

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Matter – September 18th, 2016

Science and Health, p 321 When, led by wisdom to cast down his rod, he saw it become a serpent, Moses fled before it; but wisdom bade him come back and handle the serpent, and then Moses' fear departed. In this incident was seen the actuality of Science. Matter was shown to be a belief only.

It took me some time to become consistent in thinking of myself as a spiritual being, not a matter lump! What was helpful was the trials that came which strengthened my resolve to claim my spiritual birthright!

Peter V. Ross refers to what we do to ourselves in his article: The Inner Man Of Spirit. He says that it is a question of self-appraisal; resulting in renunciation of one's birthright or claiming one's spirituality and rejecting any notion that man is a "lump of clay."

I see how pressing this self-appraisal is, especially in difficult times when error appears to hold sway. In such times, Isaiah 45's repetition of the one God is a helpful assurance of our oneness with the infinite, eternal, divine and supreme God, Spirit.

When having a matter complaint, I claim what Mrs. Eddy explains, "Nothing inharmonious can enter being. For Life *is* God." This helps me dispel the seeming difficulty and stay with God, the truth of my spiritual being. *****

Thank you both! ..." In Him we live and move and have our being!" *****

I always longed and prayed for this oneness with the divine Mind, but without really achieving to give up my human mind, my human sense of self, and it does not work very well. Just denying matter does not much good either. I found that I have to realize that the divine Consciousness is All, my body, the forest, the clear mountain river, all that is

good and true. I have to share God's Self-awareness. There is nothing else. The divine "us."

Mind's awareness of itself is reality, eternity. It does not include the hectic confusion of this world or the human, mortal, and illusive mind.

I want to thank Carol again for reading Martha Wilcox's articles on body. Reading and listening along does me much good. *****

Thank you for these posts. In regard to this, I love what Bicknell Young says in his article, "If We Say, 'I Want'" – "Someone said, 'It seems to me the claim constantly is, that we cannot see Spirit.'" The answer was, 'My dear, you cannot see anything else, but Spirit; it would be impossible to, even if you tried.'" This is what is meant by the "Scientific Statement of Being" by Mrs. Eddy (which took me so long to even begin to comprehend!) – "All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all." There is nothing else! And yet this Truth of all Truths cannot be taken lightly or superficially. It is very deep and requires effort and work, child-like trust, and utmost dedication to understand even in a degree the sublime perfection and beauty of it all. *****

Jesus told the woman who was healed, "thy faith hath made thee whole." Several places in the Bible Jesus is quoted as telling people that their faith is what has healed them. Interesting how in last week's lesson, the theme was that faith in God, Spirit, is substance. Matter is not substance. This is a tough one for most people to wrap their head around. I know it was for me. Matter is always "in your face" appearing to be substance, yet over and over again, Jesus instructed us that it is faith that makes us whole; it is the Spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing.

And now, with Christian Science, we have the explanation of the Truth, that, "All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all." We are the manifestation of infinite Mind. Matter is not a factor in that reality. This is the truth that heals. Knowing this is the dominion that is

promised in Genesis 1. To understand this truth is the greatest thing in the world, and is certainly worth striving for. *****

If I am entertaining a material complaint, my favorite statement to use from *Watches Prayers Arguments* by Mary Baker Eddy; “Do not say, ‘This is my error or my pain.’ Say ‘This is an attack against my Christ.’” It brings the peace and love of God back into my experience because it was only a belief, not the truth. Thank God and Mrs. Eddy. *****

How important it is to catch evils tricks in “the first instance,” as unreal, no matter what form or degree of severity. *****

Divine Rights

Mrs. Eddy states: “I hope, dear reader, I am leading you into the understanding of your divine rights, your heaven-bestowed harmony...” (*Science and Health*, p 253: 9-21)

This passage struck me this morning as I read the lesson. Every day we hear about “rights” being violated—civil rights, human rights, constitutional rights—but do we ever hear about our “divine rights”? I must say, I haven’t really thought much about them myself. And yet, as we focus on God and all that He bestows, as Mrs. Eddy has taught us in Christian Science, our “divine rights” invite all to “assert” your prerogative to overcome the belief in sin, disease, or death.” And all that asserting is within our mental realm! **

In the 1828 Webster dictionary, it states that “prerogative” is “An exclusive or peculiar privilege.” It is our privilege as a child of God “to overcome the belief in sin, disease, or death.” Isn’t that wonderful?

Divine rights. Perhaps I can do this: every time I hear or read about the endless fight for various “rights”—and noble fights these for the most part are—I can know that all of God’s children in reality have divine rights, and God gives each the ability to understand, know, and assert them, through reflection.

**assert:

1. To affirm positively; to declare with assurance;

to aver.

2. To maintain or defend by words or measures; to vindicate a claim or title to; as, to assert our rights and liberties. *****

Thank you. This is so true. The Kingdom of God is within each and every one of us, and if we would all come to understand this essential Truth – all the endless discontentment and fighting would cease. Understanding and living Christian Science in our own lives and knowing their Divine Principles are true for all mankind will aid in ushering in the millennium. *****

How superior our Divine Rights are! They need to be taught so all can remain aware of our true birthright, our true heritage, which is completely devoid of sin, sickness, and death! Then no one can accept the falsity of being second class, the false sense of lack or feel so dominated by the false senses of sin, sickness and death; all errors that need challenging and destroying at all times!

I cherish Mrs. Eddy’s desire that someday this Science will have its rightful place in the schools! She writes in *No and Yes*, p. 11:15-18, If the Bible and Science and Health had the place in schools of learning that physiology occupies, they would revolutionize and reform the world, through the power of Christ. *****

I Will Not Be Afraid

I have often found Psalm 56 to be the perfect antidote for when we are feeling afraid or worried about something. Perhaps we have received a doctor’s report or some upsetting news about a family member or friend. Remember then, what the Psalmist hath said –

“What time I am afraid I will trust in Thee.
In God I will praise His word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.
Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praise unto Thee.

For Thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not Thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living? ”

And also this from Hymn #341 “Then my heart, in

every strait, to Thy Father come, and wait; He will answer every prayer, God is present everywhere.” Always remember we have a loving Father to turn to in times of need. He will deliver us. *****

SUBJECT – Reality – September 25th, 2016

Specific Instructions From The Master

I thought it was very helpful to see how very specific Jesus’ teachings are about what is required to gain the Kingdom of Heaven. Gives me much to think about!

1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
2. “Verily I say unto you, Except you be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”
3. “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
4. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
5. “And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

We all desire to gain the kingdom of heaven, but are we really sincere about working for it? I can ask often of myself – is there anything in me that doesn’t want to live up to these blessed requirements? Mrs. Eddy asks the question, “Examine yourselves, and see what, and how much, sin claims of you, and how much of this claim you admit as valid, or comply with.” (Misc. 109). *****

This is wonderful, thank you. I started working with number 3 as soon as I read it this morning. Not looking back, getting on with it, no self-pity. We have lots to do here at Plainfield for all mankind and I desire to be worthy of the work. I know I can’t neglect the other 4, but for today number three is paramount. I am also aware that this examination is ongoing as we strive to “gain

The Kingdom”. *****

Thank you for these posts. Regarding number 3, there’s an excellent article on this church’s Web site which is very helpful to me; it is: “Elisha and the Reliable Now” by PARTHENS.

And thank you for all we have to work with here! *****

This morning, I turned to where Mrs. Eddy states on page 3 in Pulpit and Press, “The kingdom of God is within you.’ Know then, that you possess sovereign power to think and act rightly, and that nothing can dispossess you of this heritage and trespass on Love. If you maintain this position, who or what can cause you to sin or suffer?” *****

Attributes of God

“Let unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love – the kingdom of heaven – reign within us, and sin, disease, and death will diminish until they finally disappear.” (S&H 248:29) These are the **attributes of God, coinciding with the seven synonyms (Science and Health, p 465:9), and as I express them in my life, give me true happiness – the kingdom of heaven. “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matt.6:33) *******

I love to think that He shows forth these attributes as Psalm 146 states:

He executeth judgment for the oppressed:
He giveth food to the hungry.
The Lord looseth the prisoners
The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind:
The LORD raiseth them that are bowed down:
The LORD loveth the righteous
The LORD preserveth the strangers;
He relieveth the fatherless and widow:
He turneth the way of the wicked upside down.

The LORD shall reign for ever..... therefore **HE, MUST I** seek first!!

As I seek I should not ask “HOW LONG” but work steadfastly to gain more trust in our everlasting King! *****

I have always loved this statement, as well. It is good to remember when we are struggling with a problem not to become impatient or discouraged.

As we express more and more of God's attributes, we may be assured the difficulty – whatever it may be IS diminishing and WILL finally disappear! ***

Spiritual Facts Are Not Inverted

Psalm 146:9 The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

Science and Health, p 207:30-4

Spiritual facts are not inverted; the opposite discord, which bears no resemblance to spirituality, is not real. The only evidence of this inversion is obtained from suppositional error, which affords no proof of God, Spirit, or of the spiritual creation. Material sense defines all things materially, and has a finite sense of the infinite.

I am so grateful for the lessons and what I am learning here in Plainfield. Each week, there are always these points that line up and help me to understand a little more about the Bible, Science and Health, and why my life before was so topsy-turvy! Mortal mind makes us feel that down is up and left is right and backward is forward, if we fail to handle it!

In Chapter 6 of *Science and Health*, by Mary Baker Eddy, on page 129, under the heading, "Truth by inversion," is the following:

If you wish to know the spiritual fact, you can discover it by reversing the material fable, be the fable *pro* or *con*, — be it in accord with your preconceptions or utterly contrary to them.

What a blessing it is that Christian Science gives us the ability to move forward (spiritually) with God — to reverse that fable! — no matter how far we may have gone wrong (materially) before. That alone is proof to me that God is Love. Thank you!

The LORD Is Good To All

I was struck by the first statement in the Responsive Reading. There may be some who may

not believe that the Lord is good to literally everyone, but this is because of the misconception of good. Too many consider good based on their personal preferences and whether they are satisfied. In *Science and Health*, p 587 is a definition of good which says "God; Spirit; omnipotence; omniscience; omnipresence; omni-action." So, we have the true concept of good as divine, which is no respecter of persons, and yet is personal in the sense that it is available to help in every circumstance. Good is always present and always acting, our part is to pray for the light which sees this. On page 13 of *Science and Health* is the assurance "Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals." God does not have any favorites, He is good to all.

God Within

"The kingdom of God is within you" Luke 17:21 was repeated throughout the lesson. This truth is about everyone. Be sure to include yourself, as error doesn't want you to. Know it always was, is, and forever will be true. See it in everyone. Any time a thought comes that tries to make you not believe it, know it's a lie, smash it, wipe it out, and go on with God, rejoicing. *****

Take Heart, Dear Sufferer

Science and Health, p 573 Take heart, dear sufferer, for this reality of being will surely appear sometime and in some way. There will be no more pain, and all tears will be wiped away. When you read this, remember Jesus' words, "The kingdom of God is within you." This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility.

How comforting, how reassuring that this reality is the Kingdom of Heaven already within each one, everywhere!

This again affirms that all that is going on is the unfolding, however slow, of what we each already have.

So grateful for the support here through the resources, Roundtable, Bible Lessons etc. to help us bear the trials and enjoy the overcoming during the unfoldment of our true being!