FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN SCIENCE 6/28/15

The Comforter

I was just thinking this morning what a blessing it is to have even the slightest understanding of the Truth Science has brought to mankind! I cannot think of any problems I've had or any that I could have which Science, consistently and correctly applied, cannot heal!!

John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Websters definition:

COMFORTER, noun

1. One who administers comfort or consolation; one who strengthens and supports the mind in distress or danger.

I looked for comforters, but found none. Psalms 69:20.

Miserable comforters are ye all. Job 16:2

2. The title of the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name--he shall teach you all things. John 14:16.

If this definition is constant in my thought, I can benefit from it more. Whenever there is a need of any kind, do I remember this divine presence who will teach me all things? Or do I first go looking for material expert opinions? A firm assurance of this helps anytime and anywhere! *********

Thank you for this post on the Comforter. It is such a wonderful revelation that this Comforter is here always with us when we seek it! Instead of looking for a personal Jesus, we are told in John 14:26,

"...the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things..." and Mrs. Eddy gives this definition in Science and Health: "Holy Ghost. Divine Science; the development of eternal Life, Truth, and Love." And in this Lesson, S&H cit. 3, "...the so-called miracles of Jesus...illustrated an ever-operative divine Principle. The operation of this Principle indicates the eternality of the scientific order and continuity of being."

So, as you said, we don't look to persons or experts for the solution to our problems, but to this divine Principle, to see God operating in our lives and in the world! Thank you! *********

An Ability to Exceed Their Ordinary Capacity

Science and Health, 128:4

The term Science, properly understood, refers only to the laws of God and to His government of the universe, inclusive of man. From this it follows that business men and cultured scholars have found that Christian Science enhances their endurance and mental powers, enlarges their perception of character, gives them acuteness and comprehensiveness and an ability to exceed their ordinary capacity. The human mind, imbued with this spiritual understanding, becomes more elastic, is capable of greater endurance, escapes somewhat from itself, and requires less repose. A knowledge of the Science of being develops the latent abilities and possibilities of man. It extends the atmosphere of thought, giving mortals access to broader and higher realms. It raises the thinker into his native air of insight and perspicacity.

LA'TENT, adjective [Latin latens, lateo; Gr; Heb. to cover.]

Hid; concealed; secret; not seen; not visible or apparent.

PERSPICAC'ITY, noun [Latin perspicacitas.]

- 1. Acuteness of sight; quickness of sight.
- 2. Acuteness of discernment or understanding.

I spoke to my practitioner about how it felt like there was a weight on me yesterday. This weight lessened somewhat after I gave my testimony, and then completely as soon as the meeting was over. Animal Magnetism wants everything this church stands for to remain "latent abilities and possibilities" — forever hidden away. Yet the promise that citation from Science and Health gives is amazing! All that remains is for us to do the work, and to fight through the resistance. The work is very difficult sometimes, but the support given by this church (Website, watches, services, discussions, magazine, practitioners, etc.) really makes all the difference

Thank you for your post. I have always loved this citation; thank you for the reminder and definitions, to help to work and act!

Also, I agree that all that this church and Website have to offer is such a blessing! The Bible Lessons, Wednesday (6/24) evening's most beautiful and helpful readings, each testimony (as was mentioned on the bulletin board) like a treatment, the loving care which sends out "recent additions" in a daily email -- boy, that is really a great way to start your day with a rousing hymn or truths that put you on the right basis with God!

Much gratitude to all who add to this great work! *******

In regard to this, I am looking forward to more activity on the forum - we have many "simple seekers for Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert,"- who are "waiting and watching for rest and drink." (S&H) They are coming to our website and to this forum daily from around the world. Are you going to withhold the good you have to offer? Or are you going to break this resistance of silence

and give them a "cup of cold water in Christ's name"?! **********

The Love of Our Master

In the lesson this week, I was deeply moved by the loving kindness and compassion expressed by the Master, even though he was surrounded by disbelievers – those who thought "evil in their hearts" and "laughed him to scorn." To the man sick of the palsy he said, "Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." And to the woman diseased with an issue of blood, he said, "Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole." In each instance he called them by an affectionate name and gave them such love, comfort, and encouragement – this is the Divine Love that heals. His healing ministry described in Matthew chapter 9 came after he had been thrown out of the place where he had healed the man with devils and vet he was never aggravated or put off by those who mocked and hated him - otherwise this healing work could never have been done. Quite an example of Love!

Labourers Needed

Now as then the same call exists: Matt 9: 37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

All over the world this Holy Science, the Savior and Comforter is needed. The news tell us how much error's disguise needs to be stripped off. If CS has made any positive change at all in my life I owe it to God and man to remain a working labourer in the Lord's vineyard, so that the light may shine forth and bless others.

Where would I be if Science had not found me? An honest answer to that should keep me working with a burning desire to help others. ""Father, send us other people, that we may share the good tidings." Animal Magnetism CANNOT put us to sleep, it

does not have the power to do so and we cannot give it ANY!! ********

Thank you. This should be in the hearts of each of us. This is why our Wednesday testimony meetings are so important; why we spend so much time and money on our Web site. As Albert Einstein once said, "This is the pure science." We're not dealing with just another religion. This is the final revelation of the Christ spirit to mankind.

