

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Christ Jesus – September 1st, 2019**

## **"The Root of David"**

"I am the root . . . of David." (Revelation 22:16.)  
Excerpt from a sermon by E. Johnson:  
THE ["ROOT AND OFFSPRING OF DAVID"]  
TITLE ALLUDES TO THE VIGOROUS  
GROWTH AND SURPASSING GREATNESS OF  
THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST. The word "root"  
evidently refers to the prophecy in Isaiah 1:1-10  
(see also Isaiah 4:2; Jeremiah 23:5; Zechariah 3:8;  
Zechariah 6:12). Not the actual root of the tree is  
meant, but the scion or sucker, which sprouts from  
the decaying root. At the advent of the Saviour the  
kingdom of David was indeed like the fallen trunk  
of a noble tree. A foreign people treads on Judea's  
soil, and bows a once powerful nation beneath its  
yoke. Yet behold the vigorous sprout which comes  
forth out of this decayed root!

The thought above corresponds to Mrs. Eddy's  
statement, "Spiritual development germinates not  
from seed sown in the soil of material hopes, but  
when these decay, Love propagates anew the  
higher joys of Spirit, which have no taint of earth."  
(SH 66:11-14.)

In the context of the Book of Revelation, Christ  
used the image of a scion to admonish and  
encourage the 7 churches in Asia to abandon the  
materiality into which they had fallen and rise  
anew in the strength of the Spirit — to free  
themselves from the chains of enslaving error that  
was actively seeking to halt (or restrain as much as  
possible) the manifestation of Christ-on-earth that  
Jesus had so obediently exemplified only a few  
short decades before. For watching in the present  
hour, the vibrant image of a scion provides me

with a practical example of the possibility of a  
worldwide revival of Christianity and Christian  
Science — to usher in the millennium, that all the  
world may be conformed to a fitness to receive the  
eternal Christ and practice the Presence of God just  
as Jesus did. \*\*\*\*\*

## **My "Earthly All"**

This beautiful Bible lesson made me think of my  
"earthly all"... in S&H citation 10: "... and  
whosoever layeth his earthly all on the altar of  
divine Science, drinketh of Christ's cup now, and is  
endued with the spirit and power of Christian  
healing."

Mrs. Eddy didn't say "*might be* endued" but said  
"*is* endued"... because this is Science! So I ask  
myself, what is keeping me from laying my earthly  
ALL on the altar of divine Science? I am ... ALL-  
most there... but not 100% there.

So... what does it take, and I ask myself this more  
and more. I have made great strides, but there are  
some worldly things I must sacrifice still. What  
might those be? This helps me in this  
contemplation:

"... if we do not readily seize, and even rejoice in  
every opportunity of doing good with our  
substance; we make it manifest that we love a little  
worldly interest above God, Christ, our neighbour,  
our country, yea our own everlasting happiness."  
(Sermons on Important Subjects by Rev. David  
Tappan, 1807)

This substance is not just in tangible blessings like  
possessions and money, but more importantly the  
substance that is Christian Science! It is the  
discipline of being a disciple... putting God first in  
thought and action. It is a moment-by-moment

effort, standing porter at the door of thought and wanting to do God's work more than all else. But also seeing *all* work as part of that work, which requires constantly "translating" things into their spiritual substance and significance... such as, for instance, not seeing "chores" as chores, but rather as making things beautiful, or restoration and renewal... keeping thought uplifted.

I love this Lesson on Christ Jesus! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you, for sharing your inspiration on this — very helpful! \*\*\*\*\*

Yes, thank you! The moment-by-moment is what I am working on. I get tripped up when someone in my family tries to give me advice ....for my own good. The following partial "song" in the July Love Is The Liberator called THE DEER'S CRY helps calm my thinking.

Christ shield me today  
Against wounding,  
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me.  
I arise today  
Through the mighty strength  
Of the Lord of creation.

### **Whosoever Doth Not Bear His Cross**

"Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)

This is the crux of being a disciple of Christ – the discipline all must follow. I asked myself, "What is my cross?" I had always believed that bearing a cross was some kind of hardship or negative thing, but after studying this lesson I realize that it's like an arithmetic problem we've each been assigned to handle and overcome – for the world. Each one's

problem (cross) is different – no more difficult nor easier than the next, – only different. And it's tailored to each one's ability (through God) to overcome it – if we are willing and obedient.

