

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 16

**SUBJECT - MATTER 3/23/14**

## ***We Are Taught to Revere False Testimony!?***

"This verdict of the so-called material senses victimizes mortals, taught, as they are by physiology and pathology, to revere false testimony, even the errors that are destroyed by Truth through spiritual sense and Science." *Science and Health* p 294 15-18

THIS IS WAR, FOLKS!! The ads, commercials, the pontificating of scientists and materia medica - whatever crosses our path that does not declare almighty God - NO MORE BOWING DOWN TO THE TESTIMONY OF THE PHYSICAL SENSES!

The news media generally should be a textbook illustration. Whether ignorant or malicious, it is full of personal opinions. Objectivity does not exist as a characteristic of the material senses. So let's get over it!!! \*\*\*\*\*

Noah Webster, 1828, on "Revere" and related: REVERE, v.t. [L. revereor; re and vereor, to fear.] To regard with fear mingled with respect and affection; to venerate; to reverence; to honor in estimation.

**SH 378:4** - "Unwittingly you sentence yourself to suffer."

This is why some of my more scientifically-minded physician friends (and virtually all in the alternative medical community) consider the modern-day practice of notifying a patient that he/she has a "terminal" or "incurable" illness to be nothing less than malpractice; simply a more civilized, scholarly, and sophisticated equivalent of "pointing the bone"—an unfortunately compulsory, "common ritual" indeed! And so, regardless of how serious the physical diagnosis seems to be, these wiser physicians would never, ever, pretend omniscience, play God, and tell any patient in a blunt or unqualified way that he/she has a "terminal" illness. Instead of pronouncing a death-sentence upon that patient, they will say, "You have a battle ahead, but you must understand that there is no disease, even those categorized as 'incurable,' that cannot be overcome, and there is no

untoward physical condition that cannot be reversed."

**SH 420:24-420:27** - "Tell the sick that they can meet disease **fearlessly**, if they only realize that divine Love gives them all power over every physical action and condition."

**SH 378:10-18** - "By looking a tiger **fearlessly** in the eye, Sir Charles Napier sent it cowering back into the jungle....A man's gaze, fastened **fearlessly** on a ferocious beast, often causes the beast to retreat in terror. This latter occurrence represents the power of Truth over error, the might of intelligence is exercised over mortal beliefs to destroy them."

**II Tim 1:7** - "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." \*\*\*\*\*

What caught my attention in this passage was the word "victimizes" as we have talked often during the roundtable discussions about the fact that we should never view ourselves as "victims" but we are to exercise our God-given dominion over what? – here Mrs. Eddy tells us what, "the verdict over the so-called material senses." I love her answer (in the chapter Questions and Answers, Misc.) to the question, "Is it possible to know why we are put into this condition of mortality? Her answer: "It is quite as possible to know wherefore man is thus conditioned, as to be certain that he is in this state of mortality. The only evidence of a mortal man, or of a material state and universe is gathered from the five personal senses. This delusive evidence, Science has dethroned by repeated proofs of its falsity. . .!" \*\*\*\*\*

There is an obsession with labeling in our society because people want to "belong" to something. If they are unaware that they belong to God, and all the good that God has in store for His children, they will grab onto a label. Being a "victim" gives people a sense of power and identity, as now there are "associations" for any so-called disease out there.

Mary Baker Eddy writes in *Science and Health*: "Instruct the sick that they are not helpless victims, for if they will only accept Truth, they can resist disease and ward it off, as positively as they can the temptation to sin." p 420 10-13

So how can we stop the victim mentality going on in our culture, people desperately wanting to be labeled? If they would only know their true identity as a child of God!

I can know that the only real attraction is Spirit, and all of God's children are in reality only yearning to know and belong to their Maker. \*\*\*\*\*

### ***The Powers of This World***

"The powers of this world will fight, and will command their sentinels not to let truth pass the guard until it subscribes to their systems; but Science, heeding not the pointed bayonet, marches on." *Science and Health* p 225 8-11

Obvious powers: the American Medical Assoc., the drug industry, church hierarchies, etc. But the one closest to home is often overlooked or excused: the family. Do you think the materialism of those that "know us best" are happy about our spiritual growth? The power of the human family is to chain man to being born into matter!! The proud matriarch or patriarch only wants the best for their progeny – unfortunately, their best includes preserving their power! Anyone who is striving Spiritward, must deal with this, overcome it - "what blesses one, blesses all" is a divine principle, and so we can proceed fearlessly, with Principle, Love. \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, I feel that the family members around us perceive us as physical beings, and not as a spiritual idea and representative or evidence of divine Love, Spirit. This is a form of ignorant malpractice we have to deal with.

