

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 22

**SUBJECT- GOD THE PRESERVER OF  
MAN-6/15/14**

## **Principle Believed in - Versus – Principle Understood**

"This faith relies upon an understood Principle."  
(*Science and Health*, p. 487)

Throughout her writings, Mrs. Eddy often returns to a central point -- distinguishing between faith that "relies upon an understood Principle" and faith that relies upon a merely believed Principle.

Webster's 1828 dictionary offers this wonderful definition of the word **rely**: "To rest on something, as the mind when satisfied of the veracity, integrity or ability of persons, or of the certainty of facts or of evidence; to have confidence in; to trust in; to depend; with on. We rely on the promise of a man who is known to be upright; we rely on the veracity or fidelity of a tried friend; a prince relies on the affections of his subjects for support, and on the strength of his army for success in war; above all things, we **rely** on the mercy and promises of God. That which is the ground of confidence, is a certainty or full conviction that satisfies the mind and leaves it at rest, or undisturbed by doubt. 'Because thou has relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the Lord thy God' - (2 Chronicles 16:8.)"

Mr. Eustace wrote, "I do not believe Mrs. Eddy ever wrote anything fraught with more import to the Christian Scientist, than [the] article, 'Principle and Practice.'" The entire article is concentrated upon one point only: "Christian Science requires understanding instead of belief," but "the inclination of mortal mind is to receive Christian Science through a belief instead of the understanding." This is what happened to the early church, banishing Christ by receiving Christ as a creed to be believed in, and not as a living, active,

healing reflection of Principle.

Receiving the letter of Christian Science in belief, no matter how ecstatic or emotionally charged my belief in it, is an expression of selfhood, thus an exercise in futility. Nominal Christian Science is the worst form of nominal Christianity: rather than helping to light up the world, it only deepens the darkness. "Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." "For if the Light that is in thee be darkness [if I do not walk in the light that I already have], how great is that darkness!" (John 12:35, Matt. 6:23.) Thus, understanding, as opposed to belief, is dependent upon right action.

Both Jesus and Mrs. Eddy draw the line clearly here. My belief in Christian Science must decrease while my understanding Christian Science must increase, moment by moment. \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, yes, yes! This is perhaps more important than any other for the "life-long" Christian Scientist. Every familiar statement of truth needs to be challenged - every thought about Christian Science. "Why do I think this is true?" "Because it is from the Bible or the Textbook" or "Because my teacher or practitioner said it" - belief, belief, belief! What is the Science behind the statement or thought? How does it track back to our premise, that God is infinite good, etc. \*\*\*\*\*

I have found in my own experience the only way to get from belief to understanding is by obedience, obeying God - even before you understand why. Sometimes it does seem very difficult to sing hymns when you feel like crying - but after you obey the Principle that your joy comes from God and is therefore ever-present, well, my goodness! You actually begin to feel better. If you ever feel you don't understand a certain Principle - try obeying that Principle, the understanding will

follow! \*\*\*\*\*

## Question

How did Abigail do what she did without Nabal finding out? Was it God's protection or the conceit of her husband? This was a great undertaking to accomplish. \*\*\*\*\*

No room for the perpetual analysis, evaluating risk, in the heat of life and death battle. Independent action. Principle is its own protection. \*\*\*\*\*

I believe this is the main theme of the lesson. There is an adage, "If you stand with Principle, Principle stands with you."

When you take a strong stand for what is right, God gives you the means to do what He wants done. He protects you, preserves you. Abigail didn't think about it. She just did it, and God protected her.

This brings to mind other examples of those who took strong stands for principle, went into the heat of the battle, and were protected by God. George Washington, Winston Churchill, just to name a couple famous ones.

Mary Baker Eddy took a huge lifelong stand for Principle, and against all odds (humanly speaking), was totally protected in the establishment of the Christian Science movement. I find this very encouraging! \*\*\*\*\*

## Nabal A Great Object Lesson

In Nabal's day, there was no law and order. David and his band were a stabilizing force in the area, and Nabal, having a lot of wealth and property, was a major recipient of David's protection.

