

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 119

**SUBJECT: God – July 1st, 2018**

## **Call No Man Your Father Upon The Earth**

“Mrs. Eddy has clearly explained how the thought of the parent should be disconnected from that of the child for the good of the child. The following is an excerpt from an article in *Collectanea* on page 167:

“To successfully treat children, cut off the parent thought. Man is the offspring of God, not man. The material birth is but the false conception. Realize that matter cannot transmit good or evil. It is inert, unintelligent, and cannot be the medium of intelligence. Seedless oranges are produced by turning the top of the parent plant back to earth, and when rooted disconnecting it. The offspring produces seedless oranges. Detach the thought of the child from the parent and the germs of erroneous seed of the parent thought will cease to impress the child.” \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you. This is very helpful. Just the other day, I shared the truths about God and Christian Science with a friend and her child who is having some issues and fear is definitely in the mom’s thought. Understanding to “cut off the parent thought” makes all the difference in my prayers for them and for me to know the Truth of all God’s children as his individual reflex image of himself without influence from anything else. Eternal Love and goodness permeates all and is all Life! \*\*\*\*\*

On page 463, with the heading “Scientific Obstetrics”:

**To attend properly the birth of the new child, or divine idea, you should so detach mortal thought from its material conceptions, that the birth will be natural and safe.**

Then on page 261:

**Detach sense from the body, or matter, which is only a form of human belief, and you may learn the meaning of God, or good, and the nature of the immutable and immortal. \*\*\*\*\***

## **Willingness to Become As A Little Child**

Willingness to become as a little child and to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of the advanced idea. Gladness to leave the false landmarks and joy to see them disappear, — this disposition helps to precipitate the ultimate harmony. The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress. “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

*Science and Health*, p. 323:32-6

Thank you for this week’s Bible lesson. To become as a little child almost seems too simple to be true, mortal mind will tell me. Funny to believe in mortal mind, which is nothing, over the only power and truth that is Divine Mind.

Later in the week, I was surprised to find a bold, large text of Mrs. Eddy’s on the backside of an old CS periodical. Her loving quote seemed to be staring me in the face:

“My dear, you have only to lean on God as a little child and divine Mind will teach you all you need to know every moment. Love will direct your footsteps and lighten your labors. This I know to be true.” The quote is from the book *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, Volume II, pg. 376.

Those tender loving words washed over me in simple grace. “Lean on God as a little child...” What peace to surrender and let God be God. It’s not so much what I know but what God knows...how freeing not to be in control. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this beautiful post! I have been thinking about the quality of being like a little child when seeking God.

Ephesians 5 : 1, 10

1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. I looked up proving and two things it said : trying and experiencing. I think this goes along with what Mrs. Eddy said, ” ..lean on God as a little child.” then you can experience His Love. I recall that Mrs. Eddy’s mother told her to lean on God when she was a little girl. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for these posts. It reminds me of the first sentence in the Preface of the 1875, First Edition of Science and Health, “Leaning on the sustaining Infinite with loving trust, the trials of to-day are brief, and to-morrow is big with blessings.” \*\*\*\*\*

## Pure in Heart

“The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress. ‘Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.’” Mary Baker Eddy, Science and Health p. 323

“Mrs. Eddy would stand for no nonsense when unhandled errors were lurking in the mental home of the student. She demanded that we tell the truth about the lie, but, when we did, to realize that it was a lie. At that point, wisdom uncovers the error in order that it may be destroyed. On April 17, 1890, she made the following statement: ‘**When we understand the truth of a lie, then we shall understand God, and not until then.**’ She also said, “Calling or thinking error a lie, relieves it of any personality whatever.’

