

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: MAN - 09/06/2015**

## **Man, What Love Says We Are**

*Science and Health*, p 263 Carnal beliefs defraud us. They make man an involuntary hypocrite, — producing evil when he would create good, forming deformity when he would outline grace and beauty, injuring those whom he would bless.

What a great Lesson on Man. Thanks to the writer. It gives us the conclusion: "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

If anyone takes this Lesson and ponders what these citations say with a willing heart to obey the truths within, this can amount to wonderful spiritual growth.

Instead of such simple obedience, I was blinded earlier on in my study, with the false sense of always thinking some other Truth was needed from some other book etc. for my growth and healing. This is a subtle deception! It made me at times not listen to what my practitioner would say; but go off reading and searching other CS literature, while disobeying the simple truths. Don't buy it! Stick to the Truth of being...it is all laid out. This is part of enduring to the end and brings great rewards!

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I, too, have been guilty of looking to other works in my effort to overcome problems. While Christian Science articles are helpful and inspiring, they are no substitute for the Bible and *Science and Health*.

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## **Christ Jesus, Who Threw Upon Mortals**

"The divine nature was best expressed in Christ Jesus, who threw upon mortals the truer reflection

of God and lifted their lives higher than their poor thought-models would allow,"

I was curious as to why Mrs. Eddy chose the word "threw," and after praying, these thoughts of "threw" came to me: 1) to throw light upon something makes things more visible and clearer; 2) to throw a blanket on something comforts and warms one, and makes one feel more loved and secure; 3) to throw water on someone, wakes them up, and doses any destructive fire.

I'm so grateful to Mrs. Eddy for this inspired textbook. \*\*\*\*\*

## **Become As Little Children**

"Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Christ Jesus) On pages 53-54 of the First Edition of *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy lists three footsteps to enable us to become receptive to Truth. I think it is so significant that the very first one she mentions is "to become as a little child, - the second one is "purity" which she calls the "foundation of the science of life," and the third footstep is to "put into practice what we already possess." Receptivity to Truth is very important because unless we are receptive to God and to all the good He is constantly pouring forth for us to receive - we shut Him out (in belief). Little children are so naturally receptive and trusting, innocent, joyful and good. It is well to remember not to lose those childlike qualities which Christ Jesus so greatly valued for they give entrance to the kingdom of heaven!

"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. \*\*\*\*\*

Matthew Henry Commentary:

Matthew 18:1-6 "Christ spoke many words of his sufferings, but only one of his glory; yet the disciples fasten upon that, and overlook the others. Many love to hear and speak of privileges and glory, who are willing to pass by the thoughts of work and trouble. Our Lord set a little child before them, solemnly assuring them, that unless they were converted and made like little children, they could not enter his kingdom. Children, when very young, do not desire authority, do not regard outward distinctions, are free from malice, are teachable, and willingly dependent on their parents.... Surely we need to be daily renewed in the spirit of our minds that we may become simple and humble, as little children, and willing to be the least of all. Let us daily study this subject, and examine our own spirits." \*\*\*\*\*

The audience Jesus was speaking to needed to be converted, because they did not have the humble, child-like qualities expressed here. It makes me question, "Do I trust God completely with everything in my life"? Without fear and without doubt? Or do I have nagging fears and doubts that I can trust divine Truth, Life, and Love with everything in my experience. This means to return evil with good, return hate with love, return illness with the conviction that life is immortal. It means to get rid of all human will. I don't know about you, but I find this to be quite a challenge!

But, since God is good and he gives us dominion over all the earth, why not trust Him completely? Greatness does not result from human ability or accomplishment. It is the result of perfect obedience to Him who is great. Humility, then, is the greatest strength. When blinded by the light on the road to Damascus, Paul was brought to his knees in humble obedience to God. That humble state of receptivity and trust enabled him to be of great use to God. No wonder Mrs. Eddy had so much respect for Paul. He made a huge change and went on in spite of his human education and upbringing, all of which he referred to as dung! \*\*\*

## Duty To God

This week a new co-worker caught me being negative several times. After this a statement in our lesson, this week, stood out boldly-"love God and keep His commandments."

If I wanted to be obedient and do my duty, I realize I need to watch my mental state. Certainly negative thinking is not loving. The casual comments seemed somewhat harmless and normal at times. I looked up the meaning of some of these types of thought.

Pessimism -1. A tendency to stress the negative or unfavorable or to take the gloomiest possible view:  
2. The doctrine or belief that this is the worst of all possible worlds and that all things ultimately tend toward evil.  
3. The doctrine or belief that the evil in the world outweighs the good.

Sarcasm- Venting your rage, the use of irony to mock or convey contempt

They were the opposite of gratitude, trust in God, hope, joy, goodness, etc.

For a long time I have been aware of the need to change my negative thinking and for years I tried human will power. Seeing the definition of these behaviors shocked me into a deeper sense of the need to stop this if I want to love God with my whole heart. I am grateful to be part of the Plainfield Independent Church which teaches how one can heal sin through correct understanding God through the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's writings.  
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## His Heart is Fixed

"He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD." (Psalm) This is a good one to remember when you hear something of an unpleasant nature - whether on the news, in the workplace, at a doctor's office... When your heart is "fixed, trusting in the LORD" your thought

becomes focused on the Truth so you cannot be mesmerized by whatever error is claiming. This is such an important point because no matter how dire a situation may seem to be, it is always a mesmerism begging for entrance. Error is a magic show, an illusion, trying to make you believe in its reality. "Then my heart in every strait, To thy Father come, and wait; He will answer every prayer, God is present everywhere." (Hymn #341) \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you so much for this post. When my children were younger, sometimes they would watch a movie and be scared. Whenever that happened, I would explain exactly how the movie makers created that effect and then they felt better. With time, when something came on that perhaps started to make them afraid, they would start to try to figure out themselves how the illusion was created. As a friend once complained, I suppose I did "take the magic out of movies" for them, but the fear was gone too. Nothing seems all that 'magical' when you are frightened!

At no point during this did I know that every single part of life that made me afraid—which was a lot of it!—had its antidote in God. Because of Christian Science, and the teaching and support here, I can now begin to uncover the unreality behind these fears. For that, and so much more, I am so grateful. Thank you! \*\*\*\*\*

## Forgiveness

"Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." (Matthew 18) Here, Jesus gives us a lesson on how profoundly important forgiveness is. We've all been violated. It is a natural human reaction to be angry, even revengeful. However, here Jesus instructs Peter to forgive that person, not just seven times, but seventy times seven! I have found forgiveness to be very difficult at times, but it is part of the process of separating evil, error, from a person; then loving the person and destroying the error. Holding a grudge is unhealthy! It doesn't hurt the person I am holding the grudge

against; it hurts me.

In *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy writes: "Evil has no reality. It is neither person, place, nor thing, but is simply a belief, an illusion of material sense." When I attach evil to a person (including myself!) I make a reality of evil and thereby poison my own system. When I detach evil from the person, condemn the error and love (forgive) the person, then I am beginning the process of healing, which begins within me. \*\*\*\*\*

## SUBJECT – SUBSTANCE 09/13/15

### Definition of Substance

Mrs. Eddy once said, "Matter in the final analysis is human will; substance is the will of God made manifest. To have a new heaven and a new earth is to change our thought from matter to substance. Then heaven and earth will pass away, there will be no sin, sorrow, disease or death, and man will recognize himself universal being." (Precepts III)\*\*\*\*\*

### The Substance of Spirit

"As God is substance and man is the divine image and likeness, man should wish for, and in reality has, only the substance of good, the substance of Spirit, not matter."

The substance of Spirit is not subject to market fluctuations, no fear that it will not be enough or will run out, and it's always available. Being Spirit, true substance cannot break down, wear out, or deteriorate, but exhibits all the beauty and grandeur of God forever! \*\*\*\*\*

"As God is substance and man is the divine image and likeness, man should wish for, and in reality has, only the substance of good, the substance of Spirit, not matter."

This citation should be in my heart constantly, so that I can ask myself, "What am I made of," and be able to confidently answer with "of spiritual substance." If spiritual, then pain has no place in me. I cannot lack, since spiritual substance is

inexhaustible. Worry, depression, and fear are all negated in Spirit. Hence, in this spiritual substance I find my completeness, fulfillment and perfection! It is good to accept and know what I am made of!  
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### Love Supplying Every Need

"...to all mankind and in every hour, divine Love supplies all good." This is a simple and powerful statement to think about and to work with. Certainly for yourself, but also for situations like the refugees, the homeless, those who seem forgotten or lost...Remember, in this very hour divine Love is with each and every one, supplying all good! Nothing can interrupt or prevent God's Love flowing to His beloved creation. This is God's Word - a statement of fact, not mere wishful thinking! \*\*\*\*\*

"...to all mankind and in every hour, divine Love supplies all good."

The use of the adjectives "all", "only", and "every", struck me again this morning in the lesson. Their meanings convey how important they are in my practice of a Christian life.

Eccles. 11: 5, 8

5. My soul, wait thou **only** upon God; for my expectation is from him.

8. Trust in him at **all times**; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.

Deuteronomy 14: 22, 23

22 Thou shalt truly tithe **all the increase** of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and **all these things** shall be added unto you.

11 Cor 9:8 8

And God is able to make **all grace** abound toward you; that ye, always having **all sufficiency in all things**, may abound to every good work:

From Webster's 1828 dictionary:

**ALL**, adjective awl. [Gr. Shemitic from calah, to be

ended or completed to perfect.]

2. The whole quantity, extent, duration, amount, quality, or degree; as, all the wheat; all the land; all the year; all the strength.

This word, not only in popular language, but in the scriptures, often signifies, indefinitely, a large portion or number, or a great part.

**ONLY**, adjective

3. This above all others. He is the only man for music.

**EV'ERY**, adjective [Old Eng. everich. It is formed from ever.] Each individual of a whole collection or aggregate number

In a nutshell, I can lack **NO THING** if I obey and what is required of me by my Father-Mother God!  
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### Are We Really Grateful for the Good Already Received?

**7. 3 Are we really grateful for the good already received? Then we shall avail ourselves of the blessings we have, and thus be fitted to receive more. Gratitude is much more than a verbal expression of thanks. Action expresses more gratitude than speech.**

Each week, there is a lot to read and to do for the church, and this passage made me realize that perhaps sometimes a change occurs in my life through Christian Science, and I am grateful for it at the time, but the business of successive weeks makes me forget to be grateful for the good I have received.

Looking back through my testimonies of the past few years, I found a lot of healing. Here are just a few examples (listing them all would take me all day!):

June 4th, 2015 - Brought to Plainfield, and healed of the desire to commit suicide.

March 26th, 2014 - Healed of the need to read and research constantly.

June 4th, 2014 - Healed of my misconceptions of

Christian Science.

July 22nd, 2014 - Healed of feeling I didn't deserve love.

September 3rd, 2014 - Healed of never feeling I had a home.

October 15th, 2014 - Healed of feeling worthless, and the need to sabotage myself.

March 19th, 2015 - Healed of need to play music constantly, and instead listen for God's voice.

May 13th, 2015 - Healed of feeling that I wasn't a divine idea.

August 5th, 2015 - Healed of feeling my home was anywhere but in God.

August 19th, 2015 - Healed of feeling I was an accident.

Christian Science—as I am learning in Plainfield—has brought so much healing to my life. I am so grateful to God, the lesson writers, and my practitioner for each wonderful healing. What a blessing it is to be here! Thank you! \*\*\*\*\*

## **Tithe**

595: 22 TITHE. Contribution; tenth part; homage; gratitude. Emphasis added.

This definition of tithe should prompt us all to step up our testimonies of gratitude either on Wednesdays or written and sent in for the magazine or newsletter. \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, very good point. Tithing is not just limited to financial giving. Many years ago, Mr. Evans in his class, told us that we should also tithe our time. For example, if we are going to do a task or a chore, we should dedicate 10% of that time to prayer and spiritualizing our thought about the task or job to be done. If the task took an hour to complete, then tithe 6 minutes to God beforehand. It has been a very helpful teaching, and one I was grateful to recall this morning. \*\*\*\*\*

Thanks for sharing that practical teaching; because at times we can separate our daily work from God, by working without thinking He does the work; perhaps not intentionally but it happens. And yet

we all know or have experienced how much more joyful and harmoniously our work can be done when done with God in thought. Our Father works and we work. \*\*\*\*\*

Do I really feel grateful for the good already received? I say I am and I think I am! Then a problem arises. Do I thank God for this opportunity to prove He is all, or do I moan and complain that I have something else to meet?

Being grateful to God expresses my love for Him and in turn I feel His love for me. Then I am able to move forward with trust that all will be well.

Gratitude HEALS! \*\*\*\*\*

We were also taught that the hand that is open to give, is open to receive. It's a two way street. Since your hand is open to give and bless it is ready to receive. You can't lack anything by giving. God rewards the cheerful giver. \*\*\*\*\*

## **Whatever Blesses One, Blesses All**

Blessings are from God, therefore unlimited—spiritual, not material. Everything that God does, He does for all, everywhere. Just think. When I've, we've, received a blessing, it's blessing the world. We don't have to see it, but that's how God works. \*\*\*\*\*

## **Building a Tabernacle**

I thought about the words "to build" (the physical construction of a building). This carries with it its own set of rules.

But I think the spiritual sense of building is: increasing the presence of or making stronger (an institution, a way of life, spiritual understanding) Perhaps shining the light so bright that no one can miss it, no matter how tightly they close their eyes. Jesus built upon the rock. Moses was commanded to build a house of worship. All were asked to contribute, poor and rich alike.

Exodus 30:15-16

The rich shall not give (multiply) more, and the poor shall not give (diminish) less than half a

shekel, when they give an offering unto the lord, to make atonement for their souls. And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the Lord, to make atonement for your souls.

**Spiritual Substance**

Proverbs 8:21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. It wasn't until this week that I understood this to mean spiritual treasure-----and what a comfort!

Mrs. Eddy explains it in Science and Health, p 301 "As God is substance and man is the divine image and likeness, man should wish for, and in reality has, only the substance of good, the substance of Spirit, not matter."

Thanks to all of Plainfield Church, things are coming together ----and I am very grateful indeed!  
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**Take Thine Ease**

"A great deal of the error that students manifest comes from laziness. They may be driven through a sense of lack to make a demonstration of supply; but if the moment of lack is taken care of, they stop working. It is the claim of mental laziness. They may lay hold of God when they need something, and let go of Him the moment they receive it. The Bible records that Job received the rewards that come to anyone who turns wholeheartedly to God; but then he turned away from God to enjoy them. The only way for him to learn the lesson, namely, that one must never neglect the Giver, God, because of His gifts, was to have those rewards temporarily taken away."

PRECEPTS VOLUME III \*\*\*\*\*

**"Don't Worry, Be Happy"**

Remember the song in the 90's with a Reggae beat, "Don't Worry, Be Happy?" It always would uplift me before I began work every day.

We need to turn from being "fear based" to being "faith based".

In a world full of economic strife and people struggling to "keep up with the Jones'," a world full of various, popular, technological gadgets, designer clothing, etc., it is easy to fall into "gotta get me" syndrome. God gives us all we need, and more...we need only to "trust the Good Shepard".

Has worrying ever gotten us anywhere? Has a problem ever been solved when we worry? The Bible asks if it ever added a cubit to a man's life. (All it has ever done for me is make me sick!) Jesus tells us to look out and look up. Turn to God for all our needs. Jesus illustrates this by making an example of Ravens (a very lowly, basically "good for nothing" bird) Still, God takes care of this creature and feeds him. The Raven doesn't worry about where his next meal is coming from. He also mentions the beautiful Lily (a common flower which doesn't last very long.) The Lily doesn't fret. God clothes it in all its splendor. Jesus asks us, if God cares for the Raven and the Lily, don't you think he will care for man whom he created in His image and likeness? God is the benevolent "Good Shepard" pouring out all that we need and more. He wants us to have the kingdom. He knows what we need before we ask.

This lesson asks us to use wisdom, consider the above, to look out from ourselves, and look up. We need to pause in this clamorous world, hear and heed "wisdom's call." Like a herald, it is proclaiming for us to get up, get moving, and GIVE! (I've found that when I do this, I have little time to spend feeling depressed and worrying about myself and my problems).

This has been a wonderful, meaningful lesson. When earnestly studied, this lesson wipes out the sin of FEAR. Thank you Lesson Writer!