Ultimately, it is the example of our lives that attest to our faithfulness. It is our willingness to let pride be burned out so that our light can shine more brightly. From S&H: "Man's enslavement to the most relentless masters -- passion, selfishness, envy, hatred, and revenge -- is conquered only by a mighty struggle." This is work. The devil does not want to let go its grip on you. This is the "bitter in the belly" of Christian Science. The initial healing and freedom is what attracts us to the Science, but we cannot stop there if we are going to be of use to God.

How true this is! We all have what I call "gluck" – all that human mind garbage sometimes nestled deep within that needs to be removed. The first taste of Science is indeed very uplifting and sweet as honey, but then the process to dig deeper sometimes seems painful and yes, bitter. However in order to progress it must be done. If there is some problem that seems to hang on, it is a good time to examine yourself and to dig deeper for further purification. At this time, it is tempting to hug your tatters close about you as Mrs. Eddy says, or to cry out to be left alone (error speaking). Many turn aside and shun this needful experience and so continue in the same old ways with the same old problems. But if you are willing to pass through this fire of affliction it will burn off the dross of personal sense and all that has attempted to keep you in bondage – and behold, you will come forth

Stirred Like a Feather Bed!

Thank you for pointing this out! How interesting that Mrs. Eddy compares the human heart to a feather bed that needs stirring up. It's true that if a certain chair pillow in my living room isn't picked up and given a few hearty pats on a regular basis, it'll just get flatter and flatter and sit dull on the chair, uninviting. A few whacks and it's looking good again. The instructions on two new feather pillows I received yesterday say that fluffing up the pillows every day will make them last longer--and also keep the dust out.

If stirring the human mind leads to yielding to the harmony of the divine mind (and clearing out the dust), then I hope my heart is being stirred on a regular basis. I certainly don't want to be in a rut (been there, done that) nor be flat, dull or hard. And may my feather pillows be a reminder of that! ****

A Simple Statement

Science and Health, p 546. "A simple statement of Christian Science, if demonstrated by healing, contains the proof of all here said of Christian Science."

I love this statement because more and more I see that instead of taking these simple statements and in humble obedience persisting with them, we keep looking for that magic phrase or sentence that will heal quickly. Thus we are denying the power of what we know now, thinking there is something in some other writing that confers the healing power.

I was indeed grateful when simple statements as: "God loves me," and another time "Spirit's senses has no pain," declared with deep love for the spiritual, for God, brought healings.

Christian Science has been proven. Are we following its simple Principle? How do we expect a solution, while frequently deviating from the governing Principle *****

SUBJECT - GOD 07/05/15

The Presence of God

"My son, keep thy father's commandment. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee." (Proverbs) This is such a comforting statement for this is what happens as we take time each day to read and study The Bible and Science and Health – learning more about God and His creation and learning how to better obey Him. The Truth found in these books destroys and replaces what we may have learned from error. When you need to know what direction to take this truth will be there for you - to lead you in the right direction. If you are having difficulty at night it will keep you and enfold you in its arms. When you awake in the morning you will be able to hear the Father's loving voice. Think about this as you go about your day – it will help you practice the presence of God. What better thing could there be than that?!******

Divine Love

In this week's lesson in *Science and Health* we read, "This is the doctrine of Christian Science; that divine Love CANNOT be deprived of its manifestation or object." To me this means that everyone at all times is reflecting the Love of God.

So if I see or think that they are not, this is on me and me alone. It is then my responsibility to lift the veil of my thought and know, I can't and won't be deprived of seeing and knowing God and his child. After all, this is the law of Christian Science! ****

Lo here! Or lo there!

"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or lo there! For the kingdom of God is within you." (Christ Jesus) I love this for it is so true! You can't find the kingdom of God by sitting in your "prayer chair" as we say - reading about it, or thinking about it or watching others living it or hoping you can find it in some special location. The kingdom of God is all within each and every one of us waiting to unfold in all its glory, waiting to be nurtured and valued. All have the privilege of knowing God and his kingdom - no exceptions. Why would a good God create us and then leave us lost and bewildered?! Certainly reading and studying can be very helpful, but then we must find this kingdom within us - jump out of that "prayer chair" and live it and prove it to be true! Just as an acorn is complete to grow into a huge and beautiful oak tree so we have been made fully complete in the Father who loves us.*******

Spiritual Man

Thanks to the Lesson writer for the wonderful citations about God's Allness and His idea man!

303 : 28-11 (to;) Spiritual man is the image or idea of God, an idea which cannot be lost nor separated from its divine Principle.

Understanding Spirit as my origin means much. This one crucial point gives the spiritual sense of who I am; from it can I see the nothingness of the erroneous beliefs that try to gain a foothold in my thinking as being real and having power!

