

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 37

SUBJECT- SPIRIT - 02/08/15

The Spirit of The Lord

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath appointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek: He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.” Each day we have opportunities to share this wonderful Truth of Christian Science with others. Sometimes it might come as an encouraging word, or a cheerful smile. Sometimes, it requires more. I would like to share an email sent to me from Arizona. He writes, “Just today I met a new caregiver. While talking, I discovered that she had been diagnosed with cancer. Besides this, her husband just had a seizure and is off work. She attends a church, so we talked about the synonyms for God. She knew nothing about Christian Science, so I introduced it to her. Reading a number of testimonies to her, she became very interested. I then offered her a Science and Health, which she accepted quite willingly. I then suggested that she start reading the Fruitage chapter. She went on her way and promised to start when she arrived at home. I am so grateful! I have now given out all my texts (*Science and Health*) and must order more.” The Lord created us to bless others. Is the Spirit of the Lord GOD upon you? It can be, you know!

The Natural Man

5. I Corinthians 2

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto

him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Today, when reading this, I felt that this “natural man” might be the person who finds certain skills—such as drawing or playing a sport—come really easily. Someone who others might call a “natural.”

I have had skills that came easily, and I didn’t understand “the things that are freely given to us of God”—and I definitely didn’t know how to spiritually discern anything—so after a while I thought it was all me. What a mistake! Such things mean nothing when the fire behind them goes out. If I had understood how these gifts were spiritual—how they were from God—I would have been grateful, and been able to progress. *****

The "natural man" refers to the human mind. It is lacking spiritual sense, which is why it cannot receive the things of Spirit. It is dull and uncomprehending. This is why Christian Science can get so misconstrued. The human mind cannot understand it, much less explain it!! *****

The human mind is unreal, self-deception, opposed to God, Truth. It is the illusion where all discords seem to be real. *****

Discernment

Number 5 in our lesson on Spirit - I Cor 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Mrs. Eddy refers to spiritual discernment in both *Science and Health* (95): " We approach God, or Life, in proportion to our spirituality, our fidelity to Truth and Love; and in that ratio we know all human need and are able to discern the thought of the sick and the sinning for the purpose of healing them. Error of any kind cannot hide from the law of

God."

In Miscellaneous Writings (2): "Goodness reveals another scene and another self seemingly rolled up in shades, but brought to light by the evolutions of advancing thought, whereby we discern the power of Truth and Love to heal the sick."

The challenge is to achieve advanced thought sufficiently to actually be able to heal and help others. *****

Christ Jesus demonstrated this advanced thought as one "in harmony with the truth of being," He never swerved from that pure thought about God's man; the real man. Mrs Eddy tells us to get self out of the way. What helps me is to live the Scientific Statement of Being and to ponder what Science and Health, the Bible etc. say about the real man; a few examples are these from *Science and Health*:

p. 63 Man is the offspring of Spirit

Man is the expression of Soul

Man is a child of God

Man is God's own likeness

p. 486 Man is the spiritual image and likeness of God

p. 481 Man is tributary to God, Spirit, and to nothing else *****

I was reading this just now, when I received a phone call. I became a little agitated over something that was said. I hung up the phone and read it again, my agitation immediately stopped and I began to feel love for the person who called. How wonderful is the healing power of Truth?

The other day I read in an article: From this secret place, the fruit of the Spirit takes root and grows (Galatians 5:22). We start to see our lives from an eternal perspective. Earthly frustrations lose significance.

I wondered about that and now it has been made clear. *****

God Is Not Influenced

Citation 12. 7 : 18-26

"If spiritual sense always guided men, there would grow out of ecstatic moments a higher experience and a better life with more devout self-abnegation and purity. A self-satisfied ventilation of fervent sentiments never makes a Christian. God is not influenced by man. The "divine ear" is not an auditory nerve. " *Science and Health*.

A better life: (found this statement this morning)
"Aspirations pure and God-ward, steadfast purpose, honesty, understanding, and independent action, alone fit us for the science of Life." First Edition *Science and Health*, p.178

God is not influenced:

Before Plainfield, I was not aware that most of my prayers were inadequate, shallow, and lacked true demonstration. I was trying to get out of a problem (serving the flesh), rather than know God better. My prayers were more in the category of trying to influence God, even when I thought it was for an unselfish purpose. I am learning that my heart must be right: truly repentant, un-selfed, trusting in God, surrendering of human will, and seeking to follow Him. I must get to know God, not just think about or read about Him. My prayers are becoming purer, more heartfelt, humble, believing, obedient, thanks to Plainfield and my practitioner here. *****

Woman of Samaria

John 4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

A beautiful Bible commentary (Ellicott) about this story:

"You stand by this deep well that for centuries has been God's gift of refreshment to man and beast; you have the means of drawing the water, and are thus the apparent benefactor to Him who asks for your aid. It is not really so. There is a deep well of spiritual truth in communion with God, as necessary for man's true life as water is for the natural life. I stand here with the means to draw, with the power to enter the depths hidden from man, and reveal to your spirit the Being of God. It is really you that are the traveler in the journey of life, weary with the burning heat of its trials, and travel-stained by the sins through which you have passed, thirsting in the

hopes and fears of that spirit that cannot rest apart from God, helpless at the very side of the well, for the Eternal is ever near you, and you know Him not. If you knew this gift of God, and knew Who it is that is now here to reveal it to you, you would have asked, and He would have given you that Spirit, which would have been in you as a fountain of living water." *****

Something else strikes me each time I read the story of this woman...her moral courage, which moved her to proclaim the Christ alone "for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." This is remarkable because she did not care what might be the consequences, as we have seen in the examples of others in the Bible, who also moved, solely impelled by the Christ! *****

SUBJECT - SOUL - 02/15/15

The Eldorado of Christianity

Dost thou "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind"? This command includes much, even the surrender of all merely material sensation, affection, and worship. This is the El Dorado of Christianity. It involves the Science of Life, and recognizes only the divine control of Spirit, in which Soul is our master, and material sense and human will have no place. *Science and Health*, p 9:17-24.

I take the El Dorado to mean the ultimate.... which one of Webster's 1828 definitions beautifully puts it as:

Final; being that to which all the rest is directed, as to the main object. The ultimate end of our actions should be the glory of God, or the display of his exalted excellence. The ultimate end and aim of men is to be happy, and to attain to this end, we must yield that obedience which will honor the law and character of God. *****

Teach Me Thy will

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God."

Sometimes when we earnestly desire to do the will of God but are not 100% sure of what that is – it is well to remember this statement. God is our Teacher. He desires to speak to us and to have His will expressed through us. If we humbly ask Him and put away all our preconceived notions and plans – He will teach us to do His will. What a comforting thought. *****

Be Careful For Nothing

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." This verse has always meant a lot to me because "be careful for nothing" means don't be anxious about anything. This verse goes on to give the perfect antidote for anxiety – prayer, supplication, thanksgiving, talking with the Father. So every time I was tempted to jump into "worry mode" – I would think about these things and came to the realization that time would be much better spent with acknowledging God's presence and power, with being grateful for His goodness and by knowing His Truth was in operation now correcting whatever problem I was confronted with. Yes, dwelling with Him is infinitely better than sinking into anxiety and it does lead to the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding." *****

"Let Your Moderation Be Known..."

"Let your moderation be known unto all men." Phil. 4:5

I've always wondered about this word "moderation", and took it to mean something like, avoid extremes.

I thought it was interesting that in the French Bible "douceur" (sweetness) was used in place of moderation, and other English Bible translations use words such as unselfishness, gentleness, kindness, graciousness, considerateness or reasonableness. This helped me to understand the passage better.

In the January Liberator magazine on page 6, Samuel Greenwood writes:

"God expects every man to do his duty; that is, to

express his full measure of sweetness, purity, love, goodness, and all the other Godlike qualities which make up the man of God's creating."

Interesting that the author started his list with sweetness! *****

I thought the same regarding the word, moderation; and I love these other definitions! Read this post first thing in the morning, and the idea of keeping "sweet" resolved a strained situation into love and peace!*****

As Mrs. Eddy points out, Shakespeare uses the word "sweet" --"Sweet are the uses of adversity" and Mrs. Eddy goes on to say, "Trials are proofs of God's care." That is demonstrated in the story of Hanna and recognizing this is consoling and encouraging as we walk forward. *****

Hannah's and Mary's Songs of Praise

There is a likeness in Hannah's song and the song of Mary:

Hannah's Song of Praise 1 Samuel 2:1-10 KJV:

1 And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord:

2 There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God

4 The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

5 They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased

6 he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.

Mary's Song of Praise Luke 41:46-55 KJV

1:46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

1:47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my

Saviour.

1:49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

1:51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

1:52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

1:53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. *****

Hannah's song should be a model for prayer. Something that can be applied in our daily life:

1-It starts with the power and all presence of God-praising God. Praising Him for Him.

2-Then going on with the destruction of error.

3-Ending again with the almighty power of God and His love.

No Satisfaction

Higher enjoyments alone can satisfy the cravings of immortal man. *Science and Health*, p. 61

No wonder something seems to be missing that we are all looking for. For the most part we have been looking in the wrong places.

When the understanding of Soul became clearer as my true identity, my interest in some things that I used to find important for my "happiness" faded away.

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

For more information visit:www.plainfieldcs.com

or write to :Plainfield Christian Science Church
PO Box 5619
905 Prospect Ave
Plainfield NJ 07061-5619