

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 33

SUBJECT- SOUL AND BODY - 11/23/14

Soul's Expression

"Man is the expression of Soul." *Science and Health*, p. 477:26

This statement jumped out this week. It's a good reminder to check if I am knowing this all the time or is it a truth to resort to when there is a claim to be overcome?

Am I seeing myself as the expression of Soul and seeing that everywhere? To what extent am I living this Truth? Am I knowing there is only one Mind? One God and Father for *all mankind*? Do I understand (putting it in practice) that all mankind are the image and likeness of God? Am I seeing that "stranger" in the same light? Am I separating all error from my thought of man?

Are these truths my thoughts governing my actions throughout the day? "Man is an expression of Soul," is an absolute statement we all must persevere to live, it is the world's saving TRUTH.

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In order not to mislead anyone: This is saying we all persevere to get the understanding of the Principle and then we work always from that Principle. *****

Perhaps this will help too: "To reach this Horeb height where God is understood, even in part, we must be growing purer; we cannot perceive the Principle of Science without this, "for none but the pure in heart shall see God." Purity is the baptism of Soul, — "the answering of a good conscience,"

for a clean Spirit washes the body of all foulness, and signifies such only as understand Truth." (1st Ed. *Science and Health*)

Wholesome Fear of God

Who is our God that we fear? If we are "in the human mind" or operating from the standpoint of personal sense, God is made in our image, and so we fear offending ourselves! - most are in this state...

Knowing this, Mrs. Eddy was constantly stirring her workers out of the human mind, and striving to get them TO FEAR SLIPPING INTO IT - for this is disobedience to God! Metaphysically described below from lesson:

"semi-metaphysical systems afford no substantial aid to scientific metaphysics, for their arguments are based on the false testimony of the material senses as well as on the facts of Mind. These semi-metaphysical systems are one and all pantheistic, and savor of Pandemonium, a house divided against itself." *Science and Health*, p. 269:1

If you claim to be a metaphysician, but your self-awareness is based upon the material senses (what people think of you, etc.), you are living in this "house divided against itself." *****

So what you are saying is that we have to act solely based on Principle without compromising with personal sense. Principle is not an a-la cart option to pick and choose from to blend with my personal opinion.

Having another option is dualism. There is only one reality, one purpose, one job, one motive. I still trip up on this point, but I am getting better. The practitioner I work with has really helped me throw off the culture! And thank God for that.

Gathering vs. Scattering

WHEN GATHERING BECOMES SCATTERING

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." - Matt. 12:30

What appears to personal sense as "gathering together" in communion with God and with one another may actually be, according to the true perspective of spiritual sense, "scattering abroad," in places remote from God and from one another.

In their Nuremburg rallies, the Nazis gathered together in great numbers in what appeared to personal sense to be an intense, vibrant, concentrated expression of unity. But to spiritual sense, from the perspective of God's Love, every such gathering was actually a manifestation of fragmentation, of broad scattering away from God. With every perfectly synchronized arm-salute and every "Heil Hitler" chanted in perfect unison, each participant may have gloried in the crowded, overwhelming, yet artificial togetherness of the group-mind, but it all amounted to nothing: nothing but a greater and greater distancing of each participant from the Mind that binds us all together in Life, Truth, and Love. *****

Thank you. Yes, what you describe here is mass mesmerism based on personal sense, animal magnetism – fear, hate and all the other etcetera's of that word. Eventually it can only fail and self-destruct for it has no basis in God. Spiritual unity is the exact opposite and harder to achieve and to maintain for it requires un-selfed love for God and man.

In her article on Obedience, Mrs. Eddy states -"Obedience is the offspring of love: and love is the Principle of unity, the basis of all right thinking, and acting; it fulfills the law. We see eye-to-eye and know as we are known, reciprocate kindness and work wisely, in proportion as we love." *****

Where is My Heart

"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." Mathew 15:8

This is a meaningful quote to me since I was so unaware how far my heart was from God before coming to the Plainfield church. This awakening required from me honesty, humility, and persistent effort to begin bringing my heart closer to God. Teachings here have taught me it is an on-going process.