‘He that covereth his sins shall not prosper.’ This is a Biblical admonition that error must be unmasked before it can be destroyed. In Miscellaneous Writings we read, ‘Error found out is two-thirds destroyed, and the remaining third kills itself.’ ...so much of mortality is perpetuated through the deception whereby people hide their burdens and secret sorrows in their mental homes, and appear on the streets smiling and apparently happy, just as if human life were one grand sweet song. ...When students endeavor to hide their undestroyed errors under the cloak of scientific statements, it creates an unfortunate deception which would tend to rob the honest inquirer of a right perspective.” From Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Footsteps by Gilbert Carpenter Chp. 67 \*\*\*\*\*

I am grateful to be learning here how to make practical the teachings of Jesus such as, “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Sermon on the Mount) Telling the truth about the lie requires honesty, getting out of our comfort zone, burning of pride, willingness to ask for help and taking correction. One of the gifts of doing this is a greater understanding of God and the peace that goes with it. This has been requiring me to face problems rather than glossing over them, avoiding them, or pushing them down. I am beginning to understand why evil, error, wrong, needs to be exposed and destroyed in order to purify the heart and “see God.” \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you so much for this post! Dear Mr. Carpenter, – I am so deeply grateful for his wisdom and all he has given us. Many people complain about not making progress, and I admit I have done this as well. But here Mrs. Eddy says, “The purification of sense and self is proof of progress.”!! PROOF! It is only error’s deceptive voice that tells us we are not making progress! Would God ever say anything like that to His beloved child? Of course not! But if we only look to the physical manifestation as proof that we are making progress – then we are looking in the wrong direction. So what are you looking at? an unhealed marriage, lack of employment, a disease etc...? Look instead to the purification of sense and self.

The previous post explains some ways to make progress – being completely honest with oneself and uncovering error is certainly one way and then cleansing ourselves daily from faulty thinking and acting. So have you made some progress in that direction today, in this past hour or moment? We certainly can all purify our thoughts and deeds each and every day and this is what we need to focus on, the rest will take care of itself. Mrs. Eddy has said, “Right thought must manifest itself.” And so it is!\*\*\*\*\*

Excerpt from Mary Baker Eddy’s letter, dated Jan. 28, 1897, to James Neal, a very successful early Christian Science worker: “Pray daily, never miss praying, no matter how often: ‘Lead me not into temptation’ – scientifically rendered – Lead me not to lose sight of strict purity, clean, pure thoughts; let all my thoughts and aims be high, unselfish, charitable, meek – spiritually minded.” [See Lyman P. Powell’s biography of Mrs. Eddy, p. 322.] \*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT: Sacrament – July 8th, 2018**

### **The Great Price**

“What, could ye not watch with me one hour?”  
(Matt. 26:38).

Following Christ in the way of Christian Science costs something: complete surrender of self.

See Luke 14:25-33: “Count the cost.”

The Sermon of the Mount makes known the very costly process of giving up of self’s most valued and defended possessions, likening it to giving up my right eye or right hand, banishing anything that keeps me from watchfully maintaining my alignment with God at all times (Matt. 5:29-30, SH 14:8-9).

This complete giving up of self is the “great price” that must be paid in full — which alone purchases the “pearl of great price” (Matt. 13:46).

*“Never absent from [my] post, never off guard”* (MW, p. 116).

The key to obedient, successful watching is maintaining First Love for God in concentrated, consecrated commitment to doing His will, every moment of my life. It was lack of First Love that put the disciples to sleep throughout that one fateful hour when Jesus needed them most.

“Kindle the watch-fires of unselfed love, and they throw a light upon the uncomplaining agony in the life of our Lord; they open the enigmatical seals of the angel, standing in the sun, a glorified spiritual idea of the ever-present God - in whom there is no darkness, but all is light, and man’s immortal being.” (’02 16:15-20) \*\*\*\*\*

Your post on watching is very helpful. Watching for any sense of personal self demands vigilance and it is easy to become mesmerized that it’s me doing the task at hand rather than the great I AM that I AM.

