

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Soul – August 18th, 2019

Defining "Soul"

I've always found the word "Soul" somewhat difficult to put into words. Today, I was listening to a recorded talk by Myrtle Smyth where she stated that in Christian Science, we learn that "Soul is the true awareness of your real identity as God knows you and sees you." I found this to be helpful and wanted to share it here. *****

This morning's read showed me that our Bible Lesson is defining Soul so beautifully! It is the awareness of God's presence... "The divine Mind is the Soul of man"... a "celestial condition"... "The kingdom of God is within you"... "this spiritual consciousness"... that "gives man dominion over all things." *****

Thank you for these posts. Starting on page 64 of Bicknell Young's book *1937 College*, he writes about Soul. This paragraph from page 65 has helped, and continues to help me:

Soul is the spontaneous nature of man, the epitome of natural knowing. Soul is true inspiration. As you advance in the Science of Soul, you will see beauty where you never saw it before. A Christian Scientist attains his dominion in the proportion that he seeks not the image and likeness, but the original. In that original, which is in Principle, Spirit, Soul, resides and shines in full effulgence, all comeliness, originality, receptivity, beauty, and joy.

I am so grateful to be able to see that beauty and feel that joy, at least in small degrees. Studying this Science here, combined with all the church offers and regular practitioner support, has opened my

eyes, my heart, and my thought to the wonder of God's great creation! What a blessing it is to be a member of this church. Thank you!

Precious Metal

"The furnace separates the gold from the dross that the precious metal may be graven with the image of God." (*Science and Health*, p. 66, cit.6)

God has seen gold inside every one He has called to this church. Through the pure Christian Science teachings we receive here, the dross of false education, limitations, claims of heredity, etc., are being burned out, and as we willingly trust in God, the precious metal of our true being is able to shine forth in service to God. What a great salvation and privilege to be here! Thank you for all this church offers and is doing for mankind. *****

Suffering is Oft the Divine Agent?

Science and Health, p.444 : 2-6, 10-12

"In some way, sooner or later, all must rise superior to materiality, and **suffering is oft the divine agent** in this elevation. 'All things work together for good to them that love God,' is the dictum of Scripture. Step by step will those who trust Him find that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Emphasis added)

This statement could sound contradictory since God does not send suffering to His own, but the suffering we seem to have each encountered sent us seeking God more. From our testimonies it is clear we all got here due to some suffering..... none of us would be here striving had there not been some suffering that led us here. Unfortunately, most do

not do so because of Science; since Mrs. Eddy says it's either through Science or suffering and somehow the latter seems to be the most common catalyst. Thank God there comes a time, if we do not give up, when we can look back and give thanks for the "salutary challenges" along the way! *****

Redeemed If We Trust

"The Lord **redeemeth** the soul of his servants: and none of them that **trust in him** shall be desolate." PSALM 34 : 22

REDEE'M, verb transitive [Latin redimo; red, re, and emo, to obtain or purchase.]

1. To purchase back; to ransom; to liberate or rescue from captivity or bondage, or from any obligation or liability to suffer or to be forfeited, by paying an equivalent; as, to redeem prisoners or captured goods; to redeem a pledge.

2. To repurchase what has been sold; to regain possession of a thing alienated, by repaying the value of it to the possessor.

Our real identity, as children of God, can remain obscured in bondage to the false material senses or appear lost, if we do not trust in our Redeemer. Our faith in Him is what gives us that redeeming grace! Let's keep seeking and cultivating stronger faith in God, so we may know our true identity. How wonderful a promise this is ...

"Take heart, dear sufferer, for this reality of being will surely appear sometime and in some way. There will be no more pain, and all tears will be wiped away. When you read this, remember Jesus' words, 'The kingdom of God is within you.' This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility." *****

Thank you for this post. I have come to love the last quotes. To know that this spiritual consciousness is already a present possibility is a wonderful truth that Mrs. Eddy shared because of

her understanding of what John wrote in Revelation. It seems to me that only through Christian Science can mankind be awakened to what we are meant to claim under God's dominion and how the Christ is drawing all of us to Him. Take heart, dear sufferer.... As I work through my own issues and pray each day to love God more, listen, and then to follow Him, I then do my best and know that He loves me.*****

"... Stedfastly Minded to Go With Her."

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God:" Ruth 1:16

It is believed that the events of Ruth took place during the time of the judges during: religious apostasy, political disorganization, and social chaos. It is possible that Naomi and Ruth were part of a remnant. (Described by several commentaries)

Ruth, a Gentile, believed in the God of Israel, left what she knew, to journey to a new place. She chose to serve the God of Naomi and help her. She could have lived out her human destiny. Instead, she followed her divine destiny, something that I have been learning about at Plainfield. She refused to let her past hold her back.

Ruth 1: 18 describes Ruth as, "...stedfastly minded to go with her," so Naomi, "...left speaking unto her." This story spoke to me of what was referred to during our last Roundtable as a "testing" time. Ruth had a loss, she humbled herself to, "glean ears of corn"; she gave up the old and familiar not to make herself more comfortable, but seeking to be closer to God.

In the *Science and Health* portion of this Lesson, Mrs. Eddy writes, "'Work out your own salvation,' is the demand of Life and Love, for to this end God worketh with you. 'Occupy till I come!' Wait for your reward, and 'be not weary in well doing.'

If your endeavors are beset by fearful odds, and you receive no present reward, go not back to error, nor become a sluggard in the race. When the smoke of battle clears away, you will discern the good you have done, and receive according to your deserving.” *Science and Health*, 22: 11-20

Boaz says to Ruth, “The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.” *Ruth* 2: 12. Thank you, Lesson writers!

