FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 53

SUBJECT: UNREALITY 10/4/15

No Power But Divine Power

Science and Health, p 224: 31

No power can withstand divine Love. What is this supposed power, which opposes itself to God? Whence cometh it? What is it that binds man with iron shackles to sin, sickness, and death? What ever enslaves man is opposed to the divine government. TRUTH MAKES MAN FREE.

Not Pharaoh, drugs, personalities, or fear can enslave us. Mrs. Eddy makes this perfectly clear, and Plainfield Church is clear. Thanks be to God! **********

God The Only Power

Science and Health, 272: p 29-30

God is the divine Principle of all that represents Him and of all that really exists.

One definition of Principle found in the 1828 Webster's Dictionary is: Being that produces anything; operative cause.

Science and Health, p 339: 7 (Since) -10 Since God is All, there is no room for His unlikeness.

Moses remains calm, cool, and collected. He "shuts out" that picture. He "shuts out" the fear and clamor, the cries, the wailing, and the accusations of the crowd. (Many of them now were not too happy that Moses led them out of Egypt.) Many were cursing that day. Now they wished they could go back into slavery with Pharaoh! In spite of it all, Moses remains confident. He knows that God will save them, and quickly. He actually comforts the people. He assures them of God's love for them and encouragingly tells them that the "Lord will fight for them"

What a phenomenal lesson there is to be learned here in just these two, small words... "Stand Still." We have been taught here, in our classes, and with our practitioners, to not be impressed with anything error tries to throw at us. We've been taught to not look at the error, nor give it one iota of power. We've been taught to stand-up to error. To keep with what we know. We've been taught, too, to be still,...pray, be quiet, don't "talk it, don't listen to it" Don't groan, complain, fret, moan, wail or cry. We've been taught to "Stand still with God", be confident, be expectant. We've been instructed to keep our "cool" as Moses did. Wait patiently, rise above the fear, (stand still). God is about to fight for you, as he did for the children of Israel. Even in what looks like the most impossible of situations, "God can do for us, what we cannot do for ourselves."

God can do what he did for Moses and The Children of Israel. Then, as in Moses' words, "See the Salvation of the Lord!"

As Moses said, "See The Salvation of the Lord!" *******

Thank you, for this post.

The last part of that verse, Ex. 14:13, says "...for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever." This reminds me that we have been taught here that once something is healed in Christian Science, it is healed forever. There is no coming and going -- the Lord, God omnipotent reigneth! Very grateful for the healing practitioners in this church, dedicated to serving God and mankind.

And thank you very much for this Lesson. ******

Watch #475 — WATCH lest you try to do Truth's work. Mrs. Eddy once stated, "You stand still and voice the truth. Truth does the work." 500 Watching Points by Gilbert Carpenter

Today, during our Bible Study, we discussed that Moses had to do his part, as Heidi describes so beautifully, but Moses did not part the sea nor do I believe plan the route. He had to trust. *********

At All Times and Under All Circumstances

"At all times and under all circumstances, overcome evil with good." *Science and Health*, cit. 13

Wow, this seems like a tall order: we are told to "overcome evil with good" 24/7! That's a LOT of...watching!

In fact, we can never watch enough, and it's another way of telling us to never stop to "stand porter at the door of thought." This really is a full-time job! For we are constantly being bombarded in one way or another to believe in stuff that just isn't true or worth paying attention to.

This reminds me how it took me years, despite being in Christian Science, to understand what it means to "work for God." I was puzzled at the time, but now it seems so obvious to me. After all the strong teaching at Plainfield, I see that constant watching really is the way to carry out this work.

