

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT- MORTALS AND IMMORTALS 05/18/14

Mortals Do Not Become Immortals!

Hence, Mrs. Eddy's desire: "Learn this, O mortal, and earnestly seek the spiritual status of man, which is outside of all material selfhood."
"Mortals are not fallen children of God. They never had a perfect state of being, which may subsequently be regained. They were, from the beginning of mortal history, "conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity." (*Science and Health* p. 476)

Mortals do not become immortals, nothing can achieve that. I must see this point clearly that my origin is spiritual, a Truth that appears lost in belief. I must strive to understand and realize this changeless spiritual fact; the reality is not the false sense that I was once a mortal and now striving to be spiritual. Start with the premise of mortal parenthood and it's downhill all the way. This is why both Paul and Mrs. Eddy caution totally abolishing the false concept of a material origin and assume correct identification from the beginning. This reminder is made so much clearer in this lesson. *****

Paul was Not Personal!

Nowhere in the Bible is there a clearer example of "God is no respecter of persons" than in Paul. He was a mortal enemy of Christians, but when God called upon him, he dropped EVERYTHING and became the most effective spokesman for Christianity, and did not back down from anything. He even had to correct Peter for his dishonest behavior!, the disciple of Jesus and perhaps the most visible leader of the early Christians!!
What was it with this guy? When Paul said he considered his entire previous humanly successful experience as DUNG, he meant it from the core of his being. As a result, he had less personal sense

and more understanding than the rest of them (see 1st Edition of *Science and Health* for personal sense vs. understanding). (John was in a totally different category and is not included in this comparison!) *****

"I conferred not with flesh and blood." "for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."
Gal 1:16

In 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, it states that you cannot be popular and be a Christian. If you are never persecuted, you are not a Christian! Paul certainly was a Christian by this highest of standards.

Why, after we get a message from God, would we confer with flesh and blood? Don't want to make a mistake; maybe it was not a message from God; etc., etc.

Our textbook provides ample tools, for example, "Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way." Notice how much Paul loved Christ, Truth. He gave up everything for it.

Clearly, it is impossible to shed mortality for immortality with a careful, low-risk strategy. *****

Paul is filled with fervency to declare Christ everywhere. I feel the power with which he spoke, showing his audience the distinction between human goodness and being driven by the power of the Love for Christ. His own example of how he switched from using his zeal in persecuting Christians (partly to please men) and now "immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood" but went regardless of what it cost him to live and proclaim the Truth everywhere is truly humbling and sets a high standard for me to measure my steps! *****

History Repeats Itself

Paul knew the law and followed it with zeal. But what happened when he imbibed revelation and Truth? He felt a profound difference. The ecclesiastic doctrines were hollow and man made - they were mortal. The immortal Christ couldn't be

found in the man made 'rules of righteousness'.

Mrs. Eddy was so wise! She saw this danger and instituted the estoppel clauses in her manual to prevent the zeal of mortal mind from establishing its 'rules of righteousness'. Can class instruction, association meetings, lectures, obedience to a BOD rather than his Maker etc. make man righteous?

We must watch for this in our church. God forbid we get stuck in a holding pattern, establish norms, or become resistant to change.

Mind is infinite and constantly unfolding new ideas. Shouldn't that require us, the reflection of that Mind, to change and strive to let go of the old?*****

Yes! Any organization that is resistant to a much needed change and operates from the mode of conservative self-preservation disobeys the universal law of progress and thus has a very limited (and dull!) "shelf" life.*****

Spiritual growth is not an option, but a demand. We disobey God's law of progress when we let our enthusiasm drop, our striving cease. In this reality, the greater risk, if you will, is to do nothing, whereas the "human condition" too often chooses a conservative position to avoid risk. In this "human condition" mortality is the default. It takes getting rid of the old and taking on the new in order to rise above the dead default, or default of death. Christ is the way as St Paul affirms and reaffirms. *****

Gilbert Carpenter wrote about this in Precepts:

"Mrs. Eddy wanted the work to be done scientifically, and one salient point in all work is the knowledge that in Science there is no middle ground. One's mental work either tears down or builds up, or it makes nothing of it, and so tears it down. There is no point at which the thinking of students is void. If it is human, it is expressed in human results; if it is divine, it is made manifest in good results." — From Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts, volume IV, page 496.
For me, avoiding risk and doing nothing was

always either fear or indifference. My fear came from not trusting God, and I see now that was based on not having Christian Science. My indifference came from a hard-heartedness that developed over years of being fearful. I learned not to love, because I thought I was protecting myself. But in that godless state there was no protection!