Nabal's reaction to David's request for something in return (there was no contract, you see) was the type of reaction that gives rich people a bad name. "I'm wealthy and important, who are you?" David would have shown Nabal who he was by utterly destroying him and his wealth, had it not been for Abigail.

Nabal's attitude is too common - it is the stuff that causes violent revolutions, creation of unions, etc.

This would not be the case if a proper respect was given to all who partake in our society, making it possible for us to live peacefully and prosper. The policemen, the military, the garbage collectors, the retail agent, the manual laborers, etc. each and everyone playing a part - and I am the beneficiary. Love is the answer. Self-importance is damned to hell. \*\*\*\*\*

*"This would not be the case if a proper respect was given to all ....."*

This is why Science understood and practiced, alone, has to be the panacea for our woes. As long as we are seeing personalities, wrong attitudes towards others will persist. I cannot imagine that when this Science reaches classrooms and people begin to see themselves and everyone else as "ideas," God's ideas, and that all are valuable parts of the WHOLE, thinking and actions will not change for the greater good. \*\*\*\*\*

## Abigail - Independent Action

In 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, independent action is listed as one of the requisites for spiritual growth. Abigail was a wonderful example.

When presented with sure destruction because of her foolish husband, she did not stop to weigh things: should I cross my husband; he might kill me; maybe I should pray about it more. NO!!!

She was not a ditz. She was not a pious, other-worldly, religious woman. She was spiritual. She heard. She acted. She saved the day for the whole household and herself. And Principle took care of her.

We can be sure this ability to act with conviction was the result of strong moral living, a real sense of God/Principle. She kept her dignity despite the horrendous husband. \*\*\*\*\*

## Ruler of Upright Neighbor

*"The wicked man is not the ruler of his upright neighbor. Let it be understood that success in error is defeat in Truth."* (*Science and Health* p 239)  
Very sobering words! This is why it is of utmost

importance that we hold the line in our watches. It would have seemed probable that Abigail, in this week's lesson, could have been ruled by her wicked husband – but no matter what she abided by Principle in her thought and action. Nabal ended up destroying himself and Abigail was released to a higher destiny. \*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT- IS THE UNIVERSE INCLUDING MAN EVOLVED BY ATOMIC FORCE? - 06/22/14**

### **To "Endow Matter with Vague Spiritual Power"**

"When we endow matter with vague spiritual power, -- that is, when we do so in our theories, for of course we cannot really endow matter with what it does not and cannot possess, - we disown the Almighty,..." (*Science and Health*, p. 118)

Yikes! I don't want to "disown the Almighty"--but I'm wondering if I'm doing this with regularity without even realizing it. Can anyone give examples of endowing matter with vague spiritual power? \*\*\*\*\*

You started me thinking! Perhaps we should start by not acknowledging matter as matter, but as ideas. That the only thing a Mind can come up with anyhow. \*\*\*\*\*

Some examples must be when we rely on bank accounts as security, when we believe the heart dictates our life, we must eat three times a day to have energy, we need 8 hours of sleep in order to function.

Christian Science is here to help us move away from these crippling laws that quite frankly *appear* to disown the Almighty of His power. \*\*\*\*\* How about a church building? A church organization? A human family? A book? Lesson Sermon? etc. Our prayer needs to be constantly "Dear God, open my heart that I may hear what you are telling me today." None of these things can

replace this prayer. \*\*\*\*\*

What am I trying to improve with human theories or personal sense? I find myself falling into habits or modes of thought and action that need to be replaced with spiritual ones. I guess you could say the need to remain totally open to a new idea. I just posted in another forum here that Elisha spoke with Jehoshaphat and told him to dig wells in the desert. That's not in the human playbook of ideas! That was divine.

