

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 142

**SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man –
June 16th, 2019**

The Lord is Faithful

“..the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.” (II Thess.3:3)
I was thinking about the word “faithful,” and in applying it to a friend or mate, it means they are loyal, constant in their affection, always standing by you and supporting you. But when I substituted “Truth” for “Lord,” I realized God is so much more than this. Truth never deviates; Truth never deserts us; Truth never fails us, always supports, protects and sustains us, when we turn to it and apply it to every situation or problem. This is the faithfulness that only God (Truth) has. Such a powerful and comforting promise! *****

Wonderful way to start the day and hold on to all day!!!

"SET"

“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3)
“... the Lord ... shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.” (II Thessalonians 3)
“By adhering to the realities of eternal existence . . . one cannot suffer as the result of any labor of love, but grows stronger because of it.” (*Science and Health*, p. 387.)
Set, Stablish, Adhering all have to do with permanence and preservation.
Preservation, in the context of “God, the preserver of man,” is a two-way street: “Because [and only ‘because’] he has *set* his love upon Me ... I will *set* him on high.” (Psalm 91, emphasis added.)
This is also the principle meaning of “covenant,”

defined by Webster as “a mutual consent or agreement of two or more persons, to do or to forbear some act or thing; a contract; stipulation. A covenant is created by deed in writing, sealed and executed; or it may be implied in the contract.”

“Because [and only ‘because’] thou hast made the Lord . . . thy habitation, there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.” (Psalm 91)

Mrs. Eddy’s instructions to Judge Hanna (<https://articles.plainfieldcs.com/various-authors/judge-hanna/excerpts-from-judge-hannas-memoirs/>) explain clearly how to maintain and preserve a set, settled, stablished relationship with God — how I can fulfill my part of our covenant with one another, moment by moment; this is how I can reflect God’s unchanging faithfulness back to Him, who is eternally preserving His side of the covenant between Himself and me.

An extreme example of the infinite depth of God’s unchanging “one-way” love for me is found in Hosea’s relationship with Gomer (<https://bible.org/seriespage/8-undying-love-story-hosea-and-gomer>), but sooner or later, God’s love must be reciprocated — otherwise, no spiritual growth can occur. *****

Being Non-Resistant to God

Science and Health, p. 487 : 27-1
**The understanding that Life is God, Spirit, lengthens our days by strengthening our trust in the deathless reality of Life, its almightiness and immortality.
This faith relies upon an understood Principle.
This Principle makes whole the diseased, and**

brings out the enduring and harmonious phases of things.

From *Notes from a class as taught by Laura Sargent*:

Understanding: This is substance. True substantiality is effulgent, translucent, non-resistant. This non-resistance of Spirit constitutes its irresistibility.

From the 1828 Webster's:

Effulgent – Shining; bright; splendid; diffusing a flood of light;

Translucent – Transparent; clear.

Non-resistant – Making no resistance to power ...

This idea of non-resistance being the key to understanding rings true to me. Being non-resistant to God is an active process, as far as I have learned here. In the time that I have been a member of this church, I have begun to put off the limitations I held due to identity, age, heredity, nationality, old theology, etc. At each stage, as I have learned to handle those claims, my usefulness for church has increased. The less I have fought God's reality, the less I have felt lost and useless. The more I trust my spiritual sense, the more my life and work have been full of blessings. As I learn to put aside pride, imagination, and whatever else mortal mind would place in the way as resistance, Christian Science has felt clearer, and God nearer.

When I think back on how I was before Plainfield, I was practically all resistance! Not surprisingly, I had no understanding of God's good creation, and my place in it. I am so grateful for this Science, this church, and for regular practitioner support.

What I have gained is, bit-by-bit, bringing "out the enduring and harmonious phases of things" that were happening all along, but only recently has become visible to me.

Thank you! *****

I found this excerpt from the biography of Ira and Flavia Knapp by their son Bliss Knapp very helpful:

"Another interesting letter which Mr. Knapp wrote to Mrs. Eddy, describing an experience which

came to him when he first accepted Christian Science, she had published in the Journal of April 1888. During this experience, as he thought on the mission of Christian Science, he exclaimed, 'It brings a message of love,' and then, to quote the exact words of his letter:

'To my surprise a voice – nothing like a human voice answered and said: 'Where shall I abide? Your house is occupied. Turn out your old tenants, and put on one measure of humility, and another measure, and yet another measure; and then I will abide with you, and Charity will abide with you.'"

This certainly describes the state of non-resistance to God – a triple portion of humility! Only as we humbly cast away our former, resistant human beliefs can we make room for the Christ-Truth which knocks quietly at the door of consciousness. Humbling ourselves before the Lord is what illumines our path and brings healing into our lives.

What More Can Any Father Do?

Science and Health, p.387

"The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed on man by his **heavenly Father, omnipotent Mind, who gives man faith and understanding** whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but from bodily suffering." (Emphasis Added)

Sometimes we hear this question: How can I have more faith and understanding? The first answer is right here; our loving Father gives us both faith and understanding. But have we asked Him and are we ready to humbly receive, or are we still looking at other "things" which we continue to have faith in?

Secondly, if we would remember all the good He has done, which should increase our faith and understanding and stop giving the glory to other things; to ourselves, other people, some diet, exercise routine, materia medica, etc. our faith and understanding in God would increase.

From *Divinity Course and General Collectanea*,
The Bluebook p. 61 is this beautiful instruction:

“God will direct you in all your ways, if you *trust* Him; faith must take hold before sight or fruition, and this faith will, when instructed in divine Science, become understanding and you will have no doubts, but every proof of His promise, ‘Lo! I am with you always.’” *****

That is beautiful! Thank you.

SUBJECT: Is The Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force? – June 23rd, 2019

No Limit to God's Power

Mark 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

We have had these verses in previous Lessons, at which time I was amazed that the disciples saw Christ Jesus do so many amazing works, but somehow drew the line at affecting the weather.

This week I have been thinking about where this delineation lies within me. What limitations do I place on God's power, and Christian Science? Since coming to this church, there has been this steady progression of learning and demonstration that has allowed me to see more of the effectiveness of Christian Science each day.

The Watches have shown me that even the fears and turmoil of the human mind give way to Truth. Through practitioner support, I have gained confidence that I am where I am supposed to be and doing what I am supposed to do. The world is

such a bright, hopeful place, filled with the certainty that God has made all things good!

I am grateful for this Lesson! What a strong reminder of how God has created everything to work together in harmony, and anything contrary to that is a powerless lie. How wonderful to find there is nothing in His creation that is working against us when we are reflecting and expressing His qualities! I am so grateful for all this church offers! Thank you! *****

Gathered Unto Him

“... [A]nd there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.” (Mark 4:1.)

Reading this passage opened to my view a mighty picture of what must now come to pass upon the whole earth: great multitudes of people from every nation “gathered unto Him,” in fulfillment of Mrs. Eddy's Daily Prayer: “May Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them!” The highest aim of Christian Science is to make manifest on Earth “the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29.)

In Mrs. Eddy's key to the Book of Revelation, the angel of Christian Science not only exercises supreme authority over sin that is already manifest on earth but also sin that is as yet un-manifest. In other words, Christian Scientists are not only to dominate and cast out sin that is expressing itself visibly and audibly right now, but also to choke and prevent latent sin from ever emerging in the future. (*Science and Health*, p. 559.)

God grant that the Christ may find, as never before, a place to “sit in the sea” beside ever-increasing multitudes; that entire nations may stand, “gathered unto Him,” on the solid ground of fixed attention to the Word that is “life to all that find [it] and health to all their flesh.” (Prov. 4:22.)

As modeled by Jesus in his long hours of prayer before dawn, watching means establishing a deep,

ceaseless connection with the “thought-force” of Science that “launched the earth in its orbit and said to the proud wave, ‘Thus far and no farther.’” (*Science and Health*, p. 124.).

The wisdom of God guarantees that through obedience to certain immutable principles — Christian Science principles – through hours of committed watching and importunate prayer, watchers can at last connect with the thought-force that creates worlds, to loose entire populations from their earthbound moorings and launch them all into orbit around the Sun of righteousness. ***

Thank you for this beautiful post!!

It sums up the feeling of one powerful source who **MADE ALL, CONTROLS ALL** and **GOVERNS ALL!!** Our Father-Mother God is present everywhere, the whole of creation must *gather unto Him*.

This from Psalm 19 struck me: Psalm 19 : 1-3

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

This gives me a very deep, beautiful reassurance that somewhere, everywhere God’s voice is being heard, and that there are “natural Christian Scientists” who are joining in Watches in obedience to Christian Scientific Principles.

To me that time is now, which Mrs. Eddy foresaw when “those who discern Christian Science will hold crime in check,” (*Science and Health*, p. 97) not only in the usual sense of crime, but in the worst forms of teaching or exemplifying misleading beliefs and principles that turn people’s faith away from *gathering unto the only true God!* (Emphasis added)

Thanks to the Lesson writer. Thanks for your citations in your post above. *****

Changes to Come

Thank you to the Lesson writer–this is always one of my favorite subjects. This Lesson is a wonderful treatment for the belief of climate change that is gripping the planet in fear of an impending doomsday scenario. Are we to be swept along this river of panic? Or do we proclaim that God knows how to, and will care for His creation?

Mrs. Eddy states in *Science and Health*, citation 11: “The seasons will come and go with changes of time and tide, cold and heat, latitude and longitude. The agriculturist will find that these changes cannot affect his crops. ‘As a vesture shalt Thou change them and they shall be changed. ...’”

There is and has always been a general fear of change in human thinking. People want to cling to the “good old days,” and yet those don’t really exist. True change is continued evolution and revolution of thought, always progressing!

I love Mrs. Eddy’s definition of “Euphrates (river). [from *Science and Health*, p. 585:] Divine Science encompassing the universe and man; the true idea of God; a type of the glory which is to come; metaphysics taking the place of physics; the reign of righteousness.”

When I think of climate change, I have the choice to either see a baffling and alarming material picture (with its contradictions of either global warming or cooling going on, for example), or to translate what is being shown into the spiritual reality of things: “Divine Science encompassing the universe and man” (not the secular atheist vision being sold). “All nature teaches God’s love to man” (*Science and Health*, p. 326) – am I seeing the beauty of God’s love everywhere in its infinite abundance?

In this river of “Divine Science encompassing the universe and man; the true idea of God; a type of the glory which is to come; metaphysics taking the place of physics; the reign of righteousness,” is there anything to fear? While doing my best to steward the beautiful nature around me on our property–caring for the plants, animals, trees and

honeybees—I can also pray that my thought be always washed clean with the living waters of Truth right from the Euphrates. *****

Thank you for this instructive post.

What I find fascinating is how the Bible warns us of coming calamities if we continue in wrong thinking in opposition to God's Word as given in the Bible. Yet most forms and sects of 'Christianity' don't acknowledge that wrong thinking has bad results because, so far as I know, only Christian Science through Mary Baker Eddy's teaching not only tells us it does; but also that it is our responsibility to do something proactive about it.

Taking care of our 'own little space' is doing much; we have to start somewhere. I'm grateful for many testimonies from the members of this church on "peace be still" and the positive outcomes when applied to predictions or experiences of bad weather.

I've also experienced the harmonizing effects of prayer in regards to inclement weather and in the past disappointment that this prayer didn't dissipate the belief of the whole storm. So I work to be grateful for all positive results and to do better 'next time':) And follow our Leader better by strengthening my faith. *****

Peace, Be Still

"And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Recently, I have been using the excerpt below as part of my weather Watches and for the world in general: "When Jesus stilled the waves, his only words were: '...Peace, be still.' (Mark 4:39) Isn't this a wonderful treatment? 'Peace, be still.' It becomes necessary for us to realize a 'Peace, be still' to every disturbance, to every disturbed thought, and therefore, to all discordant or inharmonious outer conditions. When Jesus said,

'Peace, be still,' he was not directing his thought to the troubled waves or to the storm. He was not addressing disturbed thought, the disturbed mind of the disciples, of those on board the ship. Nor was he addressing them as person, but rather to the universal belief of a disturbed thought, to the universal belief of a mind apart from God; to the universal belief of inharmonious inner and outer conditions, he was declaring: 'PEACE, BE STILL!'" *God is Individual Consciousness* by Bicknell Young, p. 4 *****

As Birds Soaring

Science and Health, page 511:28

"The fowls, which fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven, correspond to aspirations soaring beyond and above corporeality to the understanding of the incorporeal and divine Principle, Love." *Our God of Love* by Anna E. Herzog

Isaiah expressed a glorious sense of the qualities of God as Love when he wrote, "As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also He will deliver it; and passing over He will preserve it." It is the defending, delivering, preserving God of love which Christian Science is revealing to the world. Throughout the Scriptures, the love of God is referred to, and Jesus' whole ministry was an exemplification of the fact that God is Love; but remained for John, in his first epistle, to make the simple statement, "God is love." *****

From Psalm 8 :1, 3, 9

1 O LORD, our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

9 O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!