

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 43

SUBJECT: EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT

5/3/15

Presumptuous Sins

Before coming to Plainfield, I thought fear was to be expected. Now I know that it is presumptuous sin! What a wakeup call, thanks to a practitioner and the teaching done at the Bible Studies and Roundtable. Although there is much work to be done on my part, it is actually a relief to confront this issue of fear. *****

There can be no greater freedom than freedom from fear.

I think the key to this freedom is found in I John 4. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear." It goes on, but this is what I always remember.

"Love is the liberator." (*Science and Health*)

Be Ye Angry?

How can I be angry and not sin? Anger on a personal level is full of sin. Mrs. Eddy tells us to not be offended unless the offence be against God. The instruction to be angry and not sin tells me to not be asleep to the claims of error, but to refresh and cleanse my heart so that the sun will "not go down upon your wrath". So I find myself getting angry with any inclination to justify myself or be judgmental of others. Again, Mrs. Eddy tells us that the warfare with one's self is grand. So there is nothing like a good cleansing of the heart to get things going in the right direction. *****

The money changers in the temple were an offense

to God. Jesus always rebuked error in whatever form it presented itself. His motive, however, was always Love. He was never handled by hatred, which is what usually accompanies anger. Mrs. Eddy's definition of "Jesus" in the Glossary is "the highest human corporeal concept of the divine idea, rebuking and destroying error and bringing to light man's immortality." *****

I certainly was handled by hatred for many years, and I tried to counteract it using a variety of methods with not much success. Christian Science, however, has given me the tools to put the hatred and anger to a stop. Before I was trying to modify my identity, and now I see that hate is a trait of mortal mind. I don't need to identify with it, I need to recognize it and cast it out. What a huge, important, and useful difference.

When something starts to handle me, as soon as I recognize it, I assert that God is the only Mind, and anything else that seems pertinent from what I have learned here. I also give myself a little punishment, because I can't be going around without my armor on.

For example: If I am driving and become upset, I slow down or pull over to let everyone go. When I first started, I was pulling over every day. Sometimes twice! Now it is once a month, maybe. As time goes on, I hold myself more accountable by pulling over for longer. No part of how I used to drive was a blessing for anyone!

Because of this, the time between a situation arising and when I begin to handle it with Truth is almost immediate most of the time. I can't fully express how grateful I am, especially looking back on the decades when I thought anger was a defect I could never rid myself of. The lies mortal mind tells! I am so grateful for God sending me here, and for Christian Science being 100% effective against every struggle I have ever had. Thank you. *****

"I can't fully express how grateful I am, especially looking back on the decades when I thought anger was a defect I could never rid myself of. The lies mortal mind tells!"

Eph. 4:26-27 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

Verse 27 means a lot. I see how I was in complete ignorance and disobedience to this, when I identified myself as a "fearful person" going from practitioner to practitioner seeking healing for "my anxiety." This is the devil (that kind of thinking) which we must never give place to. It is a deceiving lie which can have one so attached to the very thing (be it physical claim or a mental one) he/she seeks to heal. It is a claim, a belief, NOT THE TRUTH about anyone; and must be seen as such.

We must so treasure our spiritual nature (the model Jesus held to consistently) that once we recognize the anger, pride, selfishness, envy, jealousy, we also quickly know they are not a part of us. What is not a part of the original, God, the reflection, man cannot have! Thus we go forward to demonstrate the Truth of being with the correct basis of Perfect God, perfect man. *****

Yes, I get angry and/or upset by the claims of evil to reality, coming to me as this world, the news, politics, injustice, hate, cruelty, violence, etc. But as written above, we should not give place to the devil...meaning not to believe in its reality, but always know it is just nothingness making a lot of noise. I understand I must keep it out of my consciousness. If divine Love is All-in-all, I must try to BE that Mind which was also Christ Jesus. (the omittance of "in" is intentional.)

Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Righteousness can sound like religious jargon, but the true meaning is justice, fair and equitable dealing. Filled also means satiated, fed, satisfied.

I get angry a whole lot less than I used to, LOL.

I have begun thinking of anger in this way. On my climb up the mountain, there sits a boulder labeled anger. I think this cannot be too hard. I will just reach up and grab it (heal it, handle it with my hands, engage in a conversation with it, rebuke it) and toss it off the mountain so I can climb higher. So I reach out, grab on, and find out that it is too heavy (has separated me from pure thought, because I saw it as something needing handling) and has now knocked me off balance. I am in d-anger, because I engaged in it, instead of knowing the Truth that its nature has already indicated its fall. "Error uncovered is two-thirds destroyed and the remaining third destroys itself" (*Science and Health*). If I have it in my hand while it is falling, then I am letting it handle me and take me down with it.

Martha Wilcox, Association Address of 1938 "Error is powerless, ... When we see the mesmerism of inertia in thinking, both in ourselves and in others, we cannot afford to give it power; neither should we try to force the demonstration of its powerlessness. We must not admit that this seeming upheaval is possible, or is going on "because one's thought and conduct do not afford a sufficient defense against it," as Mrs. Eddy states in Miscellany. *****

Every Sin Must Be Uprooted

Matt 15:13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

Jesus said this when the disciples told Him the Pharisees would be offended because he emphasized the importance of what comes out of a man's heart as opposed to the attention given to superficial laws that do not bring man closer to God.

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Mrs. Eddy says in Science and Health, p. 79, "Science must go over the whole ground, and dig up every seed of error's sowing.

