

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Spirit — August 8th, 2021

The Clear Sight of Spirit

From “notes on true vision” by John Morgan.
“The clear sight of Spirit does not blind me to faults and errors. Rather I detect them more clearly – but as unrealities. I discern only the good and true to be real, and so my eye is single. I positively look for the real, the good, and true. In Spirit, good vision is natural, and it is irreversible.”

Records of the Heart

“The more destructive matter becomes, the more its nothingness will appear, until matter reaches its mortal zenith in illusion and forever disappears.” (*Science and Health*, 97). The number 7 being the number of completeness, Mrs. Eddy notes in her Apocalypse exegesis that matter’s destructiveness reaches its zenith in the 7 last plagues, and, at the very climax of its aggressiveness and presumption, it disappears; to be immediately replaced by reality, the descent of the holy city, the New Jerusalem, like an unexpected rainbow putting a splendid, decisive end to a seemingly relentless series of storms.

At this point, Mrs. Eddy writes: “Think of this, dear reader, for it will lift the sackcloth from your eyes, and you will behold the soft-winged dove descending upon you. The very circumstance, which your suffering sense deems wrathful and afflictive, Love can make an angel entertained unawares.” (*Science and Health*, 574).

She repeats this sentiment here:

“When sunshine beautifies the shower,
As smiles through teardrops seen,
Ask of its June, the long-hushed heart,
What hath the record been?
And thou wilt find that harmonies,
In which the Soul hath part,

Ne’er perish young, like things of earth,
In records of the heart.” (— “JUNE”
(*Miscellaneous Writings*, 390)

All of this also reminds me of what some spiritual thinkers have identified as the covenant of the rainbow; like all covenants, it is a 2-way street. In heaven, a rainbow forms when the sun’s rays pass through raindrops, which disperse the light into the 7 colors of the spectrum. On Earth, a “rainbow” forms spiritually whenever you and I can sincerely, from the heart, offer “smiles through teardrops,” smiles of unconditional non-resistance in love and gratitude, allowing the radiance of Christ to shine through those tears.

“O make me glad for every scalding tear,
For hope deferred, ingratitude, disdain!
Wait, and love more for every hate, and fear
No ill, — since God is good, and loss is gain. . . .
No snare, no fowler, pestilence or pain;
No night drops down upon the troubled breast,
When heaven’s aftersmile earth’s tear-drops gain,
And mother finds her home and heavenly rest.”
(— “The Mother’s Evening Prayer”.
Miscellaneous Writings, 389).

Thank you for this post. It is beautiful!

He Opens the Petals of a Holy Purpose

“Spirit, God, gathers unformed thoughts into their proper channels, and unfolds these thoughts, even as He opens the petals of a holy purpose in order that the purpose may appear.” (*Science and Health* page 506).

I remember being given the above citation to work with from my Plainfield Independent Church practitioner. I needed to learn new ways to view those around me, especially when feeling a false sense of responsibility. Even though I had been raised in Christian Science in the organization, I

had misconceptions and wrong beliefs about God and His creation and my place in it.

I was also given the following quote, “A divine idea carries within itself the power to accomplish the divine purpose, and the responsibility of its unfoldment belongs to divine Principle, who cares for each detail of its progressive being.” (by Bicknell Young, 1937 College, page 2). I am learning to put this principle into practical use by accepting others as they are, without feeling the need to tell them how to improve and lose the arrogant belief that the world should march to the beat of my personal drum. God has not given me the job to force another’s development or outline another’s path. My time and energy need to be focused on God and my connection with Him. That doesn’t mean that at times I won’t need to speak up, but a reactive state of thought is not helpful nor useful in keeping in step with God and His purpose. It has been very freeing to let go of the need to tend the regulator through a better understanding of prayer, obedience to God’s laws, and turning others over to His unfoldment.

Spiritual Viewpoint

(Gen 21: 18 (to ;), 19, 20 (to 1st)).
Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand;
...And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. And God was with the lad.

Spiritual sense is what we all need to discern the present Truth even when things appear beyond redemption! As Hagar was prompted, and God was with the lad, as well, so is our true being forever with God, perfect, spiritual and eternal. As is said in *Science and Health* p.63 “In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good and pure constitute his ancestry.” We must learn ourselves anew and start from this opposite viewpoint in order to discern aright what is the Truth of our experiences.

