search. But, Lastly, Solomon was, herein, a type of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and hidden for use; for he is made of God to us wisdom.”

I love that phrase, “for he is made of God to us wisdom.”

God Is All-In-All

“The starting-point of divine Science is that God, Spirit, is All-in-all, and that there is no other might nor Mind, – that God is Love, and therefore He is divine Principle.” *Science and Health*, p. 275.

“Humility is a divine idea. It is the recognition of the allness of God. It is even more than that, because it is omniscience, asserting Itself as understanding, and declaring, “I AM” with unfailing confidence and power.” Bicknell Young Collected Writings Page 104.