

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

[WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM](http://WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM)

ISSUE 133

**SUBJECT: Love – February 3rd, 2019**

## **Our Own God**

Psalm 67: 6

...and God, *even* our own God, shall bless us.”

From Charles Spurgeon:

But what shall I say of “our own God”? Words fail to express the depth of joy and delight which is contained within these three monosyllables, “Our own God.” “Our own” by the Everlasting covenant in which He gave Himself to us with all His attributes, with all that He is and has, to be our portion forever and ever. ... “Our own God,” by our own choice of Him, a choice most free, but guided by His Holy Spirit, so that we who should have chosen our own ruin, were sweetly led to make our election of the Lord, because He had made His election of us. “Our own God,” ours to trust, ours to love, ours to fly to in every dark and troublous night, ours to commune with in every bright and balmy day, ours to be our guide in life, our help in death, and our glory in immortality. “Our own God,” affording us His wisdom to guide our path, His power to sustain our steps, His love to comfort our lives, His every attribute to enrich with more than royal wealth. The man who can truthfully, out of a pure heart, look up to the throne of the infinite Jehovah, and call Him, “My own God,” has said a more eloquent thing than ever flowed from the lips of Demosthenes, or fell from the tongue of Cicero. You are favored beyond all men, you to whom this is a household word, “our own God.” Thank you for the beautiful Lesson on Love this week! \*\*\*\*\*

## **Mercy And Truth Are Met Together**

“Mercy and truth are met together.” (Psalms)

“God is Love, and therefore He is divine Principle.”  
(*Science and Health*)

We have been taught here the simple truth that “Love without Principle is a jellyfish and Principle without Love is an iceberg.” It is interesting to see how these two go hand and hand. Sometimes I find it good to check myself – have I been getting too mushy with my so-called love or too dictatorial with my so-called principle? When we are expressing divine Love, divine Principle is there as well and when we are expressing divine Principle, divine Love is in the picture, too. The two prove to be inseparable, guarding and guiding each other.

In the book “Dominion Within” by Rev. Kratzer, there is an article called, “The Marriage of Truth and Love.” In there he states, “It is one of the ‘wiles of the devil’ to try to divorce truth and love in the consciousness of men, and to make them believe that truth can be advanced through war and strife, carried on with motives of anger, hatred, revenge, self-interest, or self-justification...by no amount of argument, however valid, and by no amount of force of any kind, can we successfully promulgate truth and permanently bring to pass the correct issue, unless, during our efforts, we purposely and habitually exercise the spirit of good-will. In dealing with others, reasoning and good-will are as the wings of a bird. If a bird tries to fly with only one wing, he whirls round and round, to his own confusion, getting nowhere; but using both wings, he makes much progress...Truth will go no farther and no faster than love goes as a companion.” Very wise counsel! \*\*\*\*\*

## "A Table in the Wilderness" and More

Multiplication of Clothing for Children in Africa  
– <https://bit.ly/2WyNmdY>

“A Table in the Wilderness” – Food for 50  
Children in Uganda Feeds Over 200 During  
ShowMercy.org International Trip  
– <https://bit.ly/2DGdkVn>

Article – <https://bit.ly/2RRT1Ni> \*\*\*\*\*

That is wonderful! Sure proof of God’s abundant Love and yes, “God does love the orphans”! We will have to add this to our “Noteworthy News” section! Thank you so much! \*\*\*\*\*

## His Spiritual Ideas...Give You Daily Supplies

### II Kings 4

**2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.**

**3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.**

**6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.**

**7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.**

This story is very inspiring to me. God doesn’t give us only enough to just barely survive, He gives as much as our vessels will hold. Growing up, my family went through a lot of different Christian churches, and one of the things I was told was that being poor is a part of being Christian. Both my parents reiterated that many times to me when I was young, and it really affected how I lived for a long time.

Not long after arriving in Plainfield, I found the following quote on page 307 of *Miscellaneous Writings* by Mary Baker Eddy, which has helped me to work through that old mindset:

**God gives you His spiritual ideas, and in turn, they give you daily supplies.**

That helped me to see that it is up to me to be ready to receive, and that what I receive from God will both meet my daily needs and also bless others. \*\*\*

## Ho,...come Ye To the Waters

*Science and Health*, cit. 3. 12 : 27-29, 31-4

Does Deity interpose in behalf of one worshipper, and not help another who offers the same measure of prayer? ... In divine Science, where prayers are mental, *all* may avail themselves of God as “a very present help in trouble.” Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals. It is the open fount which cries, “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.”

