

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 28

**SUBJECT- MAN - 09/07/14**

## **Governed by God**

"When man is governed by God, the ever-present Mind who understands all things, man knows that with God all things are possible." (*Science and Health*, p. 180) If ever I get even a smidgeon of the thought some problem is overwhelming, gone on too long, never will work out, totally impossible etc. – this sentence is a good reminder that I am obviously no longer being "governed by God." I have disobediently left His Kingdom, where I feel His presence and know all things ARE possible to Him. Good wakeup call! \*\*\*\*\*

## **Reflection Seems Transcendental**

"This reflection seems to mortal sense transcendental, because the spiritual man's substantiality transcends mortal vision and is revealed only through divine Science." (*Science and Health*, p. 301) It is a wonderment! Consciousness is completely unexplainable by the physical sciences - and yet there is nothing more persistent in our experience than consciousness. You simply cannot get away from it. In Christian Science, consciousness IS IT! Which explains why the "Christian Scientist" that ignores consciousness and is driven by "material" effect is living a farce. Where chronic anxiety, pride, fear, sensuousness, reign, you can be sure consciousness has been ignored - saying one thing but thinking/feeling another. In Science, the premise is that God is, and that we are His image, reflection. From this starting point, (instead of what mortal sense/original sin, etc., says!), we strive to reflect Life, Truth, Love... With the changing seasons, Mrs. Eddy admonishes us to handle the material life-cycle. How can we do that? As reflection, we perceive God's beauty each day, not as a part of a life-cycle, but as a new watch every day, thereby dropping the heavy baggage of aging!\*\*\*\*\*

We can never see the beauty and goodness of our true heritage without the Christ consciousness.... (*Science and Health*, p. 303) "It is ignorance and false belief, based on a material sense of things, which hide spiritual beauty and goodness."

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*"We can never see the beauty and goodness of our true heritage without the Christ consciousness...."*

What does this mean practically? Is it something we just reach out and take when we want it? Is it out of reach to us mortals? \*\*\*\*\*

It means that the more I strove to be in the right mind, let go of negativity and desired to have God in all I did, the more I appreciated what good was already at hand for me and all. This is very practical, available for all to experience through cultivating more of the right mind!

When mortal mind held sway and I felt overwhelmed with negative false beliefs, nothing had any beauty, and goodness wasn't readily seen.

Apostle Paul was speaking to "mortals" in Phil 2:5 when he said, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." He knew it was possible for man to gain the Christ consciousness, which would reveal more of the beauty, goodness, purity, immortality of God's idea, man. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this discussion!

Following her own instructions in *Science and Health*, pages 15-16, Mrs. Eddy constantly, prayerfully worked on herself to get "Mary" out of the way. In doing so, she saw beauty in the snake, the worm, the cattle, the lion (see her descriptions of the spiritual essence of these creatures in her *Science and Health* "Genesis" chapter). And while it may take less effort for mortal-mindedness to find beauty in a rose, "the smile of God," she

witheringly exposed the obstinate, duplicitous perversity of mortal mind that would invert that same smile into a frown like "rose-cold" or "hay-fever" (*Science and Health*, p. 175).

At a local fair, Mrs. Eddy drew near to a caged lion after going under the rope cordoning off the spectators. Gently she placed her hand on the lion's paw, held it there for a moment, then withdrew. The mortal, insubstantial expression of "Mary" was nowhere to be found as she cast upon the lion the true, substantial, unassailable peace-be-still of God's reflection, the fruit of years spent in unmitigated determination to see the "smile of God" in everything.

"A musician demonstrates the beauty of the music he teaches in order to show the learner the way by practice as well as precept. Jesus' teaching and practice of Truth involved such a sacrifice as makes us admit its Principle to be Love. This was the precious import of our Master's sinless career and of his demonstration of power over death. He proved by his deeds that Christian Science destroys sickness, sin, and death." (*Science and Health* p 26)

"One day Mrs. Eddy said to a student, 'Are you working?'

He began to tell of his hours of study and work. She said, 'When you see old age, do you declare that Life is eternal activity, beauty and joy? When you see the leaves falling and hear the wind blow, do you declare that there is no change, decay or cold? When you see deformity and disease, do you declare that man is made in the image and likeness of God?'