I took time again today to think about some of the things that have taken my heart far from God. It has helped in clearing up some of the unhealed garbage from the past. I found I looked to person as savior, would get caught up in sympathy, lack of principle in my actions, willfulness, participating in gossip, obsessed with human goodness, focus on personality, pride, absorbing error, judging, talking Science without practicing, self-righteousness, etc. I now make this check a daily practice. While not perfected, I am so grateful for the freedom and self-awareness this has provided. I am very grateful for the powerful work going on here at Plainfield.

And finally, "to square accounts with each passing hour." Here, Mrs. Eddy suggests we take a moment each hour to check thought, to make sure we are not holding onto anything negative or depressing. Know the truth about each situation as it comes up — or else it is very easy to go around and around with unhandled garbage. Not necessary! "Be so instant in Truth that error is always too late." (Mrs. Eddy) When your thought is clear and uncluttered, you become a transparency for the love of God to shine through. Square your account with God each passing hour. *****

SUBJECT - ANCIENT AND MODERN NECROMANCY 11/30/14

Eli & Sons

When Eli became aware that his sons were abusing their privileged position, he didn't take action to stop it. Instead, he asked them, "Why do ye such

things?" This weakness on his part cost them their lives. The theme is throughout the Bible. Job had a similar experience with his children. Whenever we hold someone or something above divine Principle; whenever we try to protect someone from Love's "correcting rod," we lose it. Whether it's a child, a spouse, a home, a job, or whatever, it all has to be put on the altar, so to speak. Only then is it safe. Only then can it be molded to His will and be made to fulfill His purpose. *****

From the revelation documented in 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, an explanation of Eli and sons:

"Personal sense is the dream of Life in matter, a supposition only of reality and substance, of Life and Intelligence, of good and evil, that would limit Soul, and doom all things to decay. Sensation in matter is one of its beliefs, and belief is the opinion, personal, that supports only what is untrue, selfish, or debased; all these mistakes are but the error we name mortal man. **God and man will never be understood, until we listen alone to the senses attached to Principle instead of person, to Soul instead of body.**"

The sentence in bold also makes clear how the BOD was so disobedient to the instructions of Mrs. Eddy after her passing, and the acceptance of their disobedience by the rank and file. NO MATTER HOW FINE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE METAPHYSICS OF SCIENCE, if the application in daily life does not conform to this requirement (in bold), you may have success in the world, but you will not be demonstrating the Science, and it will ultimately fail. *****

I have found that the book "*Christian Science, its Clear, Correct Teaching*" by Herbert Eustace, contains indeed a very clear teaching on these difficult subjects, I think he has a wonderful ability to make one understand. *****

We are Asleep

"When we wake to the truth of being, all disease, pain, weakness, weariness, sorrow, sin, death, will be unknown, and the mortal dream will forever cease" *Science and Health*, p. 218:32. I might have gleaned some truth of being, but clearly not all of

it, for when I wake this dream will cease. It is necessary to approach Science humbly and honestly. I may be familiar with the words 'truth of being' but we are largely asleep to its full meaning.

So how do we attain more and wake to this?

"What we most need is the prayer of fervent desire for growth in grace, expressed in patience, meekness, love, and good deeds" *****

It would not be so bad if we were sound asleep, but we are dreaming a pretty bad dream:) *****

The human dream is not only an illusion. it also is the dopey state that the world around is fed with and that we can only see when we begin to awaken to Truth, Life and Love. Asleep in the mortal dream, we are drugged with illusive testimony so we cannot hear the voice of God. If we do not hear God, how do we go forward? Then we are really in a lull of personal sense and this is the dissatisfaction where we begin to complain that supply is missing or that relationships and jobs are not around.

It is clear to me that the arsenal of the First Edition and the 1910 edition are strong shakes to wake up and hear spiritually. This cannot be gained through an intellectual perusal. Many thanks to all seekers of Truth, and especially thank you, Mary Baker Eddy and Jesus, for an abiding awareness. *****

God Fashions All Things, After His Own Likeness

"The substance, Life, Intelligence, Truth, and Love, which constitute Deity, are reflected by His creation; and when we subordinate the false testimony of the corporeal senses to the facts of Science, we shall see this true likeness and reflection everywhere. God fashions all things, after His own likeness. Life is reflected in existence, Truth in truthfulness, God in goodness, which impart their own peace and permanence." (*Science and Health*, p 516)

Several summers ago, Derek Patton and his young

son, Ronnie, were hiking one morning in the Eagle's Nest Wilderness area of Colorado. During the walk, Ronnie somehow became separated from his dad. After several hours of searching, Derek decided to call wilderness search-and-rescue for help. And then, shortly after the rescue team arrived, the temperature dropped suddenly, the sky became dark, and it began to snow, as is sometimes the case in the Eagle's Nest area, even in summer. Snow was cause for further concern, as Ronnie was wearing only light summer clothing.

Several more hours passed, night fell, and Ronnie was still nowhere to be found. As it was now snowing heavily, the search party had to call off the search till morning.

In the meantime, Ronnie had decided to find shelter under a tall evergreen tree, and lying underneath the its wide-spreading lower branches, went to sleep, shivering.

However, it wasn't too long after this that he was awakened by the presence of two gigantic shadowy forms approaching him. Ronnie tried to shoo them away by yelling at them and throwing dirt, stones, and pine-cones, but they were unfazed. In fact they kept moving closer to him. Two huge elk!

But Ronnie was too sleepy to continue resisting the two giants, and before long he finally gave up, laying his head back on the ground. The elk were right next to him now and, at last, they gently lay down -- on either side of Ronnie. Soon his shivering had completely abated as he drifted off to sleep between the two massive beasts.

When the rescue team first found Ronnie safe-and-sound the next day, they could not believe his account of the elk "guardians" keeping him warm all through the night. But then they saw that the ground was thawed where two large animals had bedded down -- right where Ronnie had slept!

What would be the explanation in Science? Physical science says it was an anomaly, or perhaps a mistaken observation. (It always suggests that when the evidence does not conform to its

theories.) Were these especially endowed elk? In the 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, Intelligence, Soul, etc. are described as outside the body. This is so radical, and yet such an exciting proposition. It certainly would explain how the elk were moved. And think what this means to us - this is not absolute vs. relative. To the Scientist, it is reality, here and now. It remains for us to rely on the real, instead of being swept along by the currents of the unreal, thinking as though we have a mind of our own, or Soul of our own, or Life of our own, or Love of our own (all personal sense)!! "Of mine own self I can do nothing." If Jesus could say that, who are we to think we can do otherwise?

In the likeness of His Mind, God is very happy, joyful, content. All He knows and could make us know is perfection and harmony. The trouble is that we dream of having another mind, a mortal material, personal, malicious mind, an imagination, unreal, non-existent. Our quest is to know only what God knows. Good.

The Habitual Struggle

"The habitual struggle to be always good is unceasing prayer." I was once given this statement by a practitioner when struggling with streams of negative thinking. She told me the only habit I should have is the "habitual struggle to be always good." This helped me turn things around from feeling like I was a helpless victim who couldn't control my thinking -- to watching more diligently and to "Stand porter at the door of thought. Admitting only such conclusions as you wish realized in bodily results, you will control yourself harmoniously." (*Science and Health*, p. 392:4) It turned the tables on the word "habit" and made it something constructive and purposeful. "The habitual struggle to be always good..." is a wonderful habit to abide by and it will rule out all the other "bad" ones that might be plaguing you!!

One Thing Is Needful

What two great lessons to work with this week. I love the story of Mary and Martha in the Thanksgiving lesson -- perfect reminder not to be

“cumbered about much serving” and to keep in our hearts Jesus’s words – “Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.” We look forward to seeing everyone at our two holy services this week! *****

SUBJECT – GOD THE ONLY CAUSE AND CREATOR 12/7/14

All is Thine!

“Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.” We must never be so foolish as to think we “own” anything. It all belongs to God – children, parents, homes, jobs, our very lives...God owns, creates, governs it all and how much infinitely better it is in His keeping! *****

This is really good to remember when thinking about our purpose or work. I have spent lots of time/energy/angst thinking about doing what God wants me to do, or trying to keep doing something because I think it's God's plan for me, or others, because it was yesterday or last year.

And even though there is a good motive, the attitude about it is one of fear and not trusting and creates a tremendous amount of damage.

I look at Christianity historically, and the Christian Science Church when it tried to control messaging, and even our church! There has been a lot of damage done in the name of good, and, because there is a "good motive", somehow it seems justified or "God's plan". In Plainfield, Mrs. Evans no doubt loved Christian Science, and loved humanity - I felt it and knew it! - but, she felt she owned the church and its mission, or at least the responsibility for it, and it caused a lot of damage and hurt for many towards the later years of her time here. For herself, as well.

And, worse, when we take an ownership attitude over our work, we often handle as the devil or

animal magnetism anything that challenges that position --- even when it is God that is challenging it!!! I think that ends in a form of insanity, if the emotional misery is not enough to get us to stop!

But God owns my purpose and work! Every day is new with new opportunities to show and see God's creation, which is ever appearing -- and therefore, if there is anything that feels stale in our lives, we can be sure something's amiss. *****

Thank you. It is true - if anyone (myself included) ever feels a sense of ownership, or “I” am the only one doing anything of importance, followed with anger at lack of support etc., it is time to step back and re-assess and to find his or her dominion in God. Pushing urgently forward only leads to disaster. There is never drudgery with this work in God’s vineyard, but constant joy, refreshment, progress, healing difficult challenges, yes, but surmounting each one with renewed vigor and strength. I like what you posted a while ago – something to the effect that when you come to God for answers start out with the premise that whatever you are already thinking is most likely to be “wrong” for this humbleness of mind enables you to be totally open to new ideas from Him. *****

Stand In Awe

Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

The Scripture is clear: "Stand in awe, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4). Standing in awe of God is the key to success in overcoming sin. The Hebrew word for "sin" here is an archery term meaning "to miss the."

Self, or personal sense, is always at the service of sin, comfortably prostrate at sin's altar. So, to "stand in awe and sin not" means to arise, to turn my gaze off my own perceived needs and to see everything through the eye of Spirit. "Standing in awe" is not a state of stupefaction or dreaminess, but rather a deliberately conscious, wide-awake state of stability: of deep, thoughtful, focused appreciation: "as one at Niagara, with eyes open only to that wonder, forgets all else . . ." (*Science and Health*, 76:30). Awe is so attention-monopolizing that,

when I am in a state of awe, there is no room in my consciousness for anything else but the object of my awe. And when God is the Object of my awe, then, by definition, I am loving God with all my mind.

Thus, I can become like Him who has no awareness of what is not real. I can become like Him, the only Cause and Creator, Who, while brooding on the face of the deep was able to separate the Light from the darkness, the waters of Truth from the waters of error, the real from the unreal. The state of awe is an important component of that firmament that forever separates the waters beneath from the waters above, the waters of personal sense from the waters of spiritual sense.

When I magnify and stand in awe of the eternal Spirit from which my neighbor originated, created expressly in God's image and fashioned after God's likeness, then I cannot miss the mark in being a good neighbor and friend, even to the unfriendly.

When I stand in awe of God, as expressed by my spouse, then I cannot miss the mark in being a good spouse. When I stand in awe of God as expressed by my child, then it is impossible for me to miss the mark in being a good parent. When I stand in awe of God as expressed by my student, then I can never miss the mark in being a good teacher.

When I stand in awe of God as expressed by my colleagues or customers, then I can never miss the mark in achieving business success. When I truly magnify and stand in awe of God, First Cause and Creator of anyone whom I may encounter as lame, blind, deaf, dumb, sick, or in prison, then I cannot miss the mark as a healer and liberator.

As Mrs. Eddy says (Misc. 61:30-62:7): "Holding the right idea of man in my mind, I can improve my own, and other people's individuality, health, and morals; whereas, the opposite image of man, a sinner, kept constantly in mind, can no more improve health or morals, than holding in thought the form of a boa-constrictor can aid an artist in painting a landscape." *****

I Chronicles 29:11-13 Thine, O LORD, is the

greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

Such citations are why we stand in awe, as we turn to God alone to guide us, and do His will! *****

How Long Halt Ye Between Two Opinions?

5. I Kings

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions?

24 And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

Elijah's actions are so inspiring! He proved that every material disadvantage means nothing when you are right with God, and moving as He directs. For too long, I felt I was alone, and had no option but to research a lot and prepare the best I could to make things go well in both work and life. Since coming to Plainfield, I've see that I was never alone—God is always there—and the only research I need is prayer and listening to spiritual sense. *****

A Correction for Our Readers: The date for Adam and Fallen Man in Forum Highlights 32 should have been 11/9/14 **not** 12/9/14. We apologize for that mistake.