

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Probation After Death – October 27th, 2019

On Patience and Progress

I was inspired to reflect on the word patience and how it could also mean the consistency of being in the eternal now moment, not being moved by anything of this world. “Be ye perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*: “The real Life, or Mind, and its opposite, the so-called material life and mind, are figured by two geometrical symbols, a circle or sphere and a straight line. The circle represents the infinite without beginning or end; the straight line represents the finite, which has both beginning and end. The sphere represents good, the self-existent and eternal individuality or Mind; the straight line represents evil, a belief in a self-made and temporary material existence. Eternal Mind and temporary material existence never unite in figure or in fact. A straight line finds no abiding-place in a curve, and a curve finds no adjustment to a straight line.” *Science and Health*, p.282:3-15

I found it helpful when Mrs. Eddy went on to say, “Even though they seem to touch, one is still a curve and the other a straight line.” So the separation is only a thought away in my thinking and that makes me a law unto myself, where I choose to reside, what I choose to experience. Truth or error.

Patience can afford to wait because she knows the final outcome. God’s work is complete and victory has already been won. The winner’s circle, so to speak. We are always teaching what we need to learn and this is something that I need to practice

and practice. Progress is born of experience, according to Mrs. Eddy in *Science and Health*. Thanks to the Bible Lesson writers on the wonderful readings.

P.S. I got to practice patience when my original post didn’t go through! Gotta love Patience!

Working Salvation

“For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.” Ps.74:12 (Golden Text) Divine everpresent Love will not, *cannot*, leave man comfortless, but is forever working, providing deliverance from the beliefs of homelessness, addiction, despair, loss, and the claim that man can ever be separated from God, good. *****

The Way is Straight and Narrow.

“Be watchful, sober, and vigilant. The way is straight and narrow, which leads to the understanding that God is the only Life.” by Mary Baker Eddy, *Science and Health*, page 324

This line from our Lesson this week spoke to me of obedience and patience. In thinking about the instructions at Plainfield, in the Bible and Mrs. Eddy’s writings, I remembered in school learning how to use the balance beam. To stay on the straight and narrow beam takes focus, persistence, patience, discipline, and practice. There are rules to follow. It doesn’t help to get discouraged. I do not expect to do cartwheels as a beginner and start with the lower beam and work up to more advanced skills. It helps to keep your eye looking where you are headed, rather than stare at your feet. There are many things I must yield to in order to stay on the beam, just like I am learning about following God’s precepts here

at Plainfield. I am very grateful for the love and time put in to everything done here for our spiritual growth. It's just like the beam, though it is up to me to work it. *****

"With God at My Right Hand" [CS Hymn 77]

"I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved . . . Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Psalm 16: 8, 11)

The Bible makes it clear that "the right hand of God" refers to His spiritual authority and power; Exodus 15:6, for example: "Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy."

According to Mrs. Eddy, Christian Science is "God's right hand grasping the universe." (Misc. p. 364) Spiritually speaking (not anatomically or physiologically), the right hand of God's image and likeness corresponds to the right hand of God.

So how do I lay hold of such power and might as this? "[God's] precepts require the disciple to cut off the right hand and pluck out the right eye, — that is, to set aside even the most cherished beliefs and practices, to leave all for Christ." (*Science and Health*, p.141:6) Thus, the right hand of personal self must be amputated that it might permanently give place to the right hand of God. Ps. 121:5 — "The LORD *is* thy keeper: the LORD *is* thy shade upon thy right hand."

These two promises are conditional upon releasing the grip of my right hand upon all the baggage of materiality and self-absorption that weighs down pilgrims as they ascend the mount of spiritual attainment. (Misc. pgs. 323-328) "[L]et us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Heb. 12:1)

I have no access to the right hand of Soul, if I am preoccupied with sense. How can my right hand be the image and likeness of God's right hand if I am allowing my God-given power to slip away? See <https://www.inc.com/amy-morin/9-ways-mentally-strong-people-retain-their-personal-power.html>.

"Practice not profession, understanding not belief, gain the ear and right hand of omnipotence and they *assuredly* call down infinite blessings." *Science and Health*, p.15:28–30, (Emphasis added)

Being

Citation 8 *Science and Health*, p.492 : 7-12

"Being is holiness, harmony, immortality. It is already proved that knowledge of this, even in small degree, will uplift the physical and moral standard of mortals, will increase longevity, will purify and elevate character. Thus progress will finally destroy all error, and bring immortality to light."

1828 Webster Dictionary: Being – Existence, As God is the author of our being. In God we live, and move, and have our being. Acts 17:28. Written on the front of one of my Watch notebooks I have written – ALL BEING IS GOD.

It also says to pray for myself before I start a Watch. This is a good prayer. God is our Being and we live in holiness, harmony, and immortality. I love the way Mrs. Eddy explains that even a small knowledge of this will elevate our standard (quality of life) physically and morally.

SUBJECT: Everlasting Punishment – November 3rd, 2019

Sin Confers No Pleasure

"...sin confers no pleasure, and this knowledge strengthens...moral courage and increases...ability to master evil and to love good." (S&H, p. 404)

I couldn't help but think of an old Cole Porter song when I read this... "I get no kicks from champagne, etc...."

So, I tweaked it to sing:

I get no kick from guilt or shame

Mere self-pity doesn't thrill me at all

So tell me why should it be true

That I get a kick out of feeling blue (or any other error of your choice).

Kinda puts everything in perspective. You can substitute any error in the lyrics, and it will give you the moral courage to master it .*****

Partially Indulged.

"Wrath which is only appeased is not destroyed, but partially indulged." from *Science and Health*, p. 22 This line from our Lesson popped out at me.

Websters 1828 Dictionary:

"Appease: To make quiet; to calm; to pacify.

Destroy: To cause to cease; to put an end to.

Indulge: To yield to the practice of, without restraint or control."

My habit of "pacifying" is allowing some error to remain unaddressed. I ask, "What am I appeasing and why?" I see that what I called being "nice" really was avoiding something. I was also attempting to solve things with human will; now I am glad to be learning how to do this with God.

"Who is David?"

Nabal the fool asks, "Who is David?" and then immediately proceeds to answer his own question, contemptuously referring to David as a slave fleeing from his master, along with his army of misfits, outlaws, and malcontents. (I Samuel 25:10 — it's obvious that Nabal is lecturing David's messengers as well on the importance of submitting to authority for its own sake, siding with Saul, the mad king, to whom all should submit unconditionally. In this, Nabal shares the same resentment as Shimei, of Saul's house, whose sense

of entitlement was a fanatical fixation: only members of Saul's family should rule Israel. (2 Sam. 16)

Nabal and Shimei, in belittling David, are symbolic of mortal mind's mocking, accusatory insistence that man is not the Lord's anointed, man is not the image and likeness of Spirit and thus man must submit to matter's rule (Saul), and man has no dominion over the works of God's hands whatsoever, but exists only as a groveling slave at the tyrannical bidding of a Mind-less, insane master, matter.

David's upward struggle in ascending to the throne to which God called him is symbolic of the Christian's step-by-step scaling of the mount of attainment so graphically depicted in Mrs. Eddy's "Allegory." (Misc, p. 323)

Abigail's absence from Nabal and subsequent presence with David is symbolic of the attainment of spiritual realization:

"Gender . . . is a quality, not of God, but a characteristic of mortal mind."
(*Science and Health*, p.305:12-13)

"The Lamb's wife presents the unity of male and female as no longer two wedded individuals, but as two individual natures in one; and this compounded spiritual individuality reflects God as Father-Mother, not as a corporeal being."
(*Science and Health*, p.577:4-8)

"Look long enough, and you see male and female one — sex or gender eliminated; you see the designation *man* meaning woman as well, and you see the whole universe included in one infinite Mind and reflected in the intelligent compound idea, image or likeness, called man, showing forth *the infinite divine Principle, Love, called God, — man wedded to the Lamb, pledged to innocence, purity, perfection.*"
(My. 268:29-5, emphasis added)

"Arise from your false consciousness into the true sense of Love, and behold the Lamb's wife, —

Love wedded to its own spiritual idea.” (*Science and Health*, p. 575:1–3) *****

Thank you for this post. I especially appreciate your quotes on gender, which I find so pertinent in this era of “gender confusion.” Mrs. Eddy’s writings, clothed in Love, are beautiful to me on this subject.

"Thou Shalt Heap Coals of Fire on His Head"

Romans 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

I was touched by the tenderness of treating an enemy with kindness and then thought, what on earth does it mean that “in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head”?