I can't help but say all the time how grateful I am God brought me here! I will never forget exactly where walking away from God brought me. And now, to be at this church with Christian Science constantly showing me how to tear down personal sense and build up spiritual sense and bit by bit bringing me closer to being God's true reflection...I feel the blessings every single day! *****

Faint Not

"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Usually, when going through an affliction, it never seems particularly "light" nor does it seem to be "but for a moment."! It seems pretty heavy and more like forever! So these are definitely words of encouragement here. And I can honestly say when looking back on some fiery trials, they no longer seem heavy or long – but light and short-lived, as but a passing dream. All that is real about any tough experiences are the valuable lessons learned and spiritual growth that unfolds - "a far more exceeding weight of glory."! *****

"Not by the hearing of the ear is spiritual truth learned and loved; nor cometh this apprehension from the experiences of others. We glean spiritual harvests from our own material losses. In this consuming heat false images are effaced from the canvas of mortal mind; and thus does the material pigment beneath fade into invisibility."
Mary Baker Eddy (Admonition page 79)*****

" the immortal and mortal are as direct opposites as light and darkness." (Misc. p 34:26)

SUBJECT- SOUL AND BODY 05/25/14

Our Soul Waiteth for the LORD?

"Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield." Psalm 33:20

One of the many radical departures from traditional theology by Mrs. Eddy in her revelation of Science is the use of Soul as a synonym for God. As in this Bible verse, most (all?) usage of soul in the Bible refers to something within us, apart from God.

How and why, then, can it be a synonym for God?

"Soul and body are different, but concordant, and one cannot be lost and the other left." (1st Edition *Science and Health*)

There is no physiological explanation for soul in the physical body, so if it is not there, where is it - along with love, spirit, consciousness, intelligence, etc.? And if someone with both legs gone can be more lively, intelligent, loving than another with the physical body intact... what pitiful misdirection of attention to be absorbed in preserving the physical body!

Hopefully this lesson sorts all this out...*****

Why is it so important to consider what we think of soul, and where it is?

The Science of being is not about warm and fuzzy - not about believing what we want to believe. It REQUIRES understanding. A vague concept of soul and body, something with a bit of matter here and some spirit there is not Science, and cannot possibly be understood, because it is groundless, yes, nonsense - and yet that is what most accept.

"Man is the expression of Soul." (*Science and Health*) - but not in a material body!!! In Science, man has nothing to do with a material body. Does he have a body at all? Yes - image, reflection, compound idea... - and what is the material body? Belief, and when we relinquish our "personal sense" (which does not acknowledge God at all - check out the TV, and he is nowhere to be found) - and cultivate spiritual sense, we will "see" God everywhere - we will be "not physique, but the image of Love" (*Science and Health*). - step by step, as we strive to abide in (understand) Science.

"Because Soul is immortal, it does not exist in mortality." (*Science and Health* p 335)

So when I express Soul, the I is not mortal. The mortal, human concept manages to get out of the way sufficiently for the immortal to shine through. So the inspired interpretation of "Our soul waiteth for the Lord" might be: this mortal sense feels its own inadequacy and yields so that Soul may shine through. The individual expression of Soul is the real man.

The tormented creative artist is confused by this process - identifies with the mortal sense and so blocks Soul and inspiration, looking to drugs and alcohol to forget the false self and find the inspiration again.

Mary's "My soul doth magnify the Lord" is a pure expression of the correct operation of Soul. *****

Isn't Soul talking about a pure consciousness where the reflection of man's true identity (the "I") can be expressed? Where else can beauty, honor, grandeur be experienced than in consciousness. The body knows nothing (matter has no intelligence) and cannot contain Soul.