Recently I read an address by Clarence Steves who came into Christian Science through a healing following World War I. Severely wounded, he served in the Navy during the war and spent a number of years in a Veteran’s Hospital. A hospital nurse offered him Science & Health and he devoured it. The passage that awoke him and brought healing was page 228:3-6 “...that nothing inharmonious can enter being, for Life *is* God.” He went on to become a practitioner and teacher. Absence of personal sense enabled him to see the Truth so clearly.

He said, “Some students are afraid of what others are thinking about them; false concepts of ourselves in the past, etc. If I have accepted identity as spiritual and “before Abraham was, I AM,” it is of no concern what the human seems to think or not think, because it is not knowing what I AM. If one has accepted the butterfly and left the cocoon, what does it care about anything that happens to the cocoon, or what others are saying about it; and what harm can they do that which knows itself to be the functioning presence of the Almighty One?

Fly above the cocoon stage, keep both wings up, and fly unto the mountain. Never be concerned about the caterpillar. We have left the sepulchre and can cry out, 'Rabboni.'"

"It is important, if someone is gossiping about the caterpillar, condemning it, judging it, that we keep absolutely disconnected from it, because it is not our concept of ourselves; and so all the malpractice, ignorant or malicious, is harmless when we refuse to identify ourselves with the caterpillar concept. Let us take the wings of the morning and dwell in the universality of our being." (p. 68, Selected Addresses of Clarence Steves)

What a powerful illustration to use to watch my thinking. Am I aligning with the butterfly or the caterpillar? \*\*\*\*\*

## Turning to Christ

### 8. John 20

**15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.**

**16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.**

This moment where Mary was made to see reality is something I have in the past thought was very interesting and beautiful. (It is somewhat similar to how the prodigal son "came to himself" as brought out during the Sunday, July 1st, 2018 Roundtable) Yet, I haven't really seen a lesson in it until now. It occurred to me this week that when I am sad, as Mary was, I should be on the lookout for that Christ idea that I am missing. Actually, if ever I am having any strong negative emotion, I need to turn and know Truth is right there and reality is waiting for me to see it, and that "The Father hath not left me alone." (John 8: 29, which Mrs. Singleterry's

article, "Three Essential Statements", has helped me to understand.)

I am very grateful for how these weekly lessons combine with what is taught here to give practical instruction for every day life, and useful tools for those moments that I really need to work through any doubt, fear, sadness, or other erroneous claim. I used to just wallow in those dark moments until they became months, and now Christian Science has turned me from all that! Thank you! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this post, and for the references to work with! It is true that we must be alert to any negative that tries to intrude in our lives, and to the saving grace that we have Truth at our side always to combat and nullify it! \*\*\*\*\*

Wonderful insight! Mary went to the tomb not really knowing what to expect, I imagine. She was relying on her faith. Note in verse 1, it states it was dark. Mortal mind and error are just that until divine Mind illumines thought. Just as Mary turned and found her risen Lord, we too can find Him by turning from error to Truth, the Christ. Her outcome was more than she could have ever imagined. Trusting God can lead to wonderful results. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for the inspirational posts on this tender passage. Mary stooped to look into the tomb for material evidence, a reminder of how often we look at matter to see how it is responding to prayer or treatment. In her darkest hour, when it appears that she had been denied the blessing to see Christ one last time, to prepare his body for burial, her grief is inconsolable.

*Science and Health*, p. 574-575: "The very circumstance, which your suffering sense deems wrathful and afflictive, Love can make an angel entertained unawares. The thought gently whispers: "Come hither! Arise from your false consciousness into the true sense of Love, and behold the Lamb's wife, — Love wedded to its own spiritual idea. Then cometh the marriage feast, for this revelation will destroy forever the physical plagues imposed by material sense." \*\*\*\*\*