Jesus said "shall be rooted up", not "should be rooted up"! So it's inevitable, and Science has given us the tools to do so.

What happens when we don't get rid of noxious plants or weeds? They will grow, go to seed, and spread. Then--as anyone with experience getting rid of a garden taken over by weeds will know--it takes tremendous effort to clean up the mess!

But when I do make the effort to rid myself of errors--whether it be selfishness, criticism, not holding my tongue when I should have, or perhaps a "secret fault", something I wasn't even aware of--this will cleanse and bring harmony and allow me to better express myself as a child of God, and thereby bless others. *****

I like the fact that it is inevitable. Science will root out all false beliefs - whether we like it or not.

Every plant (idea) that I take into consciousness has an effect on me. If the plant (idea) is of God, it is true, real, and good, and has a beneficial effect on my being. If it is not of God, it is not true, not good, and will have a detrimental effect on me (or someone near and dear to me), until I let Science root it out.

Science works! The only question is whether I let it work in my life or resist it's working. We have a great treasure in Science. Let it work! *****

Motive

"The Judaic religion consisted mostly of rites and ceremonies. The motives and affections of a man were of little value, if only he appeared to fast. The great Nazarene, meek as he was mighty, rebuked the hypocrisy, which offered long petitions for

blessings upon material methods, but cloaked the crime latent in thought." There is a reason why Mrs. Eddy gave us the daily duties! There is a reason why we are bidden to do them daily! A Rule for Motives and Acts instructs us daily to be ever mindful of our motives! Is divine Love alone governing me or am I being impelled by animosity or mere personal attachment? Those impulsions can creep up if I become unalert and all the "nice" words or deeds or "church work" can never cover up an impure motive! *****

SUBJECT – ADAM AND FALLEN MAN 5/10/15

Indestructible Relationship

This is such an awesome statement, and every time I read it, it provides the most comforting reassurance:

"The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law, in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history."

This is so uplifting to contemplate! Instead of identifying with fallen man, and all the vicissitudes of the human arena, I can know that my relationship with God is indestructible through eternity! That to me is the "secret place of the most high" of the 91st Psalm, a place I can always find refuge, comfort, and true identity. *****

This is a special thought to have all the time, in whichever way it rings true to one's heart. I used to repeat to myself statements like this:

My hand is in His hand.

I keep my thought on my unity with God.

I couldn't be separate from Him if I wanted to.

I am His reflection now.

These have helped me to hold fast to the truth of man's inseparability from God. I've found this so helpful since it is always the underlying sense of being separate from God that starts the anxiety, fear and other sinful thoughts! *****

Here are a few of my favorites that remind me of God being right here, right now:

"I and my Father are one. The Father that is in me, He doeth the works. The Father hath not left me alone." (So utterly comforting!)

"God is closer to me than the air that I breathe!"
(That's pretty close)

"I walk with Love along the way, and O, it is a holy day; No more I suffer cruel fear, I feel God's presence with me here..." (Hymn 139)

I'm grateful to have learned these practical ways to stay my thought on God. *****

A dream narrative

"The history of error is a dream narrative. The dream has no reality, not intelligence, no mind, therefore, the dreamer and dream are one. Neither is true nor real." It is important to remember this when dealing with error. If you saw someone struggling and tossing in a night dream you would wake him up, not join in him that dream-state. So it is, – the Adam dream might appear quite atrocious and real, but our job is always to recognize it IS a dream, an illusion, and to be part of the waking up process not part of the problem by believing the whole thing to be true! This is what Mrs. Eddy meant when she said we must "succeed in breaking the mesmerism" or you have not kept your watch! Destroy the illusion in your own thought! Know it not to be part of God's creation - therefore a lie, an imposter! *****

A Testimony

A testimony I read in the book "Spiritual Healing

in a Scientific Age," by Robert Peel. A C.S. couple decided to adopt a new-born baby, against the prognosis of the doctors, who had diagnosed the child as having no chances for survival, with brain damage and a very sick body.

I just write it down from memory. So now what? Instantaneous healing? No, they slugged it out, 24/7, for many years, and the child kept improving and healing, bit by bit, victory after victory, until the healing was complete when it was a teenager. Their unflinching trust in God, good, brings tears to my eyes... *****

Such are those who come with their whole heart; to know and love God. They didn't care how long it took because their motive was pure; just to seek God. It touches the heart! *****

To me, this beautiful healing definitely has something to do with the lesson, Adam and the Fallen Man. The Doctor was looking to matter, which "could afford him no aid", thus he gave up. Fortunately, the parents did not accept this lie and relied totally on God for help. In *Science in Health*, p 444:9 we read, "Step by Step will those who trust Him find that, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The healing of this child is proof-positive our God will never fail us! These trusting parents knew this and I am sure were so grateful for the "step-by-step" progress they were seeing. *****

Thanks for the thread! It does show how one who comes to find God, serve and trust Him, keeps going even when "the storm keeps roaring."

Hymn 148 says: The storm may roar without me,
My heart may low be laid,
But God is round about me
And can I be dismayed?

Their gaze is on something more precious, understanding God and seeing your true self, which has none of what error is presenting (in belief). ***

The couple in the testimony certainly didn't live in the "Adam dream" and give me courage to be more "pure in heart" in order to see God lived in such an awesome way as they demonstrated. This testimony also makes me humbly lower me head.