"...and all have the cup of sorrowful effort to drink in proportion to their demonstration of his love..."

This is the discipline then – to not personalize the problem, but just work at it with God, persistently and consistently, and overcome it unselfishly. I'm grateful for this Lesson — it really helped me this week. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for pointing this out. This is one of the requirements that Jesus lists as necessary to be a disciple. Jesus bore his cross. When told to stop teaching and healing, he did it anyway, obeying God's requirements in spite of the threats and, finally, crucifixion. And he left the world an infinitely better place for it. Mrs. Eddy bore her cross. When nearly penniless and told by family members to give up this ridiculous idea, she pursued it anyway and left the world a much better place for it.

We each have a divine purpose. We have opportunities each day to stand for the truth, to offer a cup of cold water in Christ's name, to rebuke the errors that confront us. And our willingness to withstand the opposition, whether it be ridicule, threats, loss of loved ones, or even bodily harm, is our cross to bear. It is the mental attitude that to obey God is the only thing that matters; that "with God, all things are possible"; and that "all things work together for good to them that love God." It is the state of thought that has dominion over all the world. Mrs. Eddy refers to this moral courage as "the lion of the tribe of Judah."

I am so grateful to Mrs. Eddy for her bearing her cross and being the faithful disciple. She has blessed the world immeasurably. \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you both for these very helpful posts. So we, too, should leave every place better than how we found it, and God will show us the way!

## Felt Ye The Power of The Word?!

“The word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

The Amplified Version of this verse is the following: “The Word that God speaks is alive and full of power (making it active, operative, energizing, and effective); it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and (the immortal) spirit, and of joints and marrow (of the deepest parts of our nature), exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.”

I love to think of this and of the power of God’s Word. It is easy to just say the words, quote different things, but then more importantly, to ask myself – is this Word alive with the very presence and power of God? Remember from Mrs. Eddy’s hymn (#298) “Saw ye my Saviour? Heard ye the glad sound? Felt ye the power of the Word?”! Have you seen Him?! Have ye heard it?! Have you felt the power of the Word?!

**SUBJECT: Man – September 8th, 2019**

## "Unfallen and Eternal"

“...[M]an in God’s image is unfallen and eternal.” (S&H, page 476.)

In chemistry, “noble metals” belong to a class of elements that are resistant to corrosion, such as gold and silver. (For example, the gold coin minted in Britain at the time of Edward III was called a “noble.”) Whereas metals, such as iron, become irreversibly changed by corrosion through exposure to oxygen, noble metals have a high resistance to reacting with any elements or compounds in their environment that could cause corrosion; they are so

stable that they cannot readily attract to themselves the least substance that could so affect them. Similarly, in chemistry, the “noble gases” are so named because of their stability: whereas other elements can react with one another to form compounds that can change their basic identity virtually beyond recall, the noble gases display very little tendency to react with other elements.

It is useful to think of these noble elements as symbolic of God’s child being a law unto himself or herself, having an established, secure, “unfallen and eternal” identity in Christ. “God’s man” is a generic term for the *noble* man or woman who has attained the high calling of God — anyone who has achieved understanding of his/her oneness with God (known as God’s very own “image and likeness”) – an eternal state of invincible stability that does not react with his/her environment in unstable ways. Jesus demonstrated this principle by subjecting himself to the most convulsive of stressful environments before and during his crucifixion. Through it all, he had this testimony: “The prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in me.” (John 14:30.)

“Man is the noblest work of God.” (Hymn 51, CS Hymnal, 1932.) God’s image is more noble than the noblest of material elements. God has endowed you, me, everyone with the ability to remain stable, incorruptible, “non-corrodible,” steadfast, immovable, regardless of our surroundings, like the 3 Hebrew children who remained unaffected by the super-heated flames surrounding them in the fiery furnace! \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for this very refreshing explanation of the *noble* man or woman – much appreciated!\*\*\*\*\*

## "The Kingdom of God is Within You"

“When speaking of God’s children, not the children of men, Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of God is within you;’ that is, Truth and Love reign in the real man, showing that man in God’s image is unfallen and eternal.”

by Mary Baker Eddy, Science and Health, page 476

“Truth and Love reign in the real man,” – This line inspired me to think more deeply about the “Daily Prayer”: “It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to pray each day: ‘Thy kingdom come;’ let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me, ...” from Church Manual, Article VIII, Sect. 4 by Mary Baker Eddy

I am affirming that Truth, Life, and Love are “within,” “reign in the real man” and to let/allow it to be established – (giving the necessary time or opportunity for) (to make firm or stable, cause to grow and multiply).

