

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals –
May 19th, 2019**

Being

Science and Health, p. 492: 7 (only), “Being is holiness, harmony, and immortality.”

“ ‘In Him we live, and move, and have our being;’ consequently it is impossible for the true man — who is a spiritual and individual being, created in the eternal Science of being — to be conscious of aught but good. God’s image and likeness can never be less than a good man; and for man to be more than God’s likeness is impossible. Man is the climax of creation; and God is not without an ever-present witness, testifying of Himself.”
No and Yes, page 17:7-14

See Acts 17:28 – For in him we live and move and have our being.

Being in God every moment is the safest place to be. I am learning that this is consciousness. Thank you Mary Baker Eddy and Plainfield Church, Independent. *****

.....Cling Steadfastly to God

Cling to God and don’t let go.
— Plainfield Bible Study (May 13th, 2019
Calendar statement)

Science and Health, p.495 : 14-16
When the illusion of sickness or sin tempts you, cling steadfastly to God and His idea. Allow nothing but His likeness to abide in your thought.

When I saw that calendar statement and then read the Lesson, I started to marvel how obvious it is that God is directing everything at this church (and everywhere). Here is a statement that was given at some point last year, then compiled and scheduled by the calendar team more than six months ago, and then aligns perfectly with a Lesson that was written a few months later. So many individual demonstrations working together: Only God could do this!

On page 591 of the Glossary, from *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy gives this definition:
MAN. The compound idea of infinite Spirit; the spiritual image and likeness of God; the full representation of Mind.

Then on pages 579 to 580 of the Glossary:
ADAM. Error; a falsity; the belief in “original sin,” sickness, and death; evil; ... not God’s man, who represents the one God and is His own image and likeness; ...

Taking these into account, to “Allow nothing but His likeness to abide in [my] thought” is to allow nothing but the truth of me to be me. Before coming to Plainfield, I had no idea what might be considered “the truth of me” but with all I am learning here, each day it gets clearer that the truth of me can only be the truth of God; since my true job is to reflect God, good.

I am so grateful to this church and regular practitioner support for teaching me what Christian Science is, what God is, and therefore, who I am! I am also grateful to find that when I cling to Truth, Life, and Love I am never let down!

Thank you **

Human Opinion Does Not Inherit the Kingdom of God

I CORINTHIANS 15 : 50 “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”

“The greatest danger today in all the talk about faith-based social organizations is that Christians will begin to think about their faith the way the world does. ...The world does not think of Christianity as divine revelation but as human opinion. ...if you let the secular mind determine your starting point and then define the categories for explaining Christianity, then you will promote the erroneous notion that the gospel of Jesus Christ (is) not an authoritative revelation from God that is true and necessary, but instead, an activity of man that is useful (or not).” by John Piper

Mrs. Eddy writes, “The human mind is opposed to God and must be put off, as St. Paul declares.” (*Science and Health*, p. 151)

I am grateful for all I have begun to learn about the dangers of trying to blend secular world (the human mind) with the revelations of Christ Jesus and Mrs. Eddy that are from God. It can't be done. I see how I slowly made compromises because I allowed the world to define church, religion, Christianity, Christian Science, Christ, Mrs. Eddy, etc.

Christianity became a possible “useful” teaching to pick from “many” choices of how to live a so-called “comfortable” life. Being here is lifting this veil to expose this illusion.

I ask, what am I allowing to shape my thinking, determining my starting point, and who or what authority am I turning to for Truth?

“KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. The reign of harmony in divine Science; the realm of unerring, eternal, and omnipotent Mind; the atmosphere of Spirit, where Soul is supreme.” by Mrs. Eddy, *Science and Health*, p. 590 *****

Sacrifices of Righteousness

“Offer the **sacrifices of righteousness**, and put your trust in the Lord.” (Ps. 4:5) (Emphasis Added)

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines “righteousness” as: “purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity...to the divine law.”

In studying the Lesson, I asked myself what are the sacrifices of righteousness that God requires of me? and this was my answer:

Sacrifice a sense of selfhood apart from God, that is, 1) sacrifice any sense of condemnation, remorse or guilt when I make a mistake or do something wrong. It is not “me”, but rather impersonal error. Pay the price for the life lesson, and move on. And 2) Sacrifice any sense of pride in accomplishment when I do or say anything right or good. No “pats on the back” for me — always give God the credit.

Then, I noticed **I Cor.6:9** and how “the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God” — and I looked up “reviler” (one who treats another in a hateful, demeaning, haughty or insolent way). So I also need to sacrifice any tendency to ever put another person down. This was so helpful and eye-opening to me. Thank you, Lesson writers. *****

"Loose Him and Let Him Go"

In this week's Lesson, we have the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus had them take away the stone. Then, he thanked God. After which Jesus “cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.” This week when I read “loose him and let him go” it came to me that Jesus wasn't just telling the people to get rid of the graveclothes that bound Lazarus but to also get rid of the false beliefs that would bind us all to sin, disease, and death, and to see ourselves and others as God's man, upright and free.

Thank you for this week's Lesson.

