

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 35

SUBJECT- GOD - 01/04/2015

Fixing Your Gaze

"Fixing your gaze on the realities supernal, you will rise to the spiritual consciousness of being, even as bird which has burst from the egg and preens its wings for a skyward flight." *Science and Health*, p 261:27-30. There is a very simple and profound lesson in this statement. Whenever you are having a problem does it not scream for your attention? Does it not beg for you to obsess about it, talk about it, poke at it - and yes gaze at it?! For that is the nature of any mesmerism. But if you can turn from it and fix your "gaze on the realities supernal" you will have done much in the way of conquering the situation. As Mrs. Eddy states, "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionably to their occupancy of your thoughts." *Science and Health*, p 261:4-7 **

Deleting Hereditary Beliefs

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Rev. 21:7

Hereditary beliefs are the source of many problems for mankind. Perhaps someone had a parent that passed on from cancer and they are dealing with the frightening symptoms of this belief. Or maybe your mother dealt with depression and you have bouts with depression also. To experience our true inheritance from God, we are told we must overcome, but overcome what? The belief of a mortal birth. It's not enough to just repeat that God is our Father and Mother. It is something we must be clear on daily. We did not come forth from human parents and we do not live in material bodies! The real overcoming is in handling animal magnetism...the avenue through which this belief system of mortal hereditary repetition would seem to work. One of the dictionary definitions of the

word "system" is "organized scheme." Thank God for Christian Science, for the uncovering of this deception which has been played upon mankind. Claim each day that you are not a mortal parent, son or daughter. We are, each of us, the children of God, and have inherited all good from our divine Father-Mother. *****

My Debt To God

Sometime ago when I had financial difficulties, I did so many "humanly correct" things to make things right to no avail. It wasn't until I saw clearly how much I owed God and started paying that debt; that is giving my heart to Him and desiring to live as He wanted me to, paying my tithes etc. that I felt led to overcome the belief of lack. The lesson from that experience is to pay my debt to God first and see all other debts removed.

God IS and should be first in all we do our loyalty should be to Him first. Abraham..means fidelity; what an example he left for us to follow. *****

Chastening of The Lord

"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." (Proverbs)

This is how divine Principle works. It has no tolerance for error. It has no knowledge of error. And He (Principle) is all. If we are suffering under a wrong concept of life, if we are misled in any way, divine Principle, in its love for us, rebukes the error, and wakes us up out of our bad dream

So, when I feel the sting of a rebuke, the only correct response is "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes..." (Psalm 26) The most healthy state of thought is one that seeks God's guidance and correction. Mrs. Eddy spoke

highly of merited rebuke. "Who is telling of the foe in ambush?" (*Science and Health*) When a rebuke is given out of love, it is God (divine Love) chastening us, and we should be grateful for it, take it, and if there is merit to it, change.

This can be quite a challenge, for it requires humility. When I can't do this, it shows that pride has got me. *****

I found this in the book "Lessons of the 7th Day" page 149 - "if, when error is uncovered to us, we see our mistake, accept the rebuke, and condemn the error in ourselves or to someone else, then we are governed by the Truth, and rise and have overcome error, and become more spiritually minded. We have gained a step in Christian Science.. You will be condemned until you refuse to see condemnation." Mary Baker Eddy.

It is only when we see error personally - as attached to someone even to ourselves, only then do we become incapacitated to handle it. Mrs. Eddy says in *Science and Health*, "Evil has no reality. It is neither person, place, nor thing, but is simply a belief, an illusion of material sense." p 71:2 So it is this illusion that must be rebuked and cast out in order to set the captive free - and how liberating the action of Divine Love is! *****

I was greatly impressed by this demand on her part to watch that everything in her experience was the result of demonstration. In this particular instance, when she detected in it the presence of God's loving hand, she accepted the horses without even having seen them or tried them. This incident furnished me with the keynote of the whole spiritual mode of her thought. I consider this one of the most educational experiences I ever had in Christian Science; for I realized that Mrs. Eddy would accept anything that was done by her students, provided it was the result of demonstration. That always satisfied her. I saw her rebukes were never personal, but were always aimed at a lack of demonstration. There was nothing too drastic for her to say in condemnation of the use of the human mind, human opinion, and human will when substituted for the divine Mind and the divine wisdom. On the other hand, when

she found a student willing to strip himself of all human aid, in order to let the Spirit of God animate and work through him, she commended that, because she recognized in it the extension of the very revelation that she was establishing.

—from Chapter 86 of Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps, by Gilbert Carpenter

This chapter—and most of Carpenter's writing—has helped me have a clearer sense of both how to demonstrate and why a rebuke would be deserved. What a blessing it is to have these writings to study and use as we work.*****

Fresh Inspiration Required

The Bible has not and will not have any new editions. The story of Abraham and Isaac is 4,000 years old and is complete, so what do we do when we read an 'old story'? Do we skim through it or pass over it completely because we know how it ends? The challenge is demanding - making a law-that new inspiration is required and needed. We need new light.

I made this demand and was greeted with a new thought. God had promised to make Abraham's seed like the stars of the sky and like the sand of the ocean decades before Isaac was born. When he left Ur, God made this promise. Many, many times God repeated the promise to Abraham. But it didn't happen! Why? When Abraham proved to be faithful, his moral courage tested and this amazing story unfolded, this happened in Gen 22:15-17

15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,
16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:
17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore.

Action and Faith united to bring God's blessing into expression. ' Because thou hast done this thing'.***

In other words, The Bible holds many promises, but when shall we see and experience them?

"Without a fitness for holiness, we cannot receive holiness." *Science and Health*, p 15:31*****

Yes, and in Science, we experience God's promises (divine law) every day. Every day, God gives us what we need (whether we recognize it or not!).

Abraham had no sense of personal possession, not even of Isaac. This is a huge lesson. Even our most cherished treasures don't belong to us, they belong to God. It is only in "putting them on the altar" that they become truly permanent and useful for good. This applies to our homes, our "family" members, our jobs, our government. There isn't anything in our lives that belongs to us. It all belongs to God!

This is what makes children healthy and strong, makes a home inviting, and makes a job interesting and useful *****

In other words, The Bible holds many promises, but when shall we see and experience them?

"Without a fitness for holiness, we cannot receive holiness." Science and Health, p15:31

Truth is infinite and if infinite then it is forever unfolding new ideas, new inspiration. It is our desire, our yearning to know what Truth is constantly giving that makes it available to us. *****

SUBJECT - SACRAMENT – 01/11/2015

A Broken Spirit

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God thou wilt not despise." One thing has become perfectly clear to me on this journey – no one, and I mean no one, goes anywhere or makes any spiritual progress without a "broken spirit." If a person doesn't have a broken spirit sooner or later something will happen until he is forced to cry, "Save, Lord, or I perish!" And what is a broken spirit? It is knowing you are

nothing without God. All the glitter of the world holds no appeal. Life is totally empty until it is learned – "God is Life." A broken spirit, as painful as it may be, is a good thing for it results in the "new birth" which we heard read about during our testimony meeting. And that is a whole other (wonderful) topic! *****

Indeed, this is such a powerful lesson. At one point in my life, when everything had fallen apart, and when I finally got myself out of the way and overcame a false sense of power and might, and served myself a huge slice of "humble pie", then things started to turn around for me. But not before I hit rock bottom and had a broken spirit. What a good thing that turned out to be!

Knowing that I am nothing without God, is the only thing that will allow God to work through me. "Not my will, but Thine be done." *****

I was thinking about "a broken spirit", too. What would be the opposite, non-broken spirit? I suppose it takes many forms, but the effect is that God, Truth, Life - all spiritual good - is completely shut out. And, non-broken spirit resists being broken - resists the growth being forced upon it by Love. Until the break happens.

It isn't a one time thing, it occurs to me. The human mind will try to take the broken spirit, and make someone think "okay, now I'm good." And, in that sleep builds itself another little stronghold - perhaps not as egregious as before. Nothing overtly prideful. But, nonetheless, something that keeps God out. Perhaps, one can look out from the stronghold and see how much "territory" (false sense of life) has been ceded to God, and then continues satisfied that enough has been done.

But, Love will force that stronghold to break. And we will resist resist resist!!! And what is resisting is self - the self that fears it will lose identity or something important to it.

This is what is so amazing about Science and metaphysics - so real and tangible. It's a law, inescapable and always applies, no matter where we're at!! And there's safety in that. I don't have to fear being in a state of brokenness, because that is

when reality, all spiritual good can enter. And we can claim it, too, and turn what seems like affliction into praise! *****

The Inward Parts

“Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shall make me to know wisdom.” Ps. 51:6 This passage has always been encouraging to me. If you are struggling with some deep suppressed problem, maybe something you are not even fully aware of – be it mental, physical, emotional; know that nothing is hidden to God. When you humbly open your heart up to Him and obey Him the best you can, reading His Word, - God’s Truth penetrates deep within. His Truth will find that wound and bind it up. God will bring healing and regeneration to every area of your life. Nothing is hidden to God and nothing is beyond His healing power. *****

This is so helpful. How often one is drawn into the mortal personality, dwelling on ourselves, our mortal history, trying to figure out where the problem began and how to heal it. Much safer and effective to turn to God with all our hearts for healing in the "inward parts." This is the true meaning of being "born again"--born of the spirit, not the flesh. *****

Watching My Words

“Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.” Ps. 141: 3 It is so important to still the self condemning statements, the “buts” to every affirmative Truth, the use of “I hope” which has so much doubt, and the frequent use of “I can’t” or “I’m trying” which (sound harmless) but are all detrimental to my spiritual progress and demonstration of what I am learning. The last of these was saying “I know” when Practitioner said something.

This last one was hardest to overcome because it was as if I was agreeing with what is said but honestly if I **knew**, it would have meant I understood; so wasn't that response another of error's ploys?

I finally saw it was animal magnetism attempts to dim my inspiration, and to create doubt of the Truth and cause discouragement. Error found out was on its way to its doom! *****

I have been working on ridding myself of hopefully, lucky, unlucky, fortunate, unfortunate, and other such words. Everything out of my mouth must have made me seem a victim of fate before coming here. Since those were my words, that must have been my thought—is it any wonder I ended up in that place?

Thank God for giving us Christian Science! We are not victims of capricious events or coincidence, so there is no reason to talk that way. I work each day to remember that, a task made much easier with practitioner support and all this church offers. *****

Made Himself Of No Reputation

Jesus "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant." (Philippians)

Jesus had no personal sense of his life mission. He knew better than any that God was his Life, his Mind, his Soul. He never sought human approval for anything he said or did. Even when he was persecuted and maligned, he never justified himself. He never "made his case" before men. He never saw anything as "complicated."

That is why his life is the perfect example. At times, I used to think that his example was unattainable, and that I should just give up trying. Well, I may not be living up to that example as well as I could, but I can never stop trying. I thank Mary Baker Eddy for raising the bar for us and showing that his life example is the result of submitting himself to God's will, and is attainable if we have it in our hearts and work at it. *****

Jesus' meekness made him the greatest man that ever trod this earth! In that meekness was a yielding of self that could express all that God is. He is the perfect example of a reflection of God, an expression of Soul!*****

SUBJECT-LIFE - 01/18/2015

Life Abundant!

“Eternity, not time, expresses the thought of Life, and time is no part of eternity. ... Time is finite; eternity is forever infinite. Life is neither in nor of matter. What is termed matter is unknown to Spirit, which includes in itself all substance and is Life eternal.” *Science and Health*, p 468 : 28-29, 30-3

This understanding that life is eternal was clearly demonstrated by Christ Jesus' resurrection; indeed he came to show mankind the Life abundant, Life without beginning or end!

This Truth has been of great comfort in recent years when a few family members passed on at very close intervals. Here again is a confirmation that Christian Science, understood, is the panacea for our world problems.

Know Ye Not?

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” 1 Cor 6:19
Sometimes I hear people struggling with what should be the right concept of their “body.” Mrs. Eddy in the glossary defines Temple as “Body; the idea of Life, substance and intelligence; the superstructure of Truth; the shrine of Love.” So think of your body as, first, “the temple of God, knowing that the Spirit of God dwells in you.”!!
Wow! Then realize it is the “idea of Life, substance and intelligence.” Amazing! Go on to see it as the “superstructure of Truth” and the “shrine of Love.” Think about what each one of these statements means. A definition of “superstructure” is “anything erected on a foundation or basis.” And “shrine” means “a case or box in which sacred things are deposited.”! So your body is based on Truth and sacred things are deposited there! I guarantee continually contemplating this correct concept of body will do so much more for you than all the mulling over about it in some material way – its bones, organs, weight, size etc. To paraphrase a verse in the lesson – “Loose it, and let it go.”!

The Spirit Which Is Of God

This week while working on our bible study questions I came across a statement that really caught my attention in a bible commentary. In effect it said that being around Jesus was never dull. It referred to his miracles and that he was a marked man. I am sure this doesn't even scratch the surface of examples.

For any weeks in our Roundtable discussions we have been going over what is needed to be a follower of Christ and obedient to God. Watchful, alert, never away from post or ill humored, and many others. None of which would be accomplished in a dull thought.

Def. of dull: tedious, monotonous, humdrum, mundane, lackluster, tired, bland, ease, barren, slow

I never really thought deeply, before now, what it would like to be around Jesus. From what I am learning here at Plainfield I know it was anything but dull. This consideration made me examine myself and ask, is my work dull or active? Am I floating humdrum along with current of thought, dreamy ease, mundane reading of lesson, tired watches, etc? Or am I striving "for that Mind which was also in Christ Jesus" (*Science and Health*, p. 497), expressing spiritual intelligence, even if in small steps? *****

Be Not Wise?

Bible: Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. Prov. 3:7

Thine own eyes = personal sense!

There are a million and one ways to remain healthy and add length to life according to personal sense. These beliefs are not wisdom.

Better to doubt and distrust personal sense rather than considering it wisdom.

So how does one live and what rules should we follow? A heart striving to find God, fearlessly overturning and rebuking error under whatever

mask it hides and refusing to hate when persecuted (for obeying) is a good place to start. *****

But I think this warfare is pretty tough. Watching and praying. I have found that error often tries to convince my while I am asleep, and if I try to keep sleeping it gets worse and tries to dominate me. So, I should get up, and fight, study, read, pray, walk the floor and stomp my foot and shake my fist! I would like to know if I am the only one who has experienced this. *****

I too have found myself at times needing to face down error at night. It has required firmness and persistence. I am also so grateful for Plainfield's website, especially the audios, which I have also turned to. This week I came across a statement in the Blue Book compiled by Richard Oaks where Mrs. Eddy tells a student, when wakened in the night, to "put on your clothes-----, and don't take them off until you have realized His Allness. Conquer the error. *****

Blessed Is The Man That Trusteth

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." Jer 17: 7,8

These verses are a beatitude to me, since I found that gaining complete trust in God is a great gain! I am grateful to have learned through Science to welcome all the challenges that come up as opportunities for me to gain greater trust in my unfailing Father-Mother!

The reward is worth every tear and all the nights I had to stay up weeping and seeking! *****

This passage in the lesson really stood out to me and I love how you call it a beatitude. It reminds me of a sentence that has been oft quoted, one that Mrs. Evans shared, "I am rooted and grounded in Love"--applied often to tooth problems, "My teeth

are rooted and grounded in Love"--which has brought many healings. I love the reassurance, simplicity and yet profound truth of that prayer. *** As each of us is a reflection of God, we can be sure of our being "rooted and grounded in Love" like that tree next to the living waters... It's our birthright as a child of God, and we need to claim it!*****

It is also a beautiful treatment for the belief of age -the false belief that we will get all dried up and shriveled and stop yielding fruit and want to retire!! Shall I go on?! When looked at like this it is laughable - mortal mind needs to be laughed at and debunked. No - for God's man only grows stronger, holier, healthier, wiser - better in every way! Like a tree planted by the waters.....*****

I too love this passage. When our spiritual roots are deeply established, we can be confident that all our needs will be met for we know the source of all our good. *****

Describe This "Pathway"

Proverbs: In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death. What does this pathway look like? What will a Scientist encounter?*****

From the 1828 dictionary, righteousness is defined: Purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law. righteousness as used in Scripture and theology, in which it is chiefly used, is nearly equivalent to holiness, comprehending holy principles and affections of heart, and conformity of life to the divine law. It includes all we call justice, honesty and virtue, with holy affections; in short, it is true religion.

And that would be what the pathway looks like. So, if a Scientist "conforms his heart and life to the divine law" ... it looks to me like he will encounter eternity!*****

In the way of righteousness we find our freedom--an unloosing from the shackles of "mortality". When we walk in that pathway, we truly have nothing to fear.