Instead of just sort of glossing over this I sought the meaning behind this passage. The passage is taken directly from Proverbs 25:21-22. I found this helpful from hiskingdomprophecy.com:

“What is the original connotation of heaping burning coals on the head of an enemy, of anyone else, for that matter? ... / ...

Robert Jewett’s relatively recent Romans commentary (Romans: A Commentary (Hermeneia: A Critical & Historical Commentary on the Bible) suggests that since Proverbs draws on some Egyptian literature, it is probable that it refers to an Egyptian practice of a repentant person carrying on their heads, some form of vessel with hot coals in it, symbolizing their repentance. Thus, the idea of Proverbs 25:21-22 would be to feed and give drink to your enemy, so that he or she will repent of their animosity toward you. It is, after all, the enemy’s benefit which is of importance here. When the enemy is treated as a friend, when good is returned for evil, then there is the chance evil will be overcome. Your enemy, your antagonist, may be overcome not by your words, but by your good deeds.”*****

The last two paragraphs of the resource above, sounds like what Christian Science commends as a way to help someone. It says, “when the enemy is treated as a friend, when good is returned for evil, then there is a chance evil will be overcome.”

That sounds like what we are taught to impersonalize error and destroy the error while seeing and knowing man’s true self right where the lie appears to be. Remember, “Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man...” (S&H, 476: 32)

It appears a whole lot of condemnation and malpractice was going on with Nabal. He is described as churlish, son of Belial.

Churlish 1828:Rude; surly; austere; sullen; rough in temper; unfeeling; uncivil. Selfish; narrow-minded; avaricious; Unpliant; unyielding; cross-grained; harsh; unmanageable.

Such thoughts about him couldn’t have given him any chance. True, it’s difficult to see through stubborn behaviour but that is our challenge when we choose to walk in this narrow path. We do not have to like or live with stubbornness, but love, that is, to separate the evil from the man, and see as Mind sees His image and likeness, we must do!

Romans 12: 9

3. *Romans 12 : 9*

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

DISSIMULATION – The act of dissembling; a hiding under a false appearance; a feigning; false pretension; hypocrisy. dissimulation may be simply concealment of the opinions, sentiments or purpose; but it includes also the assuming of a false or counterfeit appearance which conceals the real opinions or purpose. Dissimulation among statesmen is sometimes regarded as a necessary vice, or as no vice at all.

ABHOR

1. To hate extremely, or with contempt; to loathe, detest or abominate.

CLEAVE

1. To stick; to adhere; to hold to.
3. To unite or be united closely in interest or affection; to adhere with strong attachment.

I am very grateful that we have the 1828 Webster's Dictionary: These three words needed clarity this week, and having the right definitions has helped me to get more meaning from this verse, when coupled with what I am learning here. When I started getting a better handle on it, the verse felt transformed into a prayer:

Father, let my unselfed love for the world be without opinion, human goodness, or false appearances. Allow me to recognize the workings of animal magnetism, and to be instant in impersonally handling it, and to never be mesmerized to believe it has power, presence, or lasting effect.

Help me to feel and understand my oneness with You and Your ideas, and to fully experience the beauty and wonder of your creation with joy and gratitude!

This led me to look at the entirety of Romans 12 differently. I am so grateful for this church, these lessons, practitioner support, and the way that Christian Science brings such inspiration to the Bible, and to each day!

Thank you! *****

Thanks for this post.

“Dissimulation among statesmen is sometimes regarded as a necessary vice, or as no vice at all.

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“dissimulation” under any circumstance is dishonesty and not of God. Unfortunate that it is accepted as normal behavior by too many when the only right thing is to “abhor” it!!

“Father, let my unselfed love for the world be without opinion, human goodness, or false appearances. Allow me to recognize the workings of animal magnetism, and to be instant in impersonally handling it, and to never be mesmerized to believe it has power, presence, or lasting effect. Help me to feel and understand my oneness with You and Your ideas, and to fully experience the beauty and wonder of your creation with joy and gratitude!”

All of God's creation holding to this beautiful prayer IS Christian Science and cures the false 'need' of dissimulation!! *****

Thank you. This prayer is a “keeper.”

From The Blue Book pg. 205

There is no fatal mistake; there is no unforgivable wrong; there is no unpardonable sin; there is no permanent injury; there is no incurable disease; there is no such thing as too late.