Consciousness is a huge concept to understand.***

Yes - it is infinite. It is God! Not surprising that the physical sciences have no explanation for consciousness - it does not exist in physics! *****

Where Do I Dwell?

That word "dwell" jumped out at me today. So of course, I looked it up in the 1828 dictionary: it means to abide as a permanent resident; or to be fixed in attention; to continue long - as to dwell on a subject.

In Psalms, it emphasizes dwelling in the Lord, or dwelling in the house of the Lord, meaning to me that I need to mentally reside with God, to fix my attention on him and keep it there. Jesus did this and the result was not only the healing, blessing, and saving of others, but also his own complete safety in the face of angry mobs and the meeting of whatever need presented itself - even for tax money. I loved this because it is a great reminder to me of to be cognizant of where my thought lives - it's either hanging out with personal sense or with God -- so I'd better make sure it stays with God! **

Perhaps this is why Jesus instructed his disciples to "fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell? Sounds like a pretty mean ogre! Maybe a terrorist? No. More likely to be someone really close, -- someone in whose presence I will let my thought down and compromise my relationship with God. A family member, a co-worker, perhaps even a fellow church member, someone I hold in esteem and put before Principle. Then I put myself in hell! *****

"Him which is able to destroy both the soul and body in hell" ... is me, myself, and I! *****

Yes, right! Can't blame the world. Or anyone. The mental atmosphere of the world is toxic and unreal. We need to DWELL elsewhere. *****

I was reading a quote by Bicknell Young in which he says, "It isn't reasonable to expect God to dwell with us unless we can offer Him a dwelling place, so to speak, freed from ingratitude and unhappiness." Gratitude and joy are two essential ingredients to any healing. Why? - Because it enables us to "dwell in the secret place of the Most High." And who would want to dwell any place else?! Often we say, "Well, I'll be happy and grateful after I get healed of whatever the problem may be", but it just doesn't work that way. There is an important Principle to be obeyed so be grateful to God and rejoice NOW and you will find the prison doors swinging wide open! *****

Isn't this better than any self-help book out there?! Unless our "self-help" is based on the Christ, it often ends up being just a lot of malarky. I have found the 91st Psalm and "dwelling in the secret place of the most high" to be a great place to hang out. *****

Quench not the Spirit

1 Thess.5:19 Quench not the Spirit. This is as direct a command as they come. Perhaps we all have different ways we fall into this trap. Worth doing some Soul searching to see the specific ways I may quench the Spirit or what keeps my

inspiration ALIVE! *****

Worth doing some Soul searching to see the specific ways I may quench the Spirit

Good idea. One common way is feeling responsible for things you cannot change - personal responsibility can be a depressing thing! It disobeys Principle. The government is on His shoulders, our responsibility is to Him, and He requires what we can do right here and now, not what we cannot do!!! That false sense of responsibility is nasty as it quenches the Spirit! "Cast thy burdens upon the Lord" and the Spirit returns quickly! *****

Forget our Bodies

"Look away from the body into Truth and Love..." (*Science and Health* p 260)

"We should forget our bodies in remembering good and the human race..." (*Science and Health* p 261)

"the Christian Scientist takes best care of his body when he leaves it most out of his thought and, like the Apostle Paul, is 'willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.'" (*Science and Health* p 383) "Selfishness and sensualism are educated in mortal mind by thoughts ever recurring to one's self..." (*Science and Health* p 261)

This is really making some point here – a point given to us directly from God – (for as Mrs. Eddy says, she was a "scribe under orders.") It strikes me to be so important, as we live in a culture that seems to worship the human sense of "body" and definitely not in a good way. Instead of "body" being out of thought it is constantly being pushed into thought – "how does it look, feel, weigh, how old, how pretty, how strong etc.?! Thank God our work for Him affords a much higher and holier focus than dwelling on such nonsense, which when indulged in, could become all-consuming. *****

This "forgetting body" was so difficult to even think about; but the more my thinking stayed on God, the less I thought about this lump of flesh. It is certain that I cannot be so steeped in personal sense and make any headway Spirit-ward!!