The student answered, 'Mrs. Eddy, I am not working'" (Collectanea).

"A **great sacrifice** of material things must precede this advanced spiritual understanding." --- (*Science and Health*, pages 15-16) \*\*\*\*\*

*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." He knew it was possible for man to gain the Christ consciousness, which would reveal more of the beauty, goodness, purity, immortality of God's idea, man.*

"CHRIST. The divine manifestation of God which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error."(*Science and Health*, p. 583)

Is it possible to gain the Christ consciousness while constantly smoothing things over to maintain harmony? NO, NO, NO.

This persistent, deadly tendency to assign all things wonderful and harmonious to Christ is the very thing that has destroyed the CS movement and much of Christianity. Christ consciousness is a phrase tossed about as a lovely thing we should all want to have, just by using our sugar-tongs to take it off the shelf, as we see fit.

In truth, the Christ is a terrifying thing to the proud and materialistic pseudo CSer. It smells the rat that he is, even though the world thinks this CSer is wonderful! That is why this CSer avoids it like the plague. In fact, this CSer hates the Christ because it is his nemesis. This hated Christ-consciousness is the "mind...which was also in Christ Jesus." Do you still want it? Only it is "merciful, just, and pure." Anything less is a sham! \*\*\*\*\*

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*Do you still want it? Only it is "merciful, just, and pure." Anything less is a sham! \*\*\*\*\**

No one can mock God, smoothing over things won't work! But the sincere heart that cries out for the Love of God, to be shown the right way, to be helped with any weaknesses in their struggle with a problem, can be helped.

From the article, *God's Elect*, a few sentences about the Christ are assuring:

Christ as "the true idea voicing good, the divine message from God to men speaking to the human consciousness."

"The power of the Christ is at work, right where people are struggling with problems. We must know that the Christ, Truth, can control everything."

"Christ, the divine Comforter, is banishing the false sense of sin, disease, death, and destruction from

men's lives, and is revealing man as the son of God."

This is the saving Christ assuring us. "I will also save you from all your uncleannesses." Ezek 36:29

*But the sincere heart that cries out for the Love of God, to be shown the right way, to be helped with any weaknesses in their struggle with a problem, can be helped...*

Christian sentiment - good. I grew up with it all around me. But no Science. Not until I found Mrs. Evans, did I ever see Christ in operation. Immensely loving, but absolutely intolerant of pride, self-righteousness, and hypocrisy - willing to be crucified - stood up to the devil-incarnate (bod) - because her love was more than a good thing to do without rocking the boat. We are far too trite in our use of the terms Christ, Christ-consciousness. It is not about being a good, loving person. It is far, far more than that. It is "the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost." and with it comes Emmanuel, or God with us, a very holy thing - and you cannot try to be holy or Christ-like. You can strive to be obedient to your Maker. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Obedience To Truth**

"Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength." (*Science and Health*, p183) I once wondered why I would feel so weak and wishy-washy (after all I was a "Christian Scientist"! ) and it was in part because I had no idea what this statement meant. Thoughts would fly into my head without any filtering system - negative, fearful, resentful thoughts - never even realizing this was disobedience to God. To "stand porter at the door of thought" was something I read about, but never practiced. Somehow I thought reading about it was enough?! Anyway, it took some good work from a practitioner to help me out of this muck. I am grateful for this and also to understand "obedience to Truth" is an on-going process. We get challenged by the demand every day.

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## **SUBJECT - SUBSTANCE - 9/14/14**

### **The Science Of Spiritual Reflection**

Understanding reflection and substance has been hard for me. This week, I looked up reflection in *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy and read the 500 watching points mentioned in another post this week.

On page 305: 21, in *Science and Health*, there is a reference to "the Science of reflection". This comforted me because I never noticed this passage before. I see reflection now as a provable science and law governed, rather than an activity of human effort as I have been attempting for years.