I am in sales so I must not rely on the old self and his ways of business. I am about my Father's business now and the old ways and means don't cut it any more. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Superiority of Spiritual Power Over Material Resistance**

"Daughters Lift 3,000-Pound Tractor Off Dad's Chest" - NBC News

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1JmsPKL5Bs>

Should I honor Zeus, foremost god of the Greeks' self-absorbed obsession with material "muscularity" (*Science and Health* p 199), or shall I honor the Zeus of today, the god of "atomic force," mortal mind's self-exalting, collective obsession with the muscularity of the physics of the "big-bang," so-called? Was this god the source of Hannah's and Haylee's power?

Mrs. Eddy writes of the most renowned daredevil of her day: "'Had Blondin believed it impossible to walk the rope over Niagara's abyss of waters, he could never have done it. His belief that he could do it gave his **thought-forces, called muscles**, their flexibility and power . . . His fear must have disappeared before his power of putting resolve into action could appear" (*Science and Health* p.195:25-31). Haylee and Hannah had run out of time to waste indulging in fear, mulling over the limitations of muscularity. It was love, or rather Love, that cast out fear, and prayer without ceasing that gave them the "power of putting resolve into action." It was Love that infused their "thought-

forces," which material mindedness calls "muscles," with strength that was "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6). In forgetting themselves, what they "could" or "could not" do, humanly speaking, they got out of God's way and found grace to "let go and let God."

Mrs. Eddy's indomitable love for humankind gave her the power to do every day what Hannah's and Haylee's love for their father accomplished in a moment in time, yet out of time. At the end of the newscast, the sisters said that it was as though their feat of strength never happened, that it was all like a dream. But what the sisters called a temporary dream-state was an on-going reality to Mrs. Eddy, while belief in the error of a world evolved by atomic force was itself, completely and utterly, the actual dream-world. \*\*\*\*\*

I thought of this post while reading the lesson this morning, "..... and the iron did swim." (II Kings 6:6 "...)

The setting aside of supposed material laws!

"Christian Science eschews what is called natural science, in so far as this is built on the false hypotheses that matter is its own lawgiver, that law is founded on material conditions, and that these are final and overrule the might of divine Mind. Good is natural and primitive. It is not miraculous to itself." (*Science and Health*, p. 127)

Thank you for sharing this wonderful story of the tractor being lifted. Mrs. Eddy explains it well.  
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### **But By My Spirit**

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith The Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6) As we have talked about during the roundtable recently, nothing can be forced or done through human will - nothing that is of true substance, nothing that will endure.

Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*, "Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good." p.

393. I can remember in times past trying to rise in the strength of my own human will - only to fall flat on my face! It took some real struggles and humiliating failures in order to get self out of the way and let God work. Always an effective learning process! Still is. \*\*\*\*\*

I can relate to this entirely! Just the other day I was thinking about past "hard times" and was feeling grateful to have experienced the total humiliation I went through because it was indeed an effective learning process. Tough at the time to go through, but ever so useful for my spiritual journey! Now it is much easier to get self out of the way and let God work. \*\*\*\*\*

### **What Is Our Reality?**

What is war? From an Association Address by Martha Wilcox. Excerpts:

In the realm of the infinite good there is not both good and evil, but good only. The more we, as Christian Scientists, accept the suggestion that war is going on as a fact, the more we strengthen and perpetuate the belief of life in matter, the belief of minds many, and the more we are governed by mortal mind, or animal magnetism, instead of by the reality of being.

All war is operating within what is ordinarily called human consciousness. It is not in any way external or remote from us. The war is entirely mental, and it must be met in mentality.

The end of any error will come to us individually when the error becomes extinct within our human consciousness. Wars - which are purely error- will continue until the cause of the war is exposed and vanquished, made extinct in human consciousness.

In every Christian Science treatment, the only adequate denial is the absolute nothingness of any phase of evil. \*\*\*\*\*

"Creator .... God, who made all that was made and could not create an atom or an element the opposite of Himself." (*Science and Health*, p. 583:25)