It can be:

- --watching my thought to keep it filled with good, and to replace any erroneous thoughts with Truth
- --watching to know God is the only power
- --watching to see "not my will, but Thine be done"
- --watching to see how I can share Christian Science with others
- --watching to see how I can fill another's need
- --watching to see my fellow man spiritually and
- correctly: "Hail, daughter/son of God"
- --watching to "never breathe an immoral atmosphere, unless in the attempt to purify it" (this can be as simple as turning off the TV or radio and declaring the Truth after hearing lies)
- --watching to keep a smile on my face
- --watching to keep an attitude of gratitude
- --watching that I am actively participating in church activity, not just sitting back and relaxing...

 Etc. etc.

Really, my "work" is cut out for me, but, it is joyful work to "work for God" and I'm so grateful for incredibly ample employment! **********

Thanks! When I came across the Carpenter's 500 watching points I wondered: how could anyone be

aware of all this all the time? Like the 10 Commandments, the first two obeyed covers the others, and in watching consistently, it is our love for God and our willingness to honor and obey Him which makes these watches a joy to live! *******

And I love the last Bible citation: "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." Not a release from responsibility, but a knowing that God will supply both the wisdom and opportunity to meet any need. ************

.. Beyond All Other Means And Methods.

Since the September 26th, 2015 Bible Study, I have been thinking of that one definition of "resource" being "means yet untried." In my life, I have tried so many human methods and systems, yet none brought more than passing happiness.

5.67

Grace and Truth are potent beyond all other means and methods.

Upon coming to Plainfield, my life has gotten better in all ways. Christian Science has given me—a little more every day! —access to the means and methods by which Christ Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy demonstrated. Knowing that what I am learning here not only gives me purpose now and the ability to help others, but will result in realizing the complete potential God created for me, is wonderful and awe-inspiring.

Human systems may promise that, but none could ever deliver.

I am so grateful for the weekly lessons, the daily practitioner support, and everything this church does to enable this growth in Christian Science. Such a constant blessing! Thank you! *******

Good point. And what's wonderful is that we don't have to spend any of our precious time searching for an alternative! There are endless self-help books continuing to be written, and some can be helpful for a time, but none offer the complete message of Christian Science, or the Laws of the Universe that Jesus demonstrated and Mary Baker Eddy worked

so hard to bring to us as a "scribe under orders"!

The Truth is potent and available to all. That's why it's so important to get the word out and not be bashful to share it with others. I've been delighted at people being so happy to receive not only *Science and Health* and our periodical "Love is the Liberator". Now, I think of it as giving people the Key to the Scriptures, or an explanation of the Laws of the Universe, and that's a mighty gift indeed!

Confidence

"The confidence inspired by Science lies in the fact that Truth is real and error is unreal." Confidence is an important quality many aspire to and it comes only from God and in obedience to Him. Anytime you are feeling doubtful, ask yourself what is it that you believe to be true or real other than the power and presence of God - a disease? A difficult relationship? Lack of any kind? Get back to the basics you are learning in Science. Don't be impressed with false evidence or as it is sometimes said F.E.A.R. - False Evidence Appearing Real! If it is not of God who is the one and only Source and who created all to be Good, then it certainly cannot be real and this is a provable fact! Mrs. Eddy states "Error is a coward before Truth." Remember this error is the coward, not you!! You are the confident child of God! ******

Confidence because of the understanding that GOD IS ALL, is sure, firm and lasting. Any other so called confidence due to material possessions, position, or popularity is like the house built on sand! The former has an unchanging strong foundation, while the latter is on shaky ground!

.....That They Go Forward

15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward.

Science and Health, p. 226 I saw before me the awful conflict, the Red Sea and the wilderness; but I pressed on through faith in God, trusting Truth, the strong deliverer, to guide me into the land of Christian Science, where fetters fall and the rights of man are fully known and acknowledged.

There is a great lesson from these citations; After a Truth has been given or perceived through prayer do I go forward with it trusting the source from which it came or do I still question this power which has delivered me many times before?

