

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 73

SUBJECT: Spirit – August 7th, 2016

Infused by the Holy Spirit

“There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.” (Job 32) In the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary one of the definitions of “inspiration” is “the infusion of ideas into the mind by the Holy Spirit.” I have always loved this thought for if I ever feel struggling for fresh ideas in my work, it is always good to remember I have an abundance of fresh ideas – I am infused with them by the Holy Spirit! When I think about this Truth for a few moments, it enables me to go back to work refreshed and rejuvenated and yes, it always amazes me at the fresh new thoughts that come pouring forth. Sometimes it helps also to think about nature – no two snowflakes are ever the same, out of all the brilliant sunsets or sunrises that ever set or have ever risen, no two have been exactly the same. God’s creation is never boring or in a rut but always fresh and new, therefore as His reflection – our lives, our work can never be boring, but radiate with the newness and freshness and the infinite variety expressed by God Himself!

Thank you so much for this post!

From the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:

Infuse

1. To pour in, as a liquid.
2. To instill, as principles or qualities.
3. To introduce; ...
4. To inspire with; ...

This got me thinking about the article “Meekness and Restoration,” where it is written, “**Meekness is a quality to attain if we are to be made whole! ...the original meaning of the word is “liquid.” Thus the ability of all liquids to conform naturally and perfectly to the form they are poured into.**”

The idea that God infuses us with the qualities and properties necessary to fill and fit the form we are poured into makes a lot of sense to me. That this process leaves us “refreshed and rejuvenated” to go about our work for God brought me to another word from the lesson: Quickened.

Ephesians 2: 1 (to,)

1 And you hath he quickened,

Looking that up in the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary:
Quicken

1. Primarily, to make alive; to vivify; to revive or resuscitate, as from death or an inanimate state.

Romans 4:17.

2. To make alive in a spiritual sense; to communicate a principle of grace to.

You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:1.

3. To hasten; to accelerate; as, to quicken motion, speed or flight.

4. To sharpen; to give keener perception to; to stimulate; to incite; as, to quicken the appetite or taste; to quicken desires.

5. To revive; to cheer; to reinvigorate; to refresh by new supplies of comfort or grace. Psalms 119:25.

What a wonderful God we have, that supplies us with the ability to be useful, to be made whole, to be refreshed and rejuvenated, to be made “alive in a spiritual sense,” and to filled with joy and inspiration and every good quality, so we fit the work He has given us. What a blessing it is to be here, learning to be receptive to God’s voice, and to be growing in Christian Science. *****

“And you hath he quickened,” jumped out at me this week. Thank you for this post. God does the quickening And I must do my part to be always aware with humility and meekness. I have been on my knees many times this week and this Lesson has been helping me. I want to pray in Spirit and in Truth, and I ask humbly for guidance as to how to do this. So, there it is in the Lesson from *Science and Health*, p 393: Rise in the strength of Spirit to

resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man. Now revived, we go forth. *****

The Prophet of To-day

In the story of Moses gathering the seventy elders of Israel together (actually 68, two of them stayed in the village) and seeing them prophesy, Moses rebuked Joshua for complaining about their prophesying. Moses exhorts Joshua, “would God that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!” Moses knew that everyone could have this special relationship with God (Spirit) if they would just earn it.

Mrs. Eddy explains clearly this phenomenon. “When sufficiently advanced in Science to be in harmony with the truth of being, men become seers and prophets involuntarily...” (*Science and Health*, p 84). On page 98, she writes, “The prophet of to-day beholds in the mental horizon the signs of these times...” To earn this relationship, one must be “sufficiently advanced in Science to be in harmony with the truth of being.” This is so encouraging. Practicing Christian Science is not a magic show. It is not hit or miss. It is learning how to be “in harmony with the truth of being.”

So, how do we gain this advancement in Science? On page 461 of *Science and Health*, she lays out two requirements: “Systematic teaching and the student’s spiritual growth and experience in practice are requisite for a thorough comprehension of Christian Science.” We get the systematic teaching each Saturday and Sunday morning with the Bible Study and Roundtable. But there is no substitute for the second requirement, which is to put this teaching into practice every day. The “spiritual growth and experience in practice” is how we prove to ourselves the truth of this Science and thus gain understanding, rather than languishing in mere belief.

The seventy elders of Israel earned their relationship with God. So can each one of us.

“The second requirement, which is to put this teaching into practice every day.”

I was taught in this church that if you don’t put this understanding into practice, it is like a car on blocks, the wheels spin but you don’t go anywhere. When you put the Truth into practice it is like the wheels on your car are on the road and you are moving. Let’s not spin our wheels. Let’s practice every day what we are learning in this church.

Adhere to the Rules, Imbibe the Spirit

Science and Health p. 461.....but any student, who adheres to the divine rules of Christian Science and imbibes the spirit of Christ, can demonstrate Christian Science, cast out error, heal the sick, and add continually to his store of spiritual understanding, potency, enlightenment, and success.

Practicing Christian Science is adhering to its rules and with fervent hearts, desiring to feel the Spirit, the ever-presence and power of God, as we read the “books” and as we use the Truths therein. Consistency in our practice aides our being in the right Mind for right thinking, correct seeing, and owning the dominion given to reject all that is unlike God.