I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Wikipedia tells you this is one of the most debated verses in the gospel; however as a student of Christian Science, Jesus' meaning is very clear. Jesus clearly knew you can't destroy something that doesn't exist. For example, take the principle of mathematics.  $2 \times 2 = 5$ . The principle of mathematics only knows itself or law of  $2 \times 2$  as 4. Is  $2 \times 2 = 5$  destroyed? No, because it never existed in the realm, or principle of mathematics which is the same yesterday, today, and for eternity. A cashier who doesn't know the laws of math very well and believes  $2 \times 2 = 5$  would have an inharmonious day with customers and balancing the till at the end of the day and would likely be terminated. Similarly, sin or erroneous conscious thinking brings inharmonious or discordant days because it is living outside of God's laws. Only understanding or realizing the Truth of God's laws would bring about harmony or reality. As Jesus says, His mission is to fulfill, which to me means to bring out or to express God's laws. Truth brings God's laws to fulfillment and it is this dawning of realization or understanding that keeps us safe. \*\*

### **I Shall Be Satisfied When I awake With Thy Likeness**

In Psalm 17, David is reported to have stated "I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." Everybody is looking for satisfaction somewhere. This statement implies that God's likeness, perfection, is not something that will come at some undisclosed future time, but is a present reality, and that it is something to be awake to. When I am awake enough to acknowledge the presence of God with all that is around me, even though it may appear otherwise, then a genuine sense of satisfaction is close at hand. For those who look beyond even the best of what the world can offer,

and the temptation to be content with it, and ready to be awake and watching, there is a permanent satisfaction that only God can give. \*\*\*\*\*

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Thanks for this post. This is such a valuable reminder since it is easy to think that we declare the Truth etc. for something to be changed in the future. What has helped me is the premise which Mrs. Eddy reminds us to begin from, from Perfection! Also, the spiritual fact that Perfect God, Perfect man is the basis of thought and demonstration, *Science and Health*. This leaves us then with the awakening to, the realization or the revealing of the present perfection to become clear for us, as a result for the work we do. God made everything already, and perfectly so. All the "purifying of thought" allows the transparency of thought for the correct view of things to appear.

### **SUBJECT: Life – July 15th, 2018**

#### **Life!**

I am so grateful to learn through Christian Science that God is Life! This understanding has changed a great deal in my view about many things. Working with the synonym Life, makes me think of constant right action/function of my whole being, strength, vitality, health etc. It helps me not go over the past or worry about the future. Aging and its associated physical claims become increasingly UNREAL as thought is taken off past regrets and disappointments and age by birthdays. It's wonderful to be reminded to live in the eternal NOW, and to know consistently that, I am ageless, disease-less and deathless! Oh Life that maketh all things new! Hymn 218.

This correct view of Life adds more clarity to our true freedom, as the spiritual ideas of a Loving Father-Mother God! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this inspiring post! Last week, I was working to know the Truth. A false claim that it was painful to walk needed to be unmasked. I was guided to read the series *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*. As I sat on the sofa traveling back in time, a sweetness and peace enfolded me as if I had been transported back to Mrs. Eddy's class. This passage in particular helped break the mesmerism and before long I was back on my feet enjoying the garden.

"Mrs. Eddy said there were times in teaching when the deep things of Christian Science were being considered that the mesmeric sense of too much continuous seriousness must be broken. She illustrated this in her teaching of this class by telling several amusing stories.

I recall one story in particular which she used to illustrate human philosophy. She said there once was a man who had a fox. He made a hole in the door of his house and stuck the tail of the fox through it from the inside. Very shortly a crowd had gathered outside and he went out to ask why they were there. The reply was that they were trying to figure out how the fox was able to get through such a small hole. This, said Mrs. Eddy, was human philosophy, always trying to figure out things that never happened." (George Wendell Adams, *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy*, Second Series)

## God Is The Only Life

"The author has healed hopeless organic disease, and raised the dying to life and health through the understanding of God as the only Life. It is a sin to believe that aught can overpower omnipotent and eternal Life. (*Science and Health*, p.428:30-1)