Like Mrs. Eddy's example from *Science and Health*, we should go forward with the Truth, even if we don't see the full realization, instead of questioning, which only wastes time. Those impeding "what ifs" and "buts" are the devil's way, we cannot be fooled by them. It is the "going forward" trusting that counts! *******

This brings up a really important point. How many times have I agonized over a decision after getting the thought to take a step, but worrying about making a mistake, and really wishing I could see the final result before taking the first step? This is how we develop our spiritual sense. By trusting the still small voice and going forward, without seeing more than the first step. One of our hymns makes the point, "One step enough for me."

The Israelites were given a huge first step out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, and here they are doubting and complaining again. How often does that happen to us?

I have found that my confidence in that still small voice is usually a function of how well I am living in obedience to it each day. When I am "in the right mind" (Mind) I find it easier to take the steps God gives me, without worrying where they will lead. When I am fearful about taking the next step, or complaining that I don't know where it will lead, that is a good indication I have not been living in

obedience to God and I had better get on my knees in gratitude to Him.

SUBJECT – ARE SIN SICKNESS AND DEATH REAL? 10/11/15

.....Realize No Reality In Them

"Expose and denounce the claims of evil and disease in all their forms, but realize no reality in them." (*Science and Health*)

This is great to think about when doing our watches! "Expose and denounce" error—rip it to shreds—but realize it's not real—not a person, place, thing, organization, etc. Sometimes that can be the hard part—error can seem very real, and sometimes even shocking. But if we give it an identity and attach it to something or someone, we're giving it "all the life it has," as Mrs. Eddy says. Bicknell Young reduces it to "malpractice"—not a big, formidable Goliath, but something that can be destroyed, "intelligently, with confidence," by the power of God!

Paul certainly wasn't soft with error, nor afraid of it.

Reading through the lesson, I couldn't help but see how many times Animal Magnetism wanted to throw Paul off his path. Through it all, he kept his focus on God, and did this to such a degree that the sailors were "all of good cheer, and they also took some meat." That is some serious understanding and trust in God!

What an example for us now in our work and watches.

8.495

Let Christian Science, instead of corporeal sense, support your understanding of being, and this understanding will supplant error with Truth, replace mortality with immortality, and silence discord with harmony.

Thank you to the lesson writer and all who take part in the forum. I am so grateful to be a member of this church! **********

What Makes Me Experience These

I always have to remind myself that reality, infinity, the universe, or all, is the divine Consciousness, and its ideas or manifestation.

Nothing but consciousness. God is blissfully aware only of Love's ideas, Soul's goodness, and the law of harmony and perfection that Principle enforces.

The only thing we seem to fight is wrong, false consciousness, delusion. Not something that exists, although it may seem to exist. But it doesn't.

Do I manage to remain at one with this divine consciousness all the time? No! But I am getting better at it. Physical, personal sense is constantly trying to convince me that I am a physical mortal, with my own mind and reality.

Corporeal sense defrauds and lies. The corporeal senses are the only source of evil or error. Page 489, *Science and Health*.

So the warfare with nothing goes on. *******

A warfare with nothing! That's great! And this is a clarification of a testimony last night when he spoke about a warfare between good and evil and at one time wanting to avoid conflict. Mrs. Eddy states "The warfare with one's self is grand." (Misc.). Our ultimate warfare is to prove the unreality of sin, disease and death and this is a conflict we cannot

and should not avoid - and God brings the victory.

I just read an interesting comparison. A woman was hanging wet clothes on a clothesline, and she thought: "The sun knows nothing about the wet clothing, but it still will dry them. God knows nothing about my problems, but He will still heal them." And she was healed.

Truth is the remedy for lies, Allness for nothingness. *********

Whose I Am And Whom I Serve

"For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve."

It is a huge challenge for us to have the humility to consistently be in service to God and to mankind, as was Paul. Paul was a dedicated servant of the Jewish hierarchy before he was transformed on the road to Damascus. Then, his dedication and humility were put to great use by God. It was the source of his healing power and influential teaching. It was not his elite education or family background, but his humility and desire to serve God's purpose that gave him the power for accomplishing great good.