SUBJECT: Soul — August 15th, 2021

“Man is the Expression of Soul”

“Man is the expression of Soul.” (*Science and Health*, page 477)

Expression: a likeness; represent, copy, image of. (Webster’s 1828)

“Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind, and happiness would be more readily attained and would be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul.” (*Science and Health*, page 60). “Soul has infinite resources...” These lines really brought home to me how utterly opposed to Christian Science it is to start from a position of competition and comparison which for one comes from a sense of limited resources. I reasoned with myself, “Man is the heir of God. There is no competition in Soul, so the man of God’s creating cannot express a competitive nature. Anything suggesting otherwise is a lie and to be cast out immediately. Man is cooperative, made for a divine purpose, made to share God-given talents and resources to bless others; to appreciate each other and learn from one another. Comparisons open the door to envy and deny God’s allness and abundance. The promise is He makes our “cup runneth over.’ Soul is infinite, impartial, universal. How can an expression of Soul be anything less than exactly what God designs, gives purpose and value to? God doesn’t make junk. The tenth commandment protects me from drifting into the wrong mind and believing God is not all. Like Hagar last week, I need to open my eyes and see God’s provision and use it. My part is to seek happiness in things of Soul, God, and be grateful.” “In Soul, my vision is never related to the self-centered ‘me’, but looks out selflessly, as the sun shines., Starting with the kingdom within, I can set to work to ‘make this earth our Father’s kingdom’ also.” (True Vision by John Morgan).

I love this lesson on Soul. Thank you!

Soul Is and Knows

The passages from the Bible and *Science and Health* quoted in this week’s lesson harmonize

as a single voice, reminding me of what is already true.

*Soul is the substance, Life, and Intelligence of man and woman.

*Soul is individualised as Christ, but never in, nor of, matter.

*Soul can never reflect anything inferior to Truth, which is the Substance of Immortal Life. The Truth that Eternal Life is the Reality and material existence is but the shadow of this Reality created by humankind's misconceptions of Soul, was no longer 'foolishness' once I spiritually discerned something of the principles of Spiritual existence.

And, Spiritual existence was a puzzling phenomenon until the Twenty-third Psalm was highlighted as a full and complete demonstration of what is already True.

The Twenty-third Psalm declares there is no other 'shepherd' but Soul – God.

My heartfelt gratitude to PCS for presenting this lesson. It has not finished with me yet!

Incline Your Ear...

(Isaiah 55:3) "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David."

This is so beautiful, and what a promise! "Hear, and your soul shall live." All we have to do is listen! And yet, it means we have to block out all the noise of the moment. This reminds me of *Science and Health*, pg. 89: "Spirit, God is heard when the senses are silent."

Soul offerings of art and inspiration come when the heart is listening. I remember hearing an interview with Steven Spielberg who stated that his grandfather taught him in the Jewish tradition that great inspiration would come in silence (paraphrase). That really struck me because Spielberg is such an amazingly inspired artist. He must have spent a lot of time in his life in listening mode. I, too, find that when I need answers to just about anything, turning to God will bring all that I need. When credit for inspiration is given to God, it

takes any focus off self, and leaves the door open for more.

Thanks. God is always directing our paths and when we obey His voice, we don't stumble or make mistakes. Any inharmonious steps are our fault, a trick of mortal mind causing us to repeat our steps. Being in complete obedience to God corrects all situations.

Anchored

From *Science and Health*, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 40-41: "... in order to enter into the kingdom, the anchor of hope must be cast beyond the veil of matter into the Shekinah into which Jesus has passed before us ..."

Hebrews 6:19 – Authorized KJV – "... which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil ..."

Hebrews 6:19 – Amplified Bible – "[Now] we have this [hope] as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whoever steps out upon it — a hope] that reaches farther and enters into [the very certainty of the Presence] within the veil..."

The more firmly thoughts, desires, and hopes are anchored in the realm of the senses, the more uncertain, dreamlike, and insubstantial the world of Soul appears. The inverse of this statement is also true.

Thank you for this post!

Let's see what the inverse would be: The more firmly thoughts, desires and hopes are anchored in the very certainty of the Presence of God, the more unquestionable, real, and substantial the world of Soul appears. The Shekinah (or Shechinah) term was used "to express the visible majesty of the divine Presence.... The idea which the different accounts in Scripture convey is that of a most brilliant and glorious light, enveloped in a cloud..." (Peloubet's Bible Dictionary) = The light of the living Christ!
