

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 50

SUBJECT: SOUL - 08/16/2015

He Restoreth My Soul

While reading the Lesson this week, a thought came gently.....my soul is safe because of Soul, God. Seeking understanding and realizing that Soul reveals and delivers because..." He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name sake." Not human effort but Grace. "Bless the Lord, O my soul" *****

Forever Unlimited

"Science reveals the glorious possibilities of immortal man, forever unlimited by the mortal senses."

Many years ago, Mrs. Evans taught us to put the word "unlimited" after our name. This reminds us, that when we are thinking with God, we are capable of glorious possibilities for good. *****

Cherish Humility

"The apostle says: 'For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.' This thought of human, material nothingness, which Science inculcates, enrages the carnal mind and is the main cause of the carnal mind's antagonism." I would sometimes wonder why is there so much opposition and resistance to God? To a Good God?! And here, Mrs. Eddy lays it out. The human mind wants to be god! It wants all the glory and praise and recognition for itself. Mrs. Eddy also says in the lesson that mortals believe themselves to be "independent workers, personal authors, and even privileged originators of something which Deity would not or could not create." So there you have it. This egotistical sense of self, this huge prideful desire to be the biggest and the greatest, claiming a big puffy selfhood apart from God – is enraged by God and His

Christ! Bad, bad place to be. "Cherish humility..." MBE. This week's watching point #416 speaks well to this point! *****

I love what this week's watching point says about humility. "The way to build through spiritual power and to build up confidence in spiritual power is first to know that of yourself you can do nothing. Then you must realize that because the power of God is with you, you can do all things." Thank you God! *****

Thank you! The longer we work in science the more clear it becomes that human pride or envy are pointless, and that submission to God's will is the only way to find fulfillment. As our Master, Christ, explained, "I am meek and lowly in heart." *****

Saul To Paul

Every day I learn more from our Weekly Bible Lesson, and this week by Friday I started to think about hope. Saul was sinful, arrogant, and cruel, and yet God snatched him up and changed (purified) him to become a servant for Love..sending him all over to spread the Gospel telling about the Kingdom at hand as preached by Christ Jesus. And I John says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. "What a glorious declaration of hope for us to be purified in order that we too may become God's servants. *****

The Real Man- The Christ Man

316 : 3-7 The real man being linked by Science to his Maker, mortals need only turn from sin and lose sight of mortal self-hood to **find Christ, the real man** and his relation to God, and to recognize the divine son-ship.

The Christ is the real man! Do I see myself as this real man? Only when I endeavor to destroy carnal mind's lies about who I am, can I stay in the right Mind and dwell in the presence of Truth and Love.

I must know this: that I am this Christ-man, Soul-man, a spiritual idea of God- in this man is NO THING discordant. Right now is this man perfect, complete and fulfilled; finding and expressing beauty, joy, harmony and contentment. This man is Love in action. *****

Forms Only Reflect

The first citation in this week's lesson on soul is as follows:

"Soul is synonymous with Spirit, God, the creative, governing, infinite Principle outside of finite form, which forms only reflect."

The word form stood out so I looked it up in the Webster 1828 Dictionary.

form (noun) 1. shape or external appearance
4. beauty, elegance, splendour, dignity
5. regularity, method, order
10. likeness, image
11. manner, system

form (verb) 1. to make or cause to exist

This helped me to see that form was not finite or material, but spiritual, God created and Godlike.

Proportionate Admission

"Our proportionate admission of the claims of good or of evil determines the harmony of our existence, — our health, our longevity, and our Christianity." After reading this, I asked myself "what beliefs am I admitting TO?" -- beliefs about heredity, age, temperament, personality, or the past? Also, "what am I admitting IN, to my thinking?" -- impatience, pride, criticism, competitiveness, etc., etc., etc. Gave me a lot to think about. Working to be more diligent in admitting only claims of good.

Thank you for a very thought-provoking lesson this week. ***

Thanks for this important post!

From Webster's 1828:

Admit: To allow; to receive as true; as, the argument or fact is admitted.

Accept To take or receive what is offered, with a consenting mind; to receive with approbation or favor.

Someone asked recently if we have to accept that we are spiritual without understanding it. If we do not accept a Principle, how would we set out to prove it? The acceptance/admission of the Truth of being (as spiritual) must predominate my thinking then I can humbly put into practice the daily duties that make this truth clear!

Questioning the Truth of my real being as spiritual, just because I did not understand it, led to unnecessary confusion and delay in being led to a higher understanding of what is true about me and all. If I came truly empty ("Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven) willing to be filled, such delay in humanly trying to understand something entirely spiritual, would have been avoided. All I had to do was to turn to God each time and ask for understanding. It was all mortal mind's subtle ways to hinder my spiritual growth! *****

Brother Saul

I realized today that Ananias had to have a spiritual sense of love and forgiveness in his heart in order to have approached and healed Saul of blindness.

There certainly were many possible human reasons and emotions to justify staying away. He is a powerful example of faith, love, good will, and obedience. Casual religion could not accomplish that.

"One of the most helpful and necessary footsteps to be taken in bringing the blessings of a forgiving spirit into our lives is the recognition of the true child of God and of the false basis of the error. Let

us take this thought of forgiveness, make it practical, and see how often the seeming hatred, jealousy, or whatever the wrong thought may be, will disappear. We shall come to the point where our thought goes out in love and pity toward those who would harm us, knowing that we are safe and that a wrong thought only hurts the one who harbors it. Gradually, we learn that others cannot harm us unless they make us think wrong, and we fail to let Truth and Love control our thought.

Another beautiful example of forgiveness is presented to us in the account of Stephen, when he was stoned for his faith in Christ's teachings. This prayer was similar to that of our Master on the cross,—“Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.” History repeated itself when, in the midst of unjust criticism and cruel misrepresentation, in an article entitled “Harvest,” which appeared in the Independent (Nov. 22, 1906), our Leader, Mrs. Eddy, wrote, “Those words of our dear, departing Saviour, breathing love for his enemies, fill my heart: ‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.’”

Excerpt from FORGIVENESS by GEORGE I. FISKE.

From the August 21, 1909 issue of the Christian Science Sentinel. *****

SUBJECT – MIND 08/23/15

A Sound Mind

“God hath given us the spirit of a sound mind.” (II Timothy) A sound mind means calm, well-balanced, disciplined, and under God’s control. This lesson brings out clearly that “brain” is not mind. We don’t have to be up and down and all around with the whims of material sense. No one has to suffer with depression, bi-polar disease, autism, memory loss or any other so-called “brain damaged” problems! For it is well to remember the Divine Mind is the One and only Mind! When we feel undisciplined, we can turn to this Mind, our Father-Mother God – whether you need help to refuse a second piece of pie or more importantly

with loving your neighbor as yourself. Know this Mind is your mind. Practice it daily. Destroy the lies of the devil with the Truth! Yours is not the spirit of fear – but of power and of love and of a sound mind!

A helpful reminder from Mrs. Eddy (Unity of Good page 24) “My Mind is divine good, and cannot drift into evil. To believe in many minds is to depart from the supreme sense of harmony. Your assumptions insist that there is more than the one Mind, more than the one God; but verily I say unto you, God is All-in-all; and you can never be outside of His oneness.” *****

This is beautifully written and a great reminder for me and many others. Actually it is more than a reminder, but an explanation and guide as to how to avoid the trap of depression etc. There is a diagnosis of bipolar disorder in my family and I continually pray to understand God's gift of sound mind ... given to all his children. I once read that a sound mind is deeply undisturbed.

Thank you. *****

“A helpful reminder from Mrs. Eddy (Unity of Good page 24) “My Mind is divine good, and cannot drift into evil. To believe in many minds is to depart from the supreme sense of harmony.”

Your assumptions insist that there is more than the one Mind, more than the one God; but verily I say unto you, God is All-in-all; and you can never be outside of His oneness.”

Wow, putting it that way, who would want to “depart from the supreme sense of harmony”? Nobody in their right mind! Thank you for sharing this, it is very helpful, especially for situations where there appears to be a difference of opinion. The one Mind always has a perfect solution for all parties involved, on all sides of the table. What a great way to prepare for meetings, by holding to these truths! *****

And of course the entire verse reads, “God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” A practitioner gave me this verse years ago when I suffered from chronic fear – an “unclean spirit” that needed to be cast out. She

said to work with this statement not just once or twice but many times throughout the day. I had always thought Bible verses were helpful but needed to UNDERSTAND they are the very WORD OF GOD. I needed to love this verse, to live this verse, and to make it practical in my daily walk. And so - when I would feel fear I would replace it with knowing that God loves me and as His child I have the ability to forget self and to love others. I would think about God being power – the one and only power. There was no other so-called power to be afraid of and I could prove this! And then finally to know that I have a sound mind - I CAN discipline myself to “stand porter at the door of thought” (S&H) and not accept all kinds of unfiltered negative suggestions as my thinking, but to destroy them as an imposter and to know I do have the mind of Christ! This consistent process is the renewing of your mind the Bible speaks about. It is living God’s Word. It is something wonderful to strive for every single day - for the results will amaze you! *****

I have always loved this quote from Timothy. God has given us power, love and a sound mind? Really? God gave all of that to us? This is so amazing! What more do we need? What more could we want? We have it all!! Thank you Father!

From my experience, when a person is under the delusion that they have no control over what thoughts appear within their mind, it is very difficult to think anything else but those thoughts. It takes the power of God/ Love to break the mesmerism. When I first came here, I was under the delusion that many minds had control over me and all I could do was bounce around like a pinball, acting out whatever they suggested. I had no idea who I was, because I could not recognize or hold on to the sound Mind, the steady, reliable Mind that expresses Good. It took the Truth given to me by a strong and Loving Practitioner, to cast out those demons. It took strong prayer, and WORK. I never worked so hard on anything in all of my life. Now, I am not troubled by constant chatter and suggestions, now, through persistent study, help from my practitioner, I can discern the voice of God. The only voice I must listen to and obey. The

only voice there is. My behavior has changed, my outlook on life has changed, and I know that I am the living expression of God, the expression of a sound Mind. *****

Let This Mind Be In You

Philippians 2:5 says, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Christ Jesus obeyed his Father. He rebuked error. He didn’t look the other way or be nicey nice. He hit error head on and so must we. We must reverse error in our own thought consistently. We must speak up as God directs. This will heal all problems for everyone, everywhere and in all situations. We must persist until all evil is destroyed. This is letting this mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus.

In My Right Mind

Forget all the carnal mind arguments: I can't understand, I'm losing my mind, it is too difficult etc.... I declare I am in my right Mind because it is the ONLY mind I can be in, in Truth. The Bible tells me so. 1 Cor 2:16 But we have the mind of Christ. Do I accept this Truth and endeavor to stay in this Mind? *****

This is why the study of Science is so essential. The spirit of a sound mind is given to us by God. It is not given to us by our parents. It is not learned in school. In fact, what most of us learned in school contradicts this. Our psychology classes teach that we have personality traits, strengths and weaknesses, and problems generally inherited from our families, then analyzed and coped with; and if they are too severe, to be drugged.

“The Science of Mind-healing shows it to be impossible for aught but Mind to testify truly or to exhibit the real status of man.” (*Science and Health*) This Science lifts thought above these false beliefs to the recognition of what is really true about you and me (if we let it!). Paul says “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Let it! Allow it to be your mind! It’s the only Mind there is, and it is right there (everywhere!) waiting for you to

accept it. It may seem like hard work at times, but it's worth it! *****

SUBJECT- CHRIST JESUS - 08/30/15

Friend, Wherefore Art Thou Come?

4. Matthew 26

47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, ...

49 came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

Upon reading how Jesus said "Friend, wherefore art thou come?" to Judas, I was reminded of "And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?" (Genesis 3:9)

In both cases, it seems they were saying "Where have your beliefs brought you?"

As mentioned in the August 23rd, 2015 Roundtable:

A wicked mortal is not the idea of God. He is little else than the expression of error.

— from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy, page 289

Before coming to the church, I was so lost. Not even I knew where I was. There was no comfort there—no relief in mortal mind. I did a lot of stupid, cruel, thoughtless things in that state. I can't say I was less of an expression of error than Judas: We either express error or Truth.

I was definitely not expressing Truth or Love before, but God found me and brought me here to learn Christian Science. What a blessing! To be given the opportunity to learn and to be useful is wonderful and to be part of this mission to bring God's message to all mankind is something I am grateful for every day. Thank you! *****

I love that thought - "Where have your beliefs

brought you?!" Good question to ask ourselves when we seem to be dictated by beliefs. Where am I going with these aggressive suggestions and is it a place I want to be?!

I was also taken by this passage because even though Jesus well knew what Judas was up to, even though he knew him to be part of the most treacherous and malicious plot and betrayal to have taken place in the history of mankind, Jesus called him, – Friend. This totally exemplifies the compassion of Christ, the Love of God flowing forth even during the worst human situation ever. *****

What a contrast between what Jesus said to Judas and what Judas did to Jesus.

Judas was apparently going through the motions of following Jesus. Judas would never have accepted the 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus if he truly loved him. He felt some remorse after they took Jesus away by going back to the temple and throwing the silver at the chief priests and elders. But who did he confess his sins to? Mortal mind and mortal mind couldn't care less. He needed to get down on his hands and knees and beg continually for God's forgiveness and seek out Jesus and stand with him, demonstrating his complete love and devotion. Instead, being completely immersed in mortal mind, he took the cowards way out and hung himself.

In *Science and Health* we read..."mind in matter is the author of itself... and the only power of evil is to destroy itself."*****

Judas

This is a tough lesson – but that is good. We need tough lessons as well as the more comforting ones to challenge our thought and to clear out the cobwebs of mortal mind. Gilbert Carpenter has much to say about the Judas thought in Precepts and his ideas are well worth thinking about. (This week's watching point on the carousel is also an excellent one about Judas.)

"Judas, the disciple, was selected because he showed possibilities of being an influence for good but evidently he allowed his satisfaction in being

selected to take the place of demonstration. Actually, the demand of God upon him was to clean house, which he neglected to do. There were some old errors which he did not touch; the result was that they tripped him up and, eventually destroyed him.” (Precepts 1 page 218)
I have seen those who have desired positions in church, but have not progressed enough to be able to handle the animal magnetism that comes after them once in that position. This is why it is always important to let God do the promoting and not seek a position you have not fully earned by demonstration. *****

Mrs. Eddy was once asked why Jesus did not heal Judas and her reply was Judas was not healable. That may seem harsh to some, but in the malicious and gross state of mortal mind Judas was in, he was not at all receptive to God’s healing Truth. This goes back to what we discussed at our roundtable on Sunday, “A wicked mortal is not the idea of God. He is little else than the expression of error.” (*Science and Health*) There is no way in which to “heal” error. All error can do is destroy itself – which is a good thing! God’s child, of course, can never be destroyed – only all the false beliefs about God’s child will ever be destroyed. I can only trust in some way and at some time Judas woke up to his real self. *****

Mrs. Eddy says in Collectanea (page 19) "A 'Judas' is necessary (as a type) to uncover evil. Evil must be uncovered in order to bring out or prove Truth. Judas's betrayal aided in bringing forth the resurrection!

"He (Jesus) was to prove that the Christ is not subject to material conditions, but is above the reach of human wrath, as is able to triumph over sin, sickness, death, and the grave." (*Science and Health*) *****

All that any lie can do eventually is lead one to Truth. *****

Is It I?

In the lesson this week, we read that Judas asks Jesus this question. We also find before this the disciples also asked the same thing.

"And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?"
Matt. 26:22

While Judas knew the answer to his question, the disciples seem sincere.

I came across an article with this topic in mind and below is an excerpt from it.
THE PEARL OF LOYALTY by F. E. MASON.
From the May 1888 issue of The Christian Science Journal
"As the disciples sat with Jesus at the Passover they asked the question, Is it I? This they asked because he had spoken of treason among them.... This question, Is it I? is a question to be answered now. Let our daily prayer be the prayer of David, a prayer for sincerity: 'Search me, oh God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts.'... Continually moving onward and upward, we shall never betray our Master. It is a question of self; we must each work out our own salvation. Christian Science does not bid us be better than our neighbors, but better than ourselves, striving each day to live nearer God than the day before."

I realized from this last line I must not focus on Judas as a weak man or compare myself to him personally but continually search my heart that no evil may find place or activity in my thought (a full time job), a lesson continually brought home in the bible, Mrs. Eddy's writings, and here at Plainfield.

Love’s Caring Presence

God pours the riches of His love into the understanding and affections, giving us strength according to our day.

Very simply stated but profound and comforting if taken into the heart. *****

This verse impressed me, too, this week. "Strength according to our day." No matter how difficult our day may seem to be, if we focus on God and His love for us, instead of dwelling on any difficulties we may be having, we'll get the blessing, and grow!! Thank God for the tough places; they force us onward and upward, and bless us beyond words.