Those who come to Plainfield with humility and the desire to serve God are able to accomplish much good. Those who come thinking they already know much and deserve high office or recognition for their accomplishments do not last. Those who come with pride or a selfish agenda do not last. God can't use them for His purpose. Paul did not need to remind himself who he belonged to or whom he served. It was so ingrained

A Bible commentary gives the definition of "holy":

"And what is the meaning of holy? The word does not originally and primarily refer to character so much as to relation to God. The root idea of holiness is not righteousness nor moral perfectness, but something that lies behind these-viz, separation for the service and uses of God....There followed in Jesus the moral perfectness that comes from such uninterrupted and complete consecration of self to God."

I find it to be very significant that one of the chief characteristics of Jesus was his desire to serve. All he did was in service to God. Can you think of one tiny thing he ever did that was self-serving? Even at the end of his earthly days, he washed the feet of his disciples and implored Peter three times to feed his sheep. Never once did he seek position, place, or power and yet look what he achieved?! Now this most definitely was not personal achievement nor was it do-goody stuff. Jesus the Christ was one with his Father. He got self out of the way and was used by God to accomplish His good purpose. What an example! And yes, it is essential as we begin on this path to know - "the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve"!! Remembering hymn #58 - "we would hear no other voices; we would heed no other call " *********

By stating whose he was and who he serves, Paul was also invoking the fact that he was speaking as a messenger of God and not just a man. He had warned them not to embark on this trip, but the Romans paid no heed. God is always speaking, but

are we listening? From my experiences, Material Medica will speak loudly if I let it, demanding attention, but the healing is in silencing that noise and hearing the words of God. *********

Recipe For Joy

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation. Therefore, with joy shall ye draw out of the wells of salvation." (Isaiah) I love this. It is the recipe for joy! Feeling depressed? You won't be when you fully accept and consider these truths –

- 1. God is your salvation
- 2. You can trust in Him
- 3. No need to ever be afraid
- 4. He is your strength
- 5. He is your song!!!
- 6. He is what will bring you out of this belief of life in matter!

Start singing! ********

That is why the verse "Rejoice in tribulation." No joy, must mean NO faith!

Without joy, our work is half done in allowing the Principle of Christ to operate in our consciousness; a half dirty window can't get all the sunshine, right?!

Like A Flint

Mrs. Eddy left behind this poem when she had to leave the church for a period, and take a trip to Washington. From Spiritual Precepts Vol. 1

"With Love's battle flags unfurled, With hope's cause before the world, We are going on; Though the storm clouds thunder o'er us, Though the path seems dark before us, Though the foeman strive to kill us

We are going on; For our Master led the way, Fought the fight, and won the day! Follow, follow, all who may, Going on, going on. Stand ye only back, who dare not the cross of Christ to bear; We are going on; Triumph's star above us gleaming, Victory on our foreheads beaming, For fresh duties hourly reaching, We are going on; To fulfill each hope and aim. Conquer sickness, sin, and blame, And each erring heart reclaim Going on, going on. From the darkness of the night Into morning's golden light, Sisters, -- labor on; With the aid of God's own Science, With no heed of hate's defiance, Truth and Right my sole reliance, I shall labor on.

Your loving Teacher, (Signed) M. B. Glover Eddy"

"So this poem sets forth the rule of protection, in going on, going on, keeping your thought moving on. The whole call is for activity. The student of Christian Science can never accomplish anything of value if his thought is handled by apathy, inertia, or lethargy. Error cannot hit a moving target. An active thought is untouchable." *******

Reading this poem, the word resolute came to mind. From Webster's 1828:

Flint is anything proverbially hard; as a heart of flint.

Resolute ...Having a fixed purpose; determined; hence, bold; firm; steady; constant in pursuing a purpose.

Other words like impenetrable, impregnable, all meaning my mental door is fast shut to any discouraging or evil thoughts... onward and upward like our Leader, we are moving on.