Our own physical senses constantly harp on physicality. Then we watch or read the news about the world, full of evil and disasters, and we think this is real, and we worry. What I am understanding is that we should keep all this out of our consciousness for the simple reason that it is not included in infinite Mind. It is not real. The anti-reality of malicious mortal mind tries to suck us into its cesspool of lies.

What does our Leader say? To infinite, ever-present Love, all is Love, and there is no error, no sin, sickness, nor death.

Also: Truth and Love prevail against the dragon because the dragon cannot war with them. !!\*\*\*\*\*

"WE have all thought a great deal of the courage of David in meeting giant Goliath, but probably we have not given him credit for his conduct in a

previous contest. We have not sufficiently noticed that immediately before the encounter with the Philistine, he fought a battle which cost him far more in the way of thought, prudence, and patience. The word-battle in which he had to engage with his brothers and with king Saul was a more trying ordeal to him than going forth in the strength of the Lord to smite the uncircumcised boaster. Many a man meets with more trouble from his friends [and family] than from his enemies; and when he has learned to overcome the depressing influence of prudent friends [and family members], he makes short work of the opposition of avowed adversaries." (Spurgeon, Sermons, Vol. 21, September 5, 1875)

"And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them, 'A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.'" Matthew 13:57  
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### ***Secret Place***

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. Psalm 27:5

Everything I have learned recently from Plainfield made this Bible promise a reality a few days ago. This passage became so real to me because I had to go "there" during an aggressive mental suggestion of sickness. I felt totally protected and loved during this trial. I knew immediately it was a suggestion tempting me. But I had to fight and refuse to accept it as a reality. My practitioner assured me he knew what was going on and supported me. He reinforced what had been taught recently in the classes. Never once did I back down from understanding God was my life and substance.

The material sense was all wrong, a complete lie. The "rock" I was "set on" was the understanding of what is real. I couldn't be moved from it. The temptation left me within a few hours. I am so grateful that my practitioner took me call late Friday afternoon.

The Bible is absolutely alive and True. Thank God!

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We should be alert to aggressive suggestion so that we can see it for what it is, in the context of almighty God: nothing, no power, no mind, no power to act. Hezekiah went up to the house of The Lord to commune with God when he was faced with an aggressive army, and laid it all out: look God, here is this guy who has this fierce army and has conquered all these cities coming for us; what do You say? And the angel of The Lord smote the army and they were all dead corpses - which is all anything is without God behind it. Dead - never had life, never had power. \*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT- REALITY 03/13/14**

### **Spiritual Good vs Plain Old Good?**

"Spiritual sense is the discernment of spiritual good." *Science and Health* p 505:20-21  
I am a wonderfully positive person and I see good everywhere - lalala! But do I see God everywhere? If not, it is not spiritual good, but a human concept of good, which is blasphemous.  
"no good is, but the good God bestows." *Science and Health* p 275:19 \*\*\*\*\*

"Spiritual sense is the discernment of spiritual good." *Science and Health*. I am a wonderfully positive person and I see good everywhere...etc.

I love this post! And the state of mind indicated by the "wonderfully positive person" reference above sounds a lot like blind belief to me.

It's not good enough to see good everywhere, or to be really grateful for the good in one's life **IF** you don't understand that God is the source of that good. That's the missing link. Mrs. Eddy says (paraphrasing) that the source of all discord is a false sense of man's origin. Hence, what makes good seem so tenuous at times is a false sense of good's origin, if we see its source as other than God. \*\*\*\*\*

Ah yes, I tried the positive thinking lalala route and it led to only great anxiousness and insecurity, a mere façade, for God was not there. Mrs. Eddy nails this point on page 232 in *Science and Health*,