When I read this it made me think of the sheep. A good shepherd loves all his sheep.... and our Good Shepherd hears all righteous prayers. This is very comforting to know that as we pray even a simple prayer it goes to our Father-Mother. Then it is our job to wait patiently ... “stand in His presence, unafraid.” ( hymn 342 ) \*\*\*\*\*

## Confidence Hath Reward

Hebrews 10:35 Cast not away therefore your **confidence**, which hath great **recompence of reward**. (Emphasis added)

It is wonderful how Christ Jesus taught and did all with unwavering confidence/absolute faith in God. Mrs. Eddy teaches us to do the same, to have radical reliance on Truth to heal.... With these examples, I must know that when I declare the Truth I have called on God and it is His authority and power which annihilates the spurious laws that would

claim to control. Thus, the confidence I have in Truth/God, is rewarded as the verse states above! And since He said “in all our ways we should acknowledge Him,” I should not forget to ask for more understanding to strengthen my faith/confidence. \*\*\*\*\*

## Harmony Is Perpetual Science

*Science and Health*, p. 304 “Harmony is produced by its Principle, is controlled by it and abides with it. Divine Principle is the Life of man. **Man’s happiness is not, therefore, at the disposal of physical sense.** Truth is not contaminated by error. Harmony in man is as beautiful as in music, and discord is unnatural, unreal.” (Emphasis added)

If I am not forgetting what the real man is, that man lives, moves, have his/her being in God, never separated from God, that he/her is hid in the secret place of the most high (in Divine Love), then I would be more awake to see any discord as unreal, unnatural and as a temptation and do something about it with the Truth being taught and explained from the Bible and Mrs Eddy’s works. I know no such thing as sin, suffering, want, or disease, for I am the perfect reflection of Life, Truth and Love. p. 72. I am never grieved or disappointed since God is All and my life is hid with Christ in God. p. 49. The harmony of my being cannot be disturbed, because I live in the infinite. p. 72. God’s child cannot suffer and be unhappy, because God is the only power and He never made anything but love and peace. p. 49 Divine intelligence creates and governs all things in perfect harmony. p. 284; excerpts from the Bluebook by Mary Baker Eddy. My faith in these declarations ought to help me each day!

**SUBJECT: Spirit – February 10th, 2019**

## The Heart of Prayer

“To enter into the heart of prayer, the door of the erring senses must be closed. Lips must be mute

and materialism silent, that man may have audience with Spirit, the divine Principle, Love, which destroys all error.” (*Science and Health*) This statement from Science and Health has always meant a great deal to me and has touched me deeply. To think we all have the tremendous privilege of entering into the heart of prayer and can have audience with Spirit, the divine Principle, Love! In the presence of Almighty God, any problem that may seem to be screaming for attention, melts away. I realize how much I need to cherish this privilege, silencing all material sense, – so I can go to this heart of prayer often. \*\*\*\*\*

## Intuition

In our lesson this week, we have the ascending steps of spiritual sense: intuition, hope, faith, understanding, fruition, reality. I was impressed by that remarkable quality of intuition. The sense that detects that something is so without appealing to an intellectual approach to confirm it, but just knows inherently that it is so. We all have intuition, it is God given. It can be perceived when the noises and opinions of this world are silenced. Thank God for this intuitive sense by which we can start to perceive that which will stand the test of time and experience and prove to be true.

## Contradicting The Material Senses...

**cit. 6. 298 : 13-18, 20-24**

**Spiritual sense, contradicting the material senses, involves intuition, hope, faith, understanding, fruition, reality.**

This list Mrs. Eddy gave felt like an opportunity to examine some of the arguments that have come to me regarding Christian Science, and how they have been answered by the teachings in this church.

**Intuition:** *What material sense says:* You can’t trust what you feel, we are only affected by what we can see and hold and measure.

*What I've learned in Plainfield:* Learning to rely on spiritual sense here has given me peace and purpose. It is wonderful to realize that God is speaking to all of us constantly!

**Hope:** *What material sense says:* Bad things happen to good people. Tomorrow is promised to no one.

*What I've learned in Plainfield:* God's creation has good baked right in! And, we have eternity for it to unfold to us!

**Faith:** *What material sense says:* There is no higher power to believe in. Dust to dust.

*What I've learned in Plainfield:* God has blessed me time and again, and delivered me from the brink: He is all I can put my trust in, as everything else has failed me.

