

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Substance – March 17th, 2019

"I Am the Substance of All"

"I am the substance of all, because I AM THAT I AM." (*Science and Health* p. 253) It is a wonderful thing to know that God is our substance, the only substance, and it is all spiritual.

In the book "Collected Writings" by Bicknell Young, on page 212, he states, " 'Fear not I am with thee.' I AM ALL there is to thee; I AM THAT I AM."

Think about that! God is all there is to you! There is nothing else but Him. Let this Truth melt away any beliefs or false concepts you may be entertaining about yourself or of others.

Let these lies all fall into oblivion and let the child of God, radiant, beautiful, and free, stand in the eternal sunshine of God's Love. "I AM ALL there is to thee."!

"Give Fearlessly"

"I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. So Gehazi followed after Naaman." II Kings 5
This weekend, I read the following lines in, 1937 College by Bicknell Young:

"The Christian Scientist who perceives this true substance can give fearlessly to his church or to his business, having learned the difference between giving and giving away, using and using up. There is no material law of supply and demand in Mind; there is nothing but supply."

In 2 Kings, Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, disobeys and runs after Naaman, to collect some of his riches that Elisha had refused to accept. When tempted to feel limited, I ask myself, what do I "run after," to "take somewhat," instead of trusting God to provide. Am I operating from "giving and using" or "giving away and using up?"

I am grateful to be correctly learning a Scientific sense of abundance here at Plainfield.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Christ Jesus, (Matthew 6) *****

Thank you for this post!

On page 36 of the Addenda in *Collectanea*, there is an article called, "The Symbol Called a Quarter" which, in part, states the following:

If it dwells in Mind, as every idea must, then Mind fills it with limitless, infinite value, and, humanly speaking, I cannot grasp or conceive of its possibilities to meet every need, neither can I set any value – finite value – on it, for counting money in so many dollars and cents is simply one of the attempts of human thought to control a quality of Mind and circumscribe it into the finiteness of human reason. This literally takes the quarter out of the realm of reality – it ceases to be an *idea* of substance and naturally becomes a form of nothingness that fails in usefulness and disappears. On the other hand, to "multiply" it, all human estimation and value must be set aside, and the substance, universal substance of limitless Spirit that the tiniest symbol represents, must be recognized, and then you have connected up mentally with the limitless idea and need do no more.

This helps me to see that both Elijah and Elisha knew they had all they could ever want or need,

because they knew God to be the infinite source. Perhaps humanly they looked poor, yet spiritually, they were “heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:17) and therefore were ready to bless everyone they encountered. It seems once Gehazi felt he needed “more” than God provided, he opened himself to the multiplication of things considered humanly good and also humanly bad. This reminds me of Romans 6:16 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” The article above ends with this:

Lack is not a curse, for there is a blessing in it when we see that it actually teaches us to turn away from the finite symbol, and grasp the endless possibilities, capabilities, and riches contained in the idea typified by the symbol when it is rightfully understood. So lack in that way is a blessing in disguise, for Love reverses it and Spirit brings its ever-present substance into manifestation to meet the human need.

What a powerful lesson! I am so grateful for all this church offers! Thank you! *****

Thank you for these posts. Very good points. Infinite supply comes only with true acknowledgement that God is its source and this supply must be freely shared with others, as God would direct. We (in belief) create our own limitations. *****

God's Revenue (Proverbs 8:19) & "The Touch of the Master's Hand"

‘Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.
“What am I bidden, good folks,” he cried,
“Who’ll start the bidding for me?”
“A dollar, a dollar. Then two! Only two?
Two dollars, and who’ll make it three?”
“Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice;
Going for three...” But no,

From the room, far back, a grey-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loosened strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said: “What am I bid for the old violin?”
And he held it up with the bow.
“A thousand dollars, and who’ll make it two?
Two thousand! And who’ll make it three?
Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice,
And going and gone,” said he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried,
“We do not quite understand.
What changed its worth?” Swift came the reply:
“The touch of the Master’s hand.”

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd
Much like the old violin.
A “mess of pottage,” a glass of wine,
A game — and he travels on.
He is “going” once, and “going” twice,
He’s “going” and almost “gone.”
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought
By the touch of the Master’s hand.
— Myra Brooks Welch *****

This is beautiful... and priceless! Thank you for sharing this. It reminds me of friends’ lives transformed, and my own, for that matter, by “the touch of the Master’s hand.”

SUBJECT: Matter – March 24th, 2019

The Judgment Seat of Truth

“There is no *material* truth.”
(*Science and Health* p. 273)
“Rise in the conscious strength of the spirit of Truth
to overthrow the plea of mortal mind, *alias* matter,

arrayed against the supremacy of Spirit. Blot out the images of mortal thought and its beliefs in sickness and sin. Then, when thou art delivered to the judgment of Truth, Christ, the judge will say, 'Thou art whole!' ” (*Science and Health*, pp. 390-391)

“Life is the law of Soul; and **personal sense**, or **matter**, has no law. Holding on to the Truth of being is your only hope whereby to destroy its error.” (1st edition *Science and Health*, p. 392 – emphasis added.)

“On a law that is not God’s, we have a moral right to pass judgment, and to commute its sentence; every instance of matter, or the body, governing man, is justly condemned, and morally impossible inasmuch as it manifests a want of Wisdom that renders it null and void.” (1st edition *Science and Health*, pp. 395-396)

The act of speaking in a court of law is subject to broad restriction. “Order in the court!” has to do with speaking: speaking in strict order, one person at a time. During a trial, except for an attorney’s freedom to raise an objection, the person who sits at the judgment seat (the judge) is the only one authorized to speak without constraint at any given time.

The fake judge at the beginning of Mrs. Eddy’s allegory of “the Trial” (*Science and Health*, p. 430) is much like a gangster that has somehow been allowed to break into the real judge’s chambers, stealing his robe after leaving him bound and gagged. The pretend-judge now brazenly enters the courtroom to join his friends: the fake bailiff, fake clerk, fake prosecuting attorney, fake jury, fake spectators, and all the false witnesses with their scripted, fake evidence scamming the defendant into accepting the supposed seriousness of his “crime.”

At any given moment, who am I enthroning in my mind? What am I allowing to sit on the judgment seat of Truth other than Truth itself? Am I agreeing quickly with my adversary? If I am careless in my thought, error can don the robe of an

authoritarian judge and, before I know it, appear to enthrone itself in the highest place in my consciousness, monopolizing that position meant only for Christ — Truth — alone.

Am I allowing error and error’s aggressive, false-witness friends, one after another, to infest my thought-life with imaginings that silence and contradict the promises of God — divine assurances that should be occupying my consciousness every moment?

What images am I allowing to be displayed and entered as evidence against my well-being in the court of error, images that should be blotted out?

Are my thoughts centered on God continuously, or am I sometimes obliviously playing back the same loop of mediocre, low expectations concerning myself and the world around me?

What thoughts am I allowing to “hold court” in the temple of my consciousness, which should be inhabited by Spirit’s thoughts alone?

Am I allowing error’s fraudulent, simulated, ventriloquist-puppet judge to silence the inarguable, eternal witness of Truth regarding my legal standing as unfading and indestructible image and likeness of God?

As soon as I detect that matter is a mirage, a hoax that has no substance or legal standing, I find myself in the Supreme Court of Spirit, where I have allowed Christian Science to be my attorney — my Paraclete — to expose error’s make-believe court of matter-consciousness, to silence all its attendees, to strike their testimonies from the record, and consign them all to oblivion. Decision overturned, case closed, thrown out!

The Work of Righteousness

“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.” Isaiah 32:17

Websters 1828:

“Righteousness: Purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law. It includes all we call justice, honesty and virtue, with holy affections;”

Therefore, if I want true and lasting peace, I must do the the work of righteousness. I am grateful for what was brought out in our Wednesday meeting March 20, 2019, during the testimonies, regarding handling animal magnetism, “the work of righteousness” in our lives. I know that before Plainfield, my exposure to any teaching regarding animal magnetism (a belief in a power apart from God) was worse than useless. It was pervasive throughout the organization. It ranged from “no big deal” to “paranoid.” It was “peace, peace where there is no peace” and left one completely undefended against evil influence. Since arriving here and putting into practice step-by-step in my daily life, the rules, precepts, etc. that are taught correctly here from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy’s writings, I have found a peace that I have never experienced before. This comes from learning to put God first, practicing moral courage, Watching, discipline, honesty, letting go of resentment, and the list goes on.

The following was brought out during the Wednesday meeting in a teaching testimony: “Do we not all understand cowardice never conquers? To get rid of temptation of any sort or to get out of a difficulty, we are not passive and let the wrong rule the right, but we struggle and thus conquer. We should not avoid the things that hurt us, but repeat them and meet them as their superior. Disease is a coward that leaves when you are not afraid of it.”

Extract from letter by Mary Baker Eddy from Divinity Course and General Collectanea, (the “Blue Book”)

Websters 1828:

“Passive: not acting; unresisting; not opposing; receiving without resistance;
Cowardice: Want of courage; timidity; fear”

Neither quality is expressing righteousness. Righteousness is not letting the wrong rule the

right. I am so grateful for the continual teaching and example here that helps us practice true righteousness and be soldiers for God.

First Give Thanks...

John 6: 11: “And Jesus took the loaves; **and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples**, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.” (Emphasis added)

The multiplication of the loaves and fishes is a wonderful lesson as I have been working with the idea of supply and this lesson also builds on last week’s Lesson on Substance. Before he did anything, before there was a manifestation of material supply, Jesus gave thanks to God. So shouldn’t I, then, continually give thanks to the all-supplying Almighty God, who is able to provide everything for His children?

From Finance by Bicknell Young:

“It was thanksgiving and recognition that multiplied the loaves and fishes to the five thousand.... Thanksgiving, which brings the expansive quality into manifestation, is done from the sheer joy of the presence, whether you have a single thing or not. Whether you have been a prodigal, and lost, what matter little things? They will come into place automatically. They cannot help themselves. “I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me,” is an actual mathematical law. It is wonderful, the rejoicing, not because of victory or things, but because of presence. If your joy is still on the outside, looking for symbols, you are still empty, no thanksgiving... The way Jesus stood before the five thousand witnesses for lack, gives us an idea of the confidence which is born of the recognition of the natural functioning of God. He lifted up his eyes to heaven, and gave thanks; what is your move? Watch... When will you stop trying to get things, and see the presence of God? The spirit of the consciousness of the presence of God, is the source of all supply; not some supply: All supply. When you know this ... It will be wherever you are, and whatever you need.”