Science and Health, p 63 In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry. His origin is not, like that of

mortals, in brute instinct, nor does he pass through material conditions prior to reaching intelligence. Spirit is his primitive and ultimate source of being; God is his Father, and Life is the law of his being.

Only accepting and thinking of myself this way can I claim to be the heir, expression, reflection, son/daughter, evidence and certainly manifestation of God. ***********

Identifying ourselves as spiritual man was of great importance to Mrs. Eddy. What she says in Misc. p 185 needs revisiting often. A few excerpts are presented below:

- 1.Self renunciation of all that constitutes a socalled material man, and the acknowledgment and achievement of his spiritual identity as the child of God, is Science that opens the very flood-gates of heaven; whence good flows into every avenue of being, cleansing mortals of all uncleanness, destroying all suffering, and demonstrating the true image and likeness.
- 2. There is no other way under heaven whereby we can be saved, and man be clothed with might, majesty, and immortality. ***********

Travel

"Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest" (Genesis) To those traveling this is a good thought to keep in mind. God is with you on your journey. His angels accompany you - whether you are going to Europe or to the grocery store! "The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth even for evermore." (Psalm 121) Thank you for this post! Instead of spending hours of driving time annoyed or being mindless, Christian Science—with a lot of practitioner support—has given me the ability to make that time useful. Understanding that God is all, that discord is not natural, and knowing that God is blessing me and all on the road constantly has changed the experience into something wonderful.

Whether it takes 3 hours or 5, working to feel His Love and appreciating the beauty of His work is making my life so much better. I am so grateful for this.

Also, I found this on Wednesday and felt it might help others:

To a Student about to Travel

Remember that unless you travel mentally, that if you don't traverse new lands spiritually, if you don't cross metaphysical waters, that is, and reach shores hitherto unvisited in Soul, you have wasted your time, money, and effort, and you will get nothing out of it. Don't do less Science but more. May God enfold you in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake, where no evil, no accident, no allurements, no blame lies, claiming some world more dazzlingly beautiful than the radiance of divine Love, for straight is the gate and narrow the way thereto.

Thank you both for these wonderfully inspiring and fresh ideas about travel. I'm going to print them out and put them in our cars!

Preparation for travel includes proper maintenance, cleaning the windshield and gassing up--but this mental preparation is actually the most important of all.

"Behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest." Genesis 28:15 (Golden Text) God is certainly our best traveling companion! *******

A Way Open to Heaven

"Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fishes belly." Matthew Henry's comment about Jonah's release from the belly of the whale is this.-"Wherever God puts us we may find a way open to Heaven." It is important to remember this important Truth - even in the most dire conditions, there is always a way out when we are on our knees repentant and in humble prayer to God. "Remember, thou canst be brought into no condition, be it ever so severe, where Love has not been before thee, and where its tender lesson is not awaiting thee. Therefore despair not nor murmur, for that which seeketh to save, to heal, and to deliver, will guide thee, if thou seekest this guidance." (Mary Baker Eddy - Miscellany)********

This is why Psalm 139: 8 is so true: "if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." You could ask, "How can God be in hell?" How can God reach me if I am out of reach? The answer is that God is All and everywhere, and if I am in hell, that hell is my own bad dream, not His.

I love that idea, heaven is God's reality. Mind's reality, what God is conscious of. Not this world for sure. Our effort is to free ourselves from mortal mind's imaginations. Hell, yes!

Understanding Continues

The Lesson Sermons seem to build on one another, which is a beautiful thing. These passages taken from *Science and Health* helped my progress with understanding God:

"GOD. The great I AM; the all knowing, all-seeing, all-acting, all-wise, all-loving, and eternal. The everlasting I AM is not bounded nor compressed within the narrow limit of physical humanity.

A limitless MIND cannot proceed from physical limitations.

Through divine Science, Spirit, God, unites understanding to eternal harmony. The calm and exalted thought or spiritual apprehension is at peace. Thus the dawn of ideas goes on, forming each successive stage of progress. (Science and Health, p 506:10)

Man's Extremity is God's Opportunity

Man's extremity is God's opportunity. When Jonah was at his worst time in the fish's belly, he "cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me..." When we turn whole-heartedly to God in our extremity, He hears us. He knows our thoughts at all times, but He answers only righteous prayer, and that is one without any human will or personal desire. Our "extremity" is the total loss of human will. That is when we find our strong connection with God

I have found this losing of human will to be an ongoing process, and sometimes a tough one. If I don't do it voluntarily, it gets forced out of me. Better to start each day by declaring "I can of mine own self do nothing." Without God I am worthless. God finds us when we have that attitude, even when we put ourselves in the belly of hell, as Jonah discovered.

I have also had help from fellow church members and practitioners who have seen the danger and pointed out my human will. At times it has been painful, but that was my pride lashing out. Human will has not been my friend. I have grown to appreciate any help I can get to lose it. ********

Better to start each day by declaring "I can of mine own self do nothing." Without God I am worthless.

When I really got it, that I am nothing without God, the Allness of God became clearer. As I heard it put once: if God is not here I couldn't be here either. That was clear and simple enough! *********