**Understanding:** *What material sense says:* There is too much confusion, uncertainty, and chaos to ever be sure about anything. Christian Science is too hard to understand.

*What I've learned in Plainfield:* What is hard about understanding the joy that kindness, honesty, generosity, and gratitude bring? Aligning myself to the right side of things brought immediate improvement of mood, prospects, purpose, and all good things. Anyone can understand once they take those first steps and see for themselves.

**Fruition:** *What material sense says:* This healing or positive change you seek will never come about.

*What I've learned in Plainfield:* That sickness or an obstacle has no power to exist! I am inseparable from God.

**Reality:** *What material sense says:* Christian Science is wishful thinking at best, and a dangerous cult, at worst.

*What I've learned in Plainfield:* Results are important: I gave decades to mortal mind's ways, with nothing but steady decline; and yet, within what felt like moments of coming to Plainfield,

things turned right around and never stopped ascending! \*\*\*\*\*

## "Able Ministers of The New Testament"

In this beautiful Lesson on Spirit, this passage stood out to me in II Corinthians 3, 5-6: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* of God; **Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament**, not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

In the 1828 dictionary some of the definitions of "minister" are:

1. Properly, a chief servant;
3. A magistrate; an executive officer. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. Rom.13.
4. A delegate; an ambassador;
5. One who serves at the altar; ... the pastor of a church,
6. Christ is called a minister of the sanctuary. Heb.8.
7. An angel; a messenger of God.

The meaning of "minister" was enlarged as I read through the definition. We are servants of God, executive officers working for God, delegated by God to be ambassadors for Christ, the spirit of the new testament! Isn't this an exciting job description? I spent years in office jobs feeling dissatisfied with my work, but now, through this church, I have an entirely new job, that of truly working for God as an "able minister of the new testament"!

If Mrs. Eddy, after the first day of class, would tell her students to 'now go out and heal someone' (paraphrase), then certainly I am "able" after years of wonderful teachings in this church. I must be an active member, an active Scientist, and not passive! As I "step up to the plate" and share the Bible and Christian Science with others (as I had never done before coming here), I have seen how this has positively affected others' lives by their discovery of the Christ, Truth in Christian Science (aka the

Laws of the Universe). All I can say is “Alleluia” and thank you to Plainfield Church for getting me out of the shadows and into the light!\*\*

## **The Temple of God**

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” I  
CORINTHIANS 3 : 16

“Would you rush forth single-handed to combat the foe? Nay, would you not rather strengthen your citadel by every means in your power, and remain within the walls for its defense? Likewise, should we do as metaphysicians and Christian Scientists. The real house in which ‘we live, and move, and have our being’ is Spirit, God, the eternal harmony of infinite Soul. The enemy we confront would overthrow this sublime fortress, and it behooves us to defend our heritage.

How can we do this Christianly scientific work? By intrenching ourselves in the knowledge that our true temple is no human fabrication, but the superstructure of Truth, reared on the foundation of Love, and pinnacled in Life. Such being its nature, how can our godly temple possibly be demolished, or even disturbed? Can eternity end? Can Life die? Can Truth be uncertain? Can Love be less than boundless? Referring to this temple, our Master said: ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ He also said: ‘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.” by Mary Baker Eddy, Pulpit and Press pp.2-3

What a powerful Bible Lesson to help us intrench (fortify), “ourselves in the knowledge that our true temple is no human fabrication, but the superstructure of Truth.”

## **The Spirit That Quickeneth**

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing- KJV

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. – New Amer. Standard Bible

The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing.- New Living Translation

The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all.- Christian Standard Bible

## **WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS**

This is an excerpt from John Gill’s Exposition on 2 Cor 3:17

**And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty;**

which may be understood of the third person in the Godhead; where he is as a spirit of illumination, there is freedom from former blindness and darkness; where he is as a spirit of regeneration and sanctification, there is freedom from the bondage of sin, and captivity of Satan; where he is as a comforter, there is freedom from the fear of hell, wrath, and damnation: where he is as a spirit of adoption, there is the freedom of children with a father; where he is as a spirit of prayer and supplication, there is liberty of access to God with boldness, Though rather the Gospel as attended with the Spirit of God, in opposition to the law, is here designed; and which points out another difference between the law and the Gospel; where the law is, there is bondage, it genders to it; it has a natural tendency to it. \*\*\*\*\*

**Spirit Is Supreme and All-presence! *Science and Health*, p. 278:21**