

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 41

SUBJECT- UNREALITY - 04/05/15

One's Consecration To Christ

“While respecting all that is good in the Church or out of it, one’s consecration to Christ is more on the ground of demonstration than profession.” It is very easy to talk a good game and that is why the Christ said, “Ye shall know them by their fruits.” But even then - even after all the good works Jesus performed the “Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do you stone me?”!! (John: 10) It is impossible to please the human mind. It doesn’t recognize the impersonal Christ, nor the good deeds that are performed, nor is it ever grateful for the good received from God. The human mind is always casting stones at what it cannot comprehend but this can only cause the “target” to rise up higher as is certainly exemplified by the resurrection of Christ Jesus. *****

At this past roundtable, I read from Mrs. Eddy’s notes from the class of 1889 (Collectanea Addenda page 27) in which she writes, “I never say a word I have not proven. If I theorize, I will tell you so. I can only show the way I have gone. I am only an Ambassador, a voice, to lead you into your own kingdom where God, the Truth, alone illumines every one according to his own degree.” To only speak what you have proven is a good measure to keep one on “the ground of demonstration” rather than profession. When someone speaks from his heart, from his own experience, his words ring out true and clear. Words without the gold of demonstration to back them up “become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.” (I Cor.) and we all know how annoying that can sound! Whether you are a novice or have been in Science for a lifetime, all are without excuse because each day God gives us many opportunities to

demonstrate, if we will only trust and obey. The many of you who speak at the Bible study, roundtable, Wednesday night meeting, and this forum - from the standpoint of demonstration, have so much good to share and it does bless others for it is heart speaking to heart. *****

Out of the Grips Of Hell

Psalm 16: 10-11 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life.

What a great privilege it is, to be saved from the grips of hell, chastened into purity and humility, in Christ's name, so that I may be blessed with everlasting Life. For this I owe endless gratitude. *****

Yes, I also can only be endlessly grateful when I think about what I have been delivered from and what I have been given to hold on to- an unchanging Principle of perfection which is my life; a standpoint from which to face every so called challenge. Thanks to this Web site and all the resources that aide in the discipline to stick to this Principle. *****

After reading the Dixon Letter, I more or less understand what happened to me lately. I was visiting friends in a remote area, and one early morning while my friend was milking his cows, I prayed with such conviction and realization of God’s goodness for the weather, that the weather did improve. The next day I saw a lady in the little church over there, who had a lot of mental anguish and instability, so, I prayed with so much Love, feeling the presence of God, and the lady improved, and still is better, they tell me. Then, out of the blue, I was attacked with a chest infection with high fever. Then, riding home on my motorbike, I suffered a bad fall.

Since there is no matter, these things were mental suggestions, attacks. I understand this clearly now.

But they were very real and deadly. I could not out-think them on my own.

I share this as a warning for us all, that error will try to do us in, if we are caught off guard for a moment. Science is not all rosy goody goody. We have seen how the organization has been infiltrated by A.M. The enemy will try to do the same to our Plainfield Church. *****

It was once told me the greater the good, the greater the opposition. Animal magnetism would always be at the heels of any right endeavor. God never gives us more than we can meet. Staying humble and knowing "the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works" (Christ Jesus) helps tremendously to avoid the snares of the devil. The reason we have the Bible studies and roundtables etc. is to help people see and avoid these pitfalls.... to stay always alert and on guard. Mrs. Eddy once said "There is no power apart from God, but we must declare against it as if it has all power." You can only be blessed by doing good - that is the law of God but we must declare for it. *****

Yes, to be part of this Church is enormously helpful, and effective. I have no trouble staying humble, but "the false consciousness that life inheres in the body" is a constant issue to work with. Yet: All is infinite GOOD, and its infinite manifestation. *****

Humility

I never saw it so clearly as I did when reading the lesson this week, that humility is an absolute requirement for having a clear spiritual sense. In the responsive reading, Jesus makes this point: "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge (spiritual sense): and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (humility)

Jesus had a perfectly clear spiritual sense. He heard God's voice clearly, and judged everything according to it. And then in the same sentence, he explains why his spiritual sense is so clear (his judgment is just), - he has no pride, no ambition to do other than the will of God. "By his obedience to

God, he demonstrated more spiritually than all others the Principle of being." (*Science and Health*, p. 25)

If I have an ounce of pride, it clouds my spiritual sense and prevents me from clearly hearing God's voice. I have seen over and over again instances in which people claim to be hearing God's voice, but are rather merely exercising human will. This is why I must constantly be on guard to its subtle suggestions. It is also why working together in unity can be so helpful. A prideful spirit tends to stick out like a sore thumb. People full of pride may think they are serving God, but they are really wasting their time, - or worse.

"Humility is lens and prism to the understanding of Mind-healing; it must be had to understand our textbook; it is indispensable to personal growth, and points out the chart of its divine Principle and rule of practice. Cherish humility, 'watch,' and 'pray without ceasing,' or you will miss the way of Truth and Love." (Misc. 356) *****

Humility also stood out to me. How many times do we barge ahead thinking we can do something without asking God? Can we do anything without God? If we answer yes, that is a human, prideful self and "Pride always goes before a fall." When we stop, listen for the "still, small voice", we get an answer that is always right and many times different than what we thought we should do.

Psalm 16:8 says, "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." The Moffatt translation says, "I keep the Eternal at all times before me; with him so close, I cannot fail." *****

I am forever grateful for how the need for humility and the caution against pride has always been emphasized in the teachings here. It's so easy to do good and not even recognize the prideful sense one might have therein.

And as someone wrote, one could even be prideful about being humble! I am grateful for the lessons learned about both humility and pride. *****

SUBJECT – ARE SIN, DISEASE, AND DEATH REAL? – 04/12/15

What's Real?

The Golden Text keeps speaking every time I read it: "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26. God, good, heals. God heals everything—no limitation. God heals everyone—no exception. Perfect God and perfect man. That is what is real forever. *****

Sudden Dismissal

"Treat a belief in sickness as you would sin, with sudden dismissal. Resist the temptation to believe in matter as intelligent, as having sensation or power." Last night, at our Wednesday meeting someone gave a good illustration of this Principle. When the symptoms of a cold presented themselves to her, she declared "I've not got cold!" (From Mrs. Eddy's article "I've Got Cold"). This quick dismissal of the problem led to healing. It is always best to nip an error in the bud. There is a story of a little boy asking his mother why they didn't destroy the big red dragon when it was only a little serpent?! Why indeed?! Error is never real, no matter how long it has seemed to exist or to have grown in proportion, but how much infinitely better it is to be alert and to quickly destroy its first lying suggestions - before it tries to mesmerize you even further!

Where Am I Planted?

"Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God." Psalm. 92

I found myself asking the question, "Where am I planted?" Am I planted in the house of the Lord? Or somewhere else? What is the soil that is the basis of my thinking and actions? Is it the good soil of honesty and meekness and charity in which the seed of Truth can spring up and be fruitful? Or is it the rocky soil of selfishness, self-righteousness, self-importance, in which the seed withers and dies?

We all plant ourselves somewhere, and it makes all the difference in how we grow (or don't). *****

It is so wonderful to think of flourishing in the courts of the Lord". Who wouldn't want to "grow in grace and good works" as one definition of flourish states. As pointed out in the above post, I can do this only if I am honest, humble, and loving. This seems very simple, but requires consistency and persistence. Sometimes it's not so easy.

By having the opportunity to contribute to this Forum, Bible Studies and Roundtable discussions, and activities afforded me by The Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent. I have the tools to help me grow spiritually, to be honest, and to love my brother, and I thank God for that! *****

Naturally and Necessarily

"The physical healing of Christian Science results now, as in Jesus time, from the operation of divine Principle, before which sin and disease lose their reality in human consciousness and disappear as naturally and necessarily as darkness give place to light and sin to reformation." I love this passage in Science and Health. If you are struggling with a problem, remember it is natural and necessarily right for it to disappear. Don't focus on the problem – focus on the light, God's Light of Truth and Love, for it is this Light alone which will dispel the darkness. Error wants you to focus on the problem – that only makes the darkness (mesmerism) seem all the more dark! Turn your face to the Light – dwell in the "secret place of the Most High" giving obedience to your heavenly Father. This Light of Love will dispel all that is unlike Himself.

Truth Made Manifest

John 9:3 Jesus answered, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

This Wisdom sent down from Heaven, has been my saving Grace. Ever since the day I came across this line during one of our Bible Studies, months ago, I learned that I have spent way too many years blaming, thinking that there was a power apart from

God and allowing that power to control what I believed about myself. Error is not Principle and has no power to Cause anything. Blaming left me blind to the Truth. When I stopped blaming, the Truth was made manifest in me. I forgave, knowing there was nothing in reality to forgive. The Christ/ Truth is the only reality. It is the reality of every man. Sin was never the truth about my parents or me.

For me, it was the key to the door I had to find the Moral Courage in order to open every Truth my Practitioner relayed to me, the Truth that healed me from the anguish, which was causing me to suffer. I am so grateful to be receiving this Truth.

The scientific effort is not to establish good, but to realize that good is already established as a present reality. True work is not to make good ever-present, but to awaken to recognize it. Demonstration is hard work only when it is the effort to do something. It becomes a buoyant and triumphant joy when it is the effort to recognize and realize that which God has already done. Only such a right endeavor will establish God's will on earth, as it is in heaven, and will be unlabored. (500 Watching Points, #149, Gilbert C. Carpenter)

Let God's Works Be Manifest

4. John 9

1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

As discussed in the April 11th, 2015 Bible Study, the blind man (after his healing) was brought before the Pharisees and showed courage, gratitude, and understanding while explaining how Jesus healed him. I am very grateful for that discussion.

I feel the question that the disciples asked about who sinned may actually have been picked right

from the blind man's thought. Perhaps he had been taught that he or his parents were to blame, and couldn't help but fixate upon that. If so, then Jesus' answer would have shifted the blind man's perspective enough to enable his healing—to let go of past beliefs and let God's works be manifest.

Christian Science has sometimes brought me freedom from past beliefs simply by introducing subtle changes into how I think. Prior to coming here, my world felt so small, as though it was just me and my problems, and I could never move beyond them in that confined space. Yet the reality is God has so much more in store and there is no need to feel trapped if I (we!) seek His Will every day. The teachings in Plainfield—with a lot of practitioner support—have certainly opened my eyes to many things, and I am incredibly grateful for each obstacle overcome. It's an amazing opportunity to be here, learning and growing in Spirit. Thank you. *****

The Righteous Shall Flourish

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree..." Barnes commentary beautifully illustrates this:

"The palm grows slowly, but steadily, from century to century, uninfluenced by those alternations of the seasons which affect other trees. It does not rejoice overmuch in winter's copious rain, nor does it droop under the drought and the burning sun of summer. Neither heavy weights which people place upon its head, nor the importunate urgency of the wind, can sway it aside from perfect uprightness. There it stands, looking calmly down upon the world below, and patiently yielding its large clusters of golden fruit from generation to generation. They 'bring forth fruit in old age.'

Solomon covered all the walls of the 'holy of holies' round about with palm trees. They were thus planted, as it were, within the very house of the Lord; and their presence there was not only ornamental, but appropriate and highly suggestive; the very best emblem, not only of patience in well-doing, but of the rewards of the righteous - a fat and flourishing old age - a peaceful end - a glorious immortality."