"When I have most clearly seen and most sensibly felt that the infinite recognizes no disease, this has not separated me from God, but has so bound me to Him as to enable me instantaneously to heal a cancer which had eaten its way to the jugular vein."  
"...an acknowledgment of the perfection of the

infinite Unseen confers a power nothing else can. An incontestable point in divine Science is, that because God is All, a realization of this fact dispels even the sense or consciousness of sin, and brings us nearer to God, bringing out the highest phenomena of the All-Mind." (Unity of Good by Mary Baker Eddy p.7:8-12; 20-26)

I am very grateful to Mary Baker Eddy and for her writings which teach us that God is the only Life and reality of all existence. I love being so bound to God! I know nothing separates us from Him. We are bound to God, forever. This alone heals any sense of separation, fear, or sense of dis-ease-iness of any kind. It heightens our energy to go forward with strength to overcome false beliefs in our thinking and know they are not of God, hence not true. I love that as we get nearer to God and listen to his voice, all the time, we experience the real Life which God has intended for us as his "highest phenomena of the All-Mind." (Unity of Good by Mary Baker Eddy p.7:25-26)

I am learning that our true spiritual existence is always present and perfect. I also realize that evil is not real and does not alter our true perfection as God's expression. I'm learning that matter is the illusion which is the home of evil. It is not to be trusted. Only God decides what Life is and how his ideas harmonize together and a supposed evil or nothing cannot change that. Life, Truth and Love is real and I am so grateful to God for blessing us all with perfection. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you!

Lamentations 3 : 22-26

22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

24 The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

25 The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

This citation helps me in working to stick with God. To "...Get nearer to God and listen to His voice..." Here is this word wait again. "Wait on the LORD and fret not" for He is Perfect.

## Seek Good, And Not Evil

"Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you."  
Amos 5: 14

This theme is throughout the Bible. It is the fundamental covenant. The question is, what is this "good" that we should seek? It can't be a human sense of goodness. The human sense of goodness sees and judges personalities, tolerates bad behavior in the name of "tolerance," and enables bad habits, all in the name of human kindness. It does not heal. And it just as quickly turns to evil when it gets its feelings hurt.

What Amos is referring to is divine good, or God. It is to seek that which God decrees to be right. Seek the divine Principle that does away with any human sense of goodness, which has no tolerance of anything that is not God-like. This is the only "good" there is. Mrs. Evans used to say often, "When you stand for Principle, Principle stand for you." And to seek it means to obey God's commands (each minute of each day). It requires complete trust in your spiritual sense and lots of self-immolation (burning out of pride). It puts one under the protection of divine law, which, fortunately, is the only power in the universe.

The Bible is full of examples of the benefit of doing this. Jesus proved it and explained it. And fortunately for us, Mary Baker Eddy discovered the science of this power and wrote our textbook, so that it will never be lost again.

## God Does Not Know Evil

"The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth."  
Psalms.

I am so grateful to Mrs. Eddy for giving us the explanation of these Biblical statements. It would be easy to take this statement as one of a battle between good and evil, and to simply say the good eventually wins that battle. But it leaves the question, "Why is there still evil in the world?" This could be discouraging, were it not for the metaphysics discovered by Mrs. Eddy and contained in her writings.

In *Science and Health*, she writes, "Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God." This is the "face of the Lord" to everything unlike God. In *Unity of Good*, Mrs. Eddy explains clearly that God does not know evil. And since God is all, evil has no legitimate source of existence. She writes, "God is not the so-called ego of evil; for evil, as a supposition, is the father of itself, — of the material world, the flesh, and the devil. From this falsehood arise the self-destroying elements of this world, its unkind forces, its tempests, lightnings, earthquakes, poisons, rabid beasts, fatal reptiles, and mortals."

We view life incorrectly when we accept it as being outside the control of God, subject to good and evil. When we recognize that evil has no legitimate existence, we will cease attaching it to persons, we will gain our dominion over it, and have no further remembrance of it. God does not know evil! \*\*\*\*\*

Christian Science impresses the entire corporeality, namely, mind and body, \_ and brings out the proof that Life is continuous and harmonious. *Science and Health*, p. 157

GOD IS OUR LIFE!! *Science and Health*, p.388