I am grateful for the many practical ways we are taught each week here in how to demonstrate this Science of the Christ. The Daily Watch this week is very helpful:

“27 — WATCH lest you believe that you are trying to perfect yourself, rather than to make a channel of yourself through which the perfect idea of man may be expressed. There is a distinction between trying to make a perfect man of yourself, and trying to express the perfect man through yourself. There is a difference between washing a window because you like to see the glass clean, or because you desire to have the light shine through perfectly.” (excerpt from 500 Watching Points by Gilbert Carpenter) \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you! I love the Daily Prayer’s promise of “the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love.” I was recently speaking with a friend about the Daily Prayer and she often makes a small substitute in words that helps her when applying it uniquely to her day. “Thy kingdom come, let the reign of divine Truth, Life, and Love be established in me and rule out of me all sin (rule out of me all fear); and may Thy Word enrich the affections of all mankind, and govern them.”

This small application can have other substitutes as well: and rule out of me all negativity, and rule out of me all judgment, doubt, or lack. The list is endless with possibilities. I have been enjoying a different word each day, allowing me to see fresh perspectives on a prayer that I just used to give “lip

service” to. I find it is being more applicable to my life each day. Thank you for all the fresh perspectives I enjoy in the Plainfield services and classes through YouTube. They are priceless.  
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## Man's Indissoluble Connection to God

*Science and Health*, p. 292 : 27-31

“This carnal material mentality, misnamed *mind*, is mortal. Therefore man would be annihilated, were it not for the spiritual real man’s indissoluble connection with his God, which Jesus brought to light.”

I do not typically feel that I am selfish, since I have a kind and compassionate demeanor. However, I find that I have been indulging in self-pity a lot lately. I have self-justified the reasons for my pity with a sense of “lack” which has been so pronounced in my experience lately. I have been hit by numerous large bills in the last few weeks with fees associated with my daughter’s horse, additional classes my daughter needed to add to her already full class schedule, a stick penetrating the undercarriage of her car, resulting in large repair bills. I allowed this black cloud thinking to make me believe I had somehow failed God, and I am failing physically as a result of my misperceptions. Selfishness is what has put my thought in this slump.

Yet, according to this line, Mrs. Eddy says that man has an “indissoluble connection with his God.” That is my truth! And your truth! These selfish or burdened thoughts are simply the result of the human mind trying to mesmerize me into believing that I can be a victim of human circumstances.

And I know, from an earlier Roundtable discussion, that God gave man dominion, so I can never be a victim (of horses bills, rogue tree limb claims, or financial obligations). I cannot be mesmerized by selfish thoughts masquerading as my thinking. I am a loved, valuable child of God, with a strong connection to His love. My purpose is to glorify Him, dear Father, to do your work!

Thank you to everyone that works tirelessly at Plainfield Church to pass along such powerful inspiration! \*\*\*\*\*

## Love And Humility

From Luke 7:

44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.

45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

While pondering this Bible quotation, it came to me that love and humility go together. Each day, I pray to love God more so I must be truly humble, realizing His power and grace alone are sufficient for me and all mankind.

## Amazing Grace

“But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: **yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.**” I Cor. 15:10 (Emphasis Added)

Grace is “the free unmerited love and favor of God; the spring and source of all the benefits men receive from Him; the divine influence in renewing the heart and restraining from sin.” (Webster, 1828)

Jesus said it best: “I can of mine own self do nothing,” and it’s grace that enables us to “walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit”; it’s grace “teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” And it’s grace that brought me (and each one of us) to Plainfield Church and Christian Science, and gave me a second chance and filled my life with God’s blessings.

“Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

Was blind, but now I see.” \*\*\*\*\*

Amen! Before finding Plainfield I was lost, living a “good life” to be sure, but oh so lost. At the same time, I was striving to find answers, which through the grace of God led me to Plainfield via the internet. Now I am often reminded in gratitude how God saved me from my own reckless foolishness and truly “gave me a second chance and filled my life with God’s blessings”!

## From Hymn 245

We know beloved Shepherd,

The path that thou hast trod

Leads ever out of darkness,

And on and up to God.

If from that path we wander,

And far astray we roam,

O, call us, faithful Shepherd,

And bring us safely home!