SUBJECT: Mind – August 25th, 2019

Prayer and Fasting

“...this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” (*Matt.17:21*)

Prayer: “...an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, — a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love.”

(*Science and Health*, 1:2-4)

Fasting: “total abstinence”

(Webster, 1828 Dictionary)

Total abstinence from what? ...from anything that would darken your thought, from anything that would try to claim a power or presence apart from God; i.e. aggressive mental suggestions.

In *Collected Writings* [p.161] Bicknell Young tells us: “Handling...aggressive mental suggestions amounts to this: first, it means discerning its [the suggestion’s] falsity; second, discerning its powerlessness to mesmerize you from keeping your [mental] balance; third, discerning the spiritual fact about which the falsity is a lie.” ***

The Cherokee Parable of the Two Wolves fits in well with this discussion. Also, this excerpt from “By Prayer and Fasting,” *CS Sentinel* article, July, 1943, by Ruth W. Herwood:

“Jesus responded, ‘Bring him hither to me.’ ... It was as if he had said, Bring him to where it is

known that Spirit is the only power —to the understanding that man is spiritual, not material.

“It was evident that in no other way than by the understanding and recognition of man’s perfection could this child be saved. Jesus’ explanation to his disciples of their failure, ‘This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting,’ showed the necessity of fasting from any material suggestion of a personal self needing to be healed, and the holy desire to do the will of the Father, divine Spirit. The pure reflection of God. Mind, could see only the pure image of Love.

“It is significant that the healing of this child came after Christ Jesus had returned from that sacred mountain-top experience known as the ‘transfiguration.’ Before that pure elevation of thought, disease could have no witness, and so melted away into its own nothingness.

[The article then quotes p. 222 of Mrs. Eddy’s *Miscellany*, and her interpretation of prayer and fasting as “refraining from admitting the claims of the senses.”]

“This interpretation of Jesus’ words by our Leader shows plainly the requirement of absolute purity of thought as a requisite for healing.

“Prayer and fasting bring the pure recognition of the Christ. We find ourselves in ‘the secret place of the most High,’ where Christ dwells forever with the Father. The realization that the divine image and likeness ceaselessly beholds the face of God is the prayer which heals. Such prayer demands fasting from the illusion of the senses. It is the Christ-consciousness which heals and saves.” *****

Cast Out

“It is recorded that once Jesus asked the name of a disease, — a disease which moderns would call *dementia*. The demon, or evil, replied that his name was Legion. Thereupon Jesus cast out the evil, and the insane man was changed and straightway became whole. The Scripture seems to import that

Jesus caused the evil to be self-seen and so destroyed.” *Science and Health*, 411: 13-19

Cast out: to drive out, expel – Synonyms for cast out: banish, kick out, throw out, drive out, to cause or force to leave, eject, driving away especially permanently. (Webster’s 1828)

We are instructed not to tolerate any error, to “cast out evil.” When I do not kick out suggestions such as envy, resentment, self-pity, lazy thinking, self-love, etc. I have invited demons, not harmless thoughts, into my consciousness, in place of God. Is this the company I want to keep? Is the devil more important to me than God and His angels?

We were instructed recently that this type of thinking pollutes the world. If I could see the pollution of these thoughts, would I prefer this to the beauty of God’s creation? The man “changed” and was “made whole” when the evil was cast out and seen (Beheld; observed; understood) and destroyed. I am grateful for the lessons I am learning at Plainfield that are teaching me how error operates, how to watch thought, be honest, etc.,

“We were instructed recently that this type of thinking pollutes the world. If I could see the pollution of these thoughts would I prefer this to the beauty of God’s creation?”

So true that wrong thinking pollutes the world so, then obviously the solution to pollution is divine Mind, correct thinking. The solution for all of society’s ‘pollution/ills’ is abiding by true, Christian Science Principles.

Thanks for Plainfield’s teachings, watches, and this post! *****

Thank you for these posts. I just found this in *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts* by Gilbert Carpenter, and it seems a pertinent addition here:

The practice of Christian Science is a highly dangerous profession, since the practitioner is daily confronted by sick folks who have such a conviction of the seriousness of their afflictions,

which are supported by the evidence of the senses, that, if the healer becomes careless or too mentally lazy to reject and challenge every illusion that attempts to fasten itself upon him, so that he acknowledges its existence, he may find himself partaking of the same error!

It is plain, therefore, why Mrs. Eddy did not want the students to fall a victim to the error...by looking at it, “talking about it, thinking it over, and how to meet it,” as we read on page 130 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, since she says that this “...has the same power to make you a sinner that acting thus regarding disease has to make a man sick.”

It has become increasingly clear to me that if I fail to meet a claim at first, it will come to me aggressively soon after. Where but here would I be learning about this, and how to properly handle it? Thank you! *****

Trust, He Always Makes A Way

Thanks to the lesson writer for these two citations, which reassure and comfort!!

I Corinthians 10 : 13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as *is* common to man: **but God is faithful**, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; **but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.**

This means my part is to strengthen, even the slightest faith I have in God, with the gratitude for past healings and proofs of His Love and care, and thus be able to “Maintain the facts of Christian Science, — that Spirit is God, and therefore cannot be sick; that what is termed matter cannot be sick; that all causation is Mind, acting through spiritual law.” *Science and Health*, p. 417.

Then holding my ground with the unshaken understanding of Truth and Love, I will win. The thought that God will make a way has been reassuring for me during many of my trials....