SUBJECT: Soul and Body – May 26th, 2019

My Real Identity

Science and Health, p. 477

Identity is the reflection of Spirit, the reflection in multifarious forms of the living Principle, Love. Soul is the substance, Life, and intelligence of man, which is individualized, but not in matter. Soul can never reflect anything inferior to Spirit.

From page 594 of the Glossary in *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy:

SPIRIT. Divine substance; Mind; divine Principle; all that is good; God; that only which is perfect, everlasting, omnipresent, omnipotent, infinite.

From the 1828 Webster's:

**Identity
Sameness, as distinguished from similitude and diversity.**

Identify

1. To ascertain or prove to be the same.

Before I came to Plainfield, I thought the claims of the human mind were my identity. I am so grateful Christian Science gives me all I need to learn the truth and prove that those erroneous suggestions are not me, because they are not God. Since "Identity is the reflection of" "all that is good," any attempts I made to identify myself with those lies had no ability to bring me any peace, joy, or purpose – quite the opposite in fact!

One thing I love about Christian Science is that it both provides the tools to prove it is true and good and practical, and it also provides the insight and perspective to look back and clearly see I proved life without Science doesn't work. How wonderful to look within now and know that my identity is "all that is good" as I reflect God! Only Science could have brought about this healing.

Thank you for this lesson, and for all that is taught here! *****

When I read your post, it reminded me of the 91st Psalm: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

What a lifting up is living in this beautiful Science – "in the secret place of the most High" – from the belief in matter claims of the human mind to the understanding of our true, divine substance as a reflection of God, "all that is good." Dwelling in that "secret place" is where we truly know who we are, and it expands our experience in all the best ways.*****

Which Are God's

I Corinthians 6 : 19, 20

"19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

I watched a short film about the life of George Muller – a man who went from a carousing lifestyle to having a Bible-based, godly life. His mission became providing for the needs of thousands of orphan street children. He has written how he was able to sustain himself and meet the demands of caring for these children. In the following excerpt, he writes of a discovery he made during an illness that greatly weakened him and the blessing and healing he found once he regularly "nourished and strengthened the inner man." He said bed rest never accomplished what this time of spiritual nourishment did for him.

"I began ... early in the morning. The first thing I did, after having asked in a few words the Lord's blessing upon his precious Word, was, to begin to meditate on the Word of God, searching as it were into every verse, to get blessing out of it; ... for the sake of obtaining food for my own soul. ... Now, what is the food for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and here again, not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes

through our minds, just as water runs through a pipe, but considering what we read, pondering over it, and applying it to our hearts. When we pray, we speak to God.” Soul Nourishment, First a Booklet by George Müller, May 9, 1841

This is an example of living the instructions of Christ Jesus and Mrs. Eddy that is so carefully and clearly taught here at Plainfield. God first and the rest will follow. As shared at the last Roundtable, “Wake up and give the whole day to God.”

For Staying on the Straight and Narrow
by Doris W. Evans

The following were among the things that Mrs. Evans gave us to use each day to help stay on “the straight and narrow.”

First thing in the morning, “before your feet hit the floor”: God is Mind. God is my mind. God is the only pure Mind. God is Life. God is my life. God is the only Life. I am a law unto myself that mental malpractice cannot harm me, either when asleep or when awake. (from *Science and Health*)

As you continue your preparations for the day, run through the three Daily Duties listed at the bottom of the Full-text Lesson – from the Church Manual.

Prior to reading the Lesson, pray that God open your heart to hear what He has to say to you today. Take some thought from the Lesson to use during the day – write it on a piece of paper to have with you.

During the day, have the three statements of Christ Jesus on your lips, repeating as necessary: “I and my Father are one. The Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works. The Father hath not left me alone.” (Jesus)

Each day, read 5 pages of *Science and Health*, 5 pages of Misc. Wr., 5 pages of the Bible, or whatever you can schedule.

In the evening, before sleep, go over the day. Thank God for blessings – it is helpful to keep a list. Then ask God if there is anything you might have done better.

Finally, “Into thine hand I commit my spirit; thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.” (Ps. 31:5) before closing your eyes for the night. *****

"All That is Within Me"

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.” (Ps.103:1)

All that is within me, every organ and every function of my body, *blesses* God’s holy name. My lungs breathe in God’s presence all around me. The Word of God feeds me, and I digest and assimilate it easily. My bowels are of mercy and goodness, eliminating all that is unkind to my being. Truth supports me and goes to the very joints and marrow of my bones. Love is the heart of my being, circulating pure motives in all I say and do. My nerves are controlled by Mind, God, and I act at the impulse of His love. *****

Lovely! It makes me think of the hymn that begins, “In atmosphere of Love divine, We live, and move, and breathe...” How important it is to acknowledge and declare God’s ever presence and control of every aspect of our lives. Thank you for this post! *

Dominion Over All Things?

“The divine Mind is the Soul of man, and gives man dominion over all things.” p. 307. That took my breath away! What a great gift just this one sentence is, to ponder and apply to everything that can happen during my day! I have dominion over my own thinking, and the power to keep it focused on God!