"The beliefs we commonly entertain about happiness and life afford no scatheless and permanent evidence of either. Security for the claims of harmonious and eternal being is found only in divine Science." - And the side margin note of this quote is "Denials of divine power!!" \*\*\*\*\*

When I was new to Christian Science, I was told I was humanly good, but now I had to be spiritually good. This meant I had to stop being a doormat and letting error walk over me. Being spiritually good taught me to detect error and kick it out with the power of God. This is a wonderful way of life. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Reckoning**

"To grasp the reality and order of being in its Science, you must begin by reckoning God as the divine Principle of all that really is." I like that word "reckon" and it means according to the 1828 Webster's dictionary "to reason with one's self and conclude from arguments." We are always thinking about something, so why not reason upon the fact that God is "the divine Principle of all that really exists."? If tempted to be mesmerized by the material sense testimony, why not argue on the right side, the side for "perfect God and perfect man,--as the basis of thought and demonstration." As we do this consistently, we will be able to "grasp the reality and order of being in its Science" as Mrs. Eddy states. Well worth the effort, this reckoning!  
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"perfect God and perfect man,--as the basis of thought and demonstration."

This should be any "thinker's challenge," because it is the basis of thought to our realization of who we truly are! This morning, this phrase struck me to question whether perfection is really the basis of my thinking. It is not all right to assume I live this just because I am aware of it. This is a challenge to my thinking and to strive to put it in practice by pausing often to check where my thoughts are is needed as Mrs. Eddy emphasized!

Unless I get the basis in practice, what will I be

aiming to attain? \*\*\*\*\*

### **Optics Are Inadequate**

Thanks to the lesson writer. I felt the power of God, and of what is REAL reading this lesson. To think that something so GREAT, which is here and NOW to be discerned, can be hidden because of what we have been educated to depend on as reality is unconscionable. The whole humankind suffers because of this.

Mrs Eddy proved that to make the decision to see perfection moment by moment can prove our present ability to see rightly to the point of not needing glasses.

"MEETING PROBLEMS IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE," an article by Mrs Evans, adds to this ...

It is my attitude of thought that allows demonstration; summed up it says; "He can rejoice that God's will is being done, and realize that every other person in the case is as precious to God as he is, and that God's power is able to meet every human need."

Forget relying on what I see; and see from that PRESENT higher view of EVERYTHING! Consciousness matters most! Am I claiming the Christ-Mind as my mind? \*\*\*\*\*

I found Philippians 4:8 to be a good guide, as well. "Whatsoever things are true,...honest,...just,...pure,...lovely,...of good report,... THINK ON THESE THINGS." This is what is real.

**True** - is it always true? Or could it possibly be true today, but not true tomorrow (human opinion, theory, belief...) If so, you can't count on it because it's not real.

**Honest** - Is it totally out in the open, no hidden agenda? That's real.

**Just** - Does it destroy error and glorify only the good? "Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God." *Science*

*and Health* p 243: 27-29

**Pure** - Is it washed clean of every impure thought and motive? Has all pride and envy been burned out? Only then is it real.

**Lovely** - Is it motivated by divine Love? Love that loves because it can't help but love. No strings attached. No looking for something in return. Of good report - Evil is not real! God is good alone, and the evil reports we see and hear are not the truth of God's creation and are therefore not real.

Only spiritual sense can discern these things. It gives me lots of work to do every day, to think on these things. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Reality Test**

"No wisdom is wise but His wisdom; no truth is true, no love is lovely, no life is Life but the divine; no good is, but the good God bestows." *Science and Health* p 275:17-18

Check thought. Is this what I see - accept as reality? It requires relinquishing personal sense, a self apart from God. The "human mind" can only give this lip service or partial recognition, out of touch with reality. \*\*\*\*\*

"Imperfect mortals grasp the ultimate of spiritual perfection slowly; but to begin aright and **to continue the strife of demonstrating the great problem of being**, is doing much." *Science and Health* p 254:12-32

This clearly speaks to what my striving should always be about - the realization of my true being. This is very subtle because when I think of how many times I worked to get better circumstances, heal an illness, etc., all that so called work was malpractice on myself.

To want (admission of lack) anything, does obscure already existent spiritual perfection. Consistently, knowing the Truth, uncovering and rebuking error, in whichever way I am guided to do so, brings this perfection to light.