"WATCH lest you seek to sweep and garnish your mental home because you desire to eliminate from it all that is offensive, rather than to make it meet for the Christ to come in. In Matt. 12:44 the implication is that the demonstration was made to cast out the unclean spirit, because the man had as his goal, a clean house, or human purity, rather than spiritual reflection." 500 Watching Points

This morning I read Mrs. Evans' article on the 91st psalm that can be found in *General Study* on this Web site. This gave me a practical sense of how to live this science of reflection. \*\*\*\*\*

*On page 305: 21 in Science and Health there is a reference to "the Science of reflection".*

Thank you for this reference, here it is: "The inverted images presented by the senses, the deflections of matter as opposed to the Science of spiritual reflection, are all unlike Spirit, God. In the illusion of life that is here to-day and gone to-morrow, man would be wholly mortal, were it not that Love, the divine Principle that obtains in divine Science, destroys all error and brings immortality to light. Because man is the reflection of his Maker, he is not subject to birth, growth, maturity, decay. These mortal dreams are of human origin, not divine."

Even in last night's Wednesday meeting, it was brought up that we can't "try harder" to be a "better

reflection" (I'm paraphrasing). It is the second week in a row now that we have MBE's words on reflection in the lesson, including, "Few persons comprehend what Christian Science means by the word reflection." (Reflection being italicized.)

Might one assume she was also talking about many of her followers? This appears to be a very important point to understanding Christian Science.  
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## "Lord, Make Me Upright"

(*Science and Health*, p. 550) "The continual contemplation of existence as material and corporeal — as beginning and ending, and with birth, decay, and dissolution as its component stages — hides the true and spiritual Life, and causes our standard to trail in the dust."

Whatever I fasten my contemplative gaze upon brings it more and more into my experience. This is why it is so important to have no other god before God, no other mind before Mind, as they are synonyms of one another (SH 4); the highest standard possible for me to achieve is the contemplation of God, wherever I am and whatever I am doing. This is loving God, with all my mind, all of my contemplative capacities, not just part.

It is impossible to experience the "true and spiritual life" while contemplating things that hide it (this is also related to this week's Watching Point). Continually, morbidly beholding mistakes and errors -- sin, sickness, disease, human weaknesses - - in frenzied resistance and protest against them, with most or all of my attention turned upon them rather than upon God, actually multiplies more of such unwanted things in my life.

In **Watches, Prayers, and Arguments**, Mrs. Eddy says of her own contemporary Christian Science followers: "Students do not pray enough. They should go by themselves at least three times a day to pray. Their prayers should consist of much giving thanks, more realization of the perfect, as well as the denial of error. There is too much denial of error and too little realization of the perfect. Lord, make me upright." \*\*\*\*\*

## Divest yourself!

"Divest yourself of the thought that there can be substance in matter." (*Science and Health*, p. 90) divest - "To deprive...to divest one of his glory; to divest a subject of deceptive appearances." (1828 Websters)

1. an ache, "liar, thanks for reminding me to declare I am spiritual, not material"
2. eating, "this is Love's provision - Soul satisfies, matter does not"
3. physical or academic achievement, "I of mine own self can do nothing. The Father that dwelleth in me..."
4. weakness, "liar, thanks for reminding me to turn to the Father, to declare He is Life, my life." etc.

Every suggestion of substance in matter must be met with Truth. This is a cultivated way of life. Even Mrs. Eddy, in the late stages of her life on earth, was striving to bring God into more details of her life.

NOTE: This is not prayer-chair mental work. This is walking around, moment-by-moment, state-of-consciousness. NOW IS THE TIME! \*\*\*\*\*

## Substance?

I have searched for a definition to this idea that I am Substance and not matter. I lay in bed at night and ponder the question, "If I am not material then what am I? Who am I?" I close my eyes and dwell in consciousness and I begin to understand.

Substance: That which is real in distinction to that which is apparent, the abiding (enduring/lasting) part of existence. Stop. What part? THE ONLY PART, THE REAL PART, THE NON-ILLUSION PART, that which underlies all outward manifestations.

When I look in the mirror, do I see Integrity, Moral Fiber, Love of my fellow man, The desire to do God's will? Sure I do! It is right there...underlying all outward manifestations.

To me, it is the "REASON" I LIVE!