We simply cannot desire the awareness of our true being and live in disobedience to laws that bring this knowledge about. Thus we strive each day with enthusiasm in our practice of Christian Science. Grateful for the repetition of this here in this Church to remind us all. *****

Thoroughly Furnished

We are thoroughly furnished. What a wonderful promise this is, that the man of God is thoroughly furnished unto all good works. This wipes out any thought of failure. It also wipes out excuses. Because Spirit is omnipresent, we each have the capacity to know and do what is needed. How many simply give up at the first test of faith? The responsive reading is clear that the requirement is to incline the ear to understanding, apply the

heart, cry after knowledge, lift your voice; the promise is that the answer will come. Our God is a faithful God, His promises are kept. Our part is to follow Him as best we see the light trusting that His plan is best and not to judge by our own personal preferences. *****

SUBJECT – Soul – August 14th, 2016

Bless the Lord, O my Soul

During the service this morning, “Bless the Lord, O my soul” hit me: I realized that I am to bless the Lord with obedience and gratitude, that I’m not to just receive blessings, but reflect Him and bless God as He blesses me! I am to “bless his holy name”.

If I am to bless God, that means to give God credit for all the good in my life and for all the good that is around us always. And if I don’t see good, I am to turn the picture around and proclaim the good that is actually there, because there can only be good because God is all.

I am to “bless the Lord, O my soul.” What a wonderful realization during Church today! ****

...Thy People Shall Be My People, and Thy God, My God

4. Ruth 1

8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother’s house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

How Ruth answers Naomi really speaks to me. Ruth arrived into a situation where she encountered love and acceptance and appreciation, and no hardships would cause her to turn from that. Most

importantly, she encounters Naomi’s God, which she then understood to be her God, as well. At this point, it seems she was beginning to “demand the blessing” — as Jacob did while wrestling the angel — for both herself and for Naomi, and knew that God would not leave them in such a place for long.

Since arriving in Plainfield, there have been certain times where it seemed people or circumstances wanted me to leave the church. How could that happen, when, like Ruth, I’ve finally found my place and my God? I’ve committed to the wrong cause before, and been loyal to people, and it always worked out horribly and often felt terrible along the way. Being a member of this church feels like the first right step I’ve ever made, and helps me to understand why Ruth would not leave, even though materially it might seem like a mistake to some — when God gives you a home and a family, it is so much more wonderful than anything we can put together ourselves. *****

“...when God gives you a home and a family, it is so much more wonderful than anything we can put together ourselves.” AMEN to that!

Ever since I first came to Plainfield, I have felt a sense of family and belonging that has been far greater than any human sense of family ties can present. The unity felt at Plainfield that continues from year-to-year is a very soul-satisfying feeling, never wavering. Working together for God gives real purpose to my life and is truly wonderful! I am truly grateful for the members of the Plainfield Church, where I do feel “thy people shall be my people.” *****

Worthwhile Suffering?

Science and Health, p. 266 “The pains of sense are salutary, if they wrench away **false pleasurable beliefs** and transplant the affections from sense to Soul, where the creations of God are good, “rejoicing the heart.” Such is the sword of Science, with which Truth decapitates error, materiality giving place to man’s higher individuality and destiny.” (Emphasis added)

This is something that has fostered spiritual growth;

if the disappointments from leaning on material things and trusting them were not experienced, I would still be looking at them and expecting my happiness etc. from them. Some of the lessons have been sharp, but all worthwhile; since the pains are also healed, when the more permanent truths I can depend on and trust fill the spaces. Love never leaves us comfortless! *****

Thank you for this post, to which I can totally relate. I definitely think the suffering is worthwhile because there's nothing more gratifying than spiritual growth. There's no looking back when materiality is "giving place to man's higher individuality and destiny"! *****

Planted in The House of the Lord

The Bible promises that "Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God." Who wouldn't want the stability of being planted in God's house? But the winds of error would try the firmness of our foothold. If someone wrongs us, do we respond with self-righteous condemnation, or do we see the other as God's child, forgive the wrong, and leave the door open to reconciliation and thereby help another to plant themselves in God's house? If we wrong another, do we respond like Adam and Eve with guilt, shame, hiding, which originates in hate, or do we man up and respond as the new man, risen with Christ, and admit the wrong, right it, replant ourselves in God's house, and move forward from there? This being planted in God's house is something to watch carefully, cherish and protect it. It is needed when the storms of error assail. ****

The Amplified Version of Psalms 92 is helpful in handling the beliefs of age. When we are living in obedience to our Father, it is good to remember and to claim all of the following beautiful attributes as our own.

12. "The (uncompromisingly) righteous shall flourish like the palm tree (be long-lived, stately, upright, useful, and fruitful); they shall grow like the cedar in Lebanon (majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible).

14. (Growing in grace) they shall still bring forth

fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap (of spiritual vitality) and (rich in the) verdure (of trust, love, and contentment). *****

True beauty

If you go to any grocery store, the magazine section is always full of articles all about losing weight and/or how to become more beautiful! In this week's lesson, *Science and Health* is full of God's ways to achieve true beauty. I am sure this is the natural beauty Ruth expressed. It is the radiance of Soul and this beauty is available to everyone as the image and likeness of God. No one is left out for "He hath made every thing beautiful in His time." (Eccl)

"In truth, we have no beauty of our own apart from God." (Florence Gubbins) *****

Yesterday, I read this from Doris Henty, and it struck me. "Mind beholds and experiences with rapture the infinite range of its glory." And: "The divine I, aware of its own perfection and glory, what joy I Am, what harmony I Am, what completeness, wholeness, beauty, perfection I Am. What satisfaction I feel." Also, she writes: "God's understanding of Himself is man."

"Since Mind is the only Mind, there is no human consciousness, there is no human mind at all. Mind tolerates no suggestion of a human mind."

So, our sense of self, our human sense of reality, is nothingness, an illusion, a dream. Nowhere, no time. God experiences Herself, Love's Self-awareness. And it is gorgeous, wonderful, beyond description. And YOU are it!

Happiness From Soul Not Sense

"Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind, and happiness would be more readily attained and would be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul." *Science and Health*, p. 60:29-31 God has unlimited good for each of His children, and it has nothing to do with matter, things. How wonderful!