

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Adam and Fallen Man – November 10th, 2019

Perfect In God

The definition of “Perfect” from the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary:

1. Finished; complete; consummate; not defective; having all that is requisite to its nature and kind; as a perfect statue; a perfect likeness; a perfect work; a perfect system.

2. Fully informed; completely skilled; as men perfect in the use of arms; perfect in discipline.

3. Complete in moral excellencies.
“Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect.” Matthew 5:48.

4. Manifesting perfection. “My strength is made perfect in weakness.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

In the Lesson this week, the word perfect or perfection is mentioned 19 times! This concept is something that I grappled with for a long time. We were all made perfect in God and He declares this real truth of our being in Genesis 1:31.

Thank you, Lesson writers! *****

....Let The Perfect Model Be Present In Your Thoughts

“Let the perfect model be present in your thoughts instead of its demoralized opposite. This spiritualization of thought lets in the light, and brings the divine Mind, Life not death, into your consciousness.” *Science and Health*, p. 407

Demoralize: “To corrupt or undermine the morals of; to destroy or lessen the effect of moral principles on; to render corrupt in morals.”

Corrupt: “To change from a sound to a putrid state; to change from good to bad. To waste. To defile or pollute. To entice from good and allure to evil. To pervert; to break, disobey or make void.” Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

This citation stood out to me this week because of our instruction during the Roundtable on November 3rd about obedience to God in our thought, and being non-resistant. Part of this rebellious attitude insists on the negative, instead of keeping Truth active in thinking. This negative thinking was described as “trains of thought” that are “hard to turn around” when indulged in, such as fear, self-condemnation, worry, resentment, etc. Looking up the above definitions hit home. *****

“Mrs. Eddy once said, ‘Error says we are sick or discouraged; we don’t say it. It is error talking about itself. If we admit it, we have accepted a lie.’ ... ‘I must know that the definition of man in Science and Health applies to me. I am that spiritual man; I am God’s image and likeness, reflecting a full, perfect image of Life, Mind, action, etc., not under material laws or limitations.’”

From *500 Watching Points* by Gilbert Carpenter, Watch 143. *****

Perfection-Consciousness

“You must have birds in your heart, Madam, before you can find them in the bushes,” said John Burroughs, the great naturalist, to a woman who complained that no birds ever came to her orchard, while he counted a score or more there, even

while she uttered her plaint.” — Orison Swett Marden From “Overcoming through Right Thinking,” by Caroline Getty, *CS Sentinel*, June, 1934:

“Let us ask ourselves often, on which side am I standing, that of fact or fable, good or evil, Science and peace or discord and dismay? We must learn to ‘stand still’ and realize spiritual facts in the stillness of spiritual sense. We must know that Principle is operating; that Love is enforcing its law; that the spiritual idea, man, is in coincidence with divine Mind; that omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent good is on the field ...

“We are overcomers. We belong to the army of right thinkers marching on to disarm evil of its falsely claimed power to harm; to disarm sin of its supposed power to allure, disease of its assumed power to render one useless, and death of its alleged power to kill. As we accomplish this disarmament in our own consciousness, world disarmament will follow and all material weapons of war, devilish and barbarous, will disappear, as in the mighty burning pictured in Ezekiel:

‘Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord God; this is the day whereof I have spoken. And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years’

[Note in Mrs. Eddy’s key to the Apocalypse, John the Revelator’s description of the feet of the angel of Christian Science: “... *pillars of fire*, foundations of Truth and Love. It brings the baptism of the Holy Ghost, whose *flames of Truth* were prophetically described by John the Baptist as *consuming error*.” (*Science and Health*, p.558:16, emphasis added)]

“Christian Scientists are a growing army of right thinkers, strong and honest overcomers, bringing peace to the world through reflecting good. All the darkness of lawlessness must disappear, for God’s behest is ever, ‘Let there be light,’ and this light is

‘the brightness’ of Christ’s coming, before which chaos disappears and light, order, Science appear.”

Thank you for this post — I like this idea of belonging to a “growing army of right thinkers” to disarm evil, sin, disease and death of their supposed powers. Excellent!*****

Man The Expression of God's Being!

Science and Health, p.470 : 21-31

God is the creator of man, and, **the divine Principle of man remaining perfect, the divine idea or reflection, man, remains perfect. Man is the expression of God’s being.** (Emphasis added)

This spiritual fact is helpful to ponder and remember. Webster’s 1828 4th definition of expression: “In painting, a natural and **lively representation** of the subject;” (Emphasis added).

I love the use of “**lively representation.**” When the suggestions of fatigue, dragging, sullenness come, do I recognize the lie and **resist** that unreality with the opposite truth, that my true nature is the lively representation of God? *****

I love this expression... it really helped me after coming to Plainfield to realize there is no separation from God. Now I will add “lively representation” to my understanding of our one-ness with God. Thank you! *****

"He Taught As One That Had Authority..."

“And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he **taught** them as one that had authority...”

Mark 1:22 (citation #6)

Perfect (Webster 1828) – finished; complete; not defective; fully formed; completely skilled; exactness. Mortal mind says perfection is impossible — Christ Truth says otherwise. Mrs. Eddy says: “Infinite perfection is unfolded as man attains the stature of man in Christ Jesus **by means of the Science which Jesus taught and practiced.**” (My.102:12) (*emphasis added*)

What thought-model am I entertaining — now, today, tomorrow, always?

SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals – November 17th, 2019

"...No Man is Able to Pluck Them Out of My Father's Hand."

"My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10: 29

Pluck: To separate by pulling; to tear away.
(Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

Today, this Bible citation stood out to me from our Lesson. It is written that, "no man is able to pluck them out." The protection is there, if I choose to remain in His hand. The quote below, that is often repeated here, came to thought and brought a new appreciation of its instructive message.

"Obeying the divine Principle which you profess to understand and love, demonstrates Truth. Never absent from your post, never off guard, never ill-humored, never unready to work for God, — is obedience; being 'faithful over a few things.'

If in one instance obedience be lacking, you lose the scientific rule and its reward: namely, to be made 'ruler over many things.'"

From Misc. p.116: 25-3.*****

Thank you for this post. Since discovering this passage from John 10 after coming to Plainfield, I have used it in my prayers for all mankind — especially children. Because the Christ is within us and Jesus loved the little children, no matter what the material or human circumstances may be, they cannot be "plucked" away from divine Love. I just read today, "No power can withstand divine Love." *Science and Health*, p.224.

There seem to be many outside influences invading the lives of our children and grandchildren, but when I pray this prayer I feel a peace within me. *****

"Green Pastures" and "Still Waters"

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters." (Ps.23:2)
Many years ago, a practitioner in Plainfield helped me greatly with this truth. I was in deep mental turmoil and physical trouble, and had told him I felt like I was at the "edge of a cliff." He told me that in actuality, I was really lying "down in green pastures" and at that moment was being led by God "beside still waters." This was such a powerful comfort to me that I've never forgotten it. It was like oil anointing my head — my thought. Just as nothing can stick to a well-oiled pan, so no wrong or distressful lie can stick to a thought that is covered with the oil of gladness, gratitude, and inspiration. *****

"Surely Goodness and Mercy Shall Follow Me All The Days of My Life..."

The definition of "surely" given in Webster's 1928 Dictionary is "Certainly; infallibly; undoubtedly." There is great assurance here in this passage that as long as I am obedient to Mrs. Eddy's statement in My. page 242, "You can never demonstrate spirituality until you declare yourself to be immortal and understand that you are so," and in our lesson on page 428, "The great spiritual fact must be brought out that man *is*, not *shall be*, perfect and immortal," is our assurance, certainly, infallibly, and undoubtedly that all the beliefs, and false laws that go along with human birth, such as growth, maturity, and decay can not follow us, only goodness can. *****

"Surely God Does Nothing w/o First Revealing It to His Servants the Prophets"

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." (Amos 3:7). Not long after the rise of Protestantism, arose the German Pietists, who believed that the basic values of the Reformation had not gone far enough. Luther's Protestantism majored on study

and belief in scholastic theology, whereas the Pietists proposed that Christianity is something to be lived, experienced, and demonstrated.

In 1735, in the Province of Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia, a group of German Pietists established a community of 40 devotees, whom the locals called the “Hermits of the Ridge,” led by Johannes Kelpius. In an interesting *CS Journal* article from April, 1887, author H. E. C. describes Kelpius as “a young scholar and mystic, of great piety and spirituality, who was drawn to the New World by his religious faith.”

The article continues:

“Kelpius and his followers were earnest and enthusiastic students of the Bible, but more particularly, of the Gospels and the Apocalypse. They were rigid moralists, having turned their backs upon the world and its allurements, pursuing in their wilderness retreat a systematic study of the sacred Word . . . [T]hey were manifestly governed only by a deep and serious purpose to learn and live the spiritual teachings of the Bible. By their piety, meekness, and simplicity, they made a deep impression upon the religious life of Pennsylvania, many traces of which are yet seen.”

Kelpius emphasized that Christianity is something that must be practiced, not simply believed; in so *doing*, cleaving to God in every detail of one’s life, in every deed, thought and feeling, it should follow, as a normal Christian experience, that death be overcome, as exemplified in the lives of the immortals, Enoch and Elijah.

The article continues:

“The *primary purpose* [!] of this sect in coming to the ‘wilderness’ of Pennsylvania was that they expected there to find or have revealed to them the Woman of the Apocalypse, — the ‘Woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and twelve stars on her forehead. She who had fled to the wilderness.’ [Emphasis added.]

It is said that their reasons for coming to Pennsylvania were that from many events and signs, — in which the Thirty-years’ War, the newness of the country, its peculiar situation, etc., cut an important figure, it was believed America was the place for the coming of the ‘promised one,’ the ‘Deliverer.’

“While their hopes and expectations were not realized within the time and in the manner looked for, we who observe the present signs of the times can readily see that they had caught fore-glimpses of coming events that may well be said to have been prophetic. Truly in the ‘wilderness’ of America has appeared the ‘promised one,’ the ‘Deliverer,’ and rejoiced should we be who are privileged to see that ‘glad day so long foretold,’ and for the coming of which so many devout hearts have longed and prayed.”

God grant that I, who am living this very moment in the day that the prophets of old could only wish for and, more recently, that the Pietists saw as yet from afar, may walk with God worthy of it, never taking it for granted. Amen. *****

Thank you for this post! It reminds me of the following information gathered for a previous Bible Study.

Regarding Mary Baker Eddy’s place, Rev. G. A. Kratzer has some very interesting notes in connection with the book of Revelation, chapter 12, verse 6.

Verse 6. “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and three score days.”

“Coincidentally with the disappearing of pure spiritual truth from the activities of the visible world, the love of pure truth, divine love, the ‘woman,’ disappeared, for the most part, from the world of men. Such sense of truth and love as they had was adulterated, after the second or third century, with belief in material powers, love

thereof, and with reliance upon material means for healing the sick, etc.

When Jesus, near the commencement of his ministry, was not active in the visible world, preaching and healing, but was absent from the stage of active affairs for a period of forty days, he was spoken of as being 'in the wilderness.' There is no probability that he was in an unpopulated place during this period, but he was simply 'withdrawn from the world,' withdrawn from material sense into spiritual sense.

Likewise this 'woman,' this spirit of divine love, is represented as being 'withdrawn from the world,' and so 'in the wilderness' from the standpoint of the world's activity, for 'a thousand two hundred and threescore days.' As before mentioned in these Notes, this is the period or length of time repeatedly spoken of by St. John as the period during which the dragon, or evil, is to have marked and undoubted ascendancy in the mental realm and in the world, so far as men are concerned.*

“*It is interesting to note that one Bible commentator has described this period as a period of 1,260 'years' lasting 'from A. D. 606, when the Pope of Rome was, by Phocas the Emperor, constituted the universal Bishop of the Christian church, to A. D. 1866.
(The Self Interpreting Bible.)

This commentator does not call attention to the fact, and probably did not know, that 1866 was the date when Mrs. Eddy discovered Christian Science, that reappearance of pure spiritual truth in the world, which undoubtedly presages the early fall of the dragon and of all those human institutions, organizations, and forms of government which derive their power largely from the dragon.

Coincidentally, with the reappearing of the pure spiritual truth among men, the 'woman,' the love of pure truth, divine love, comes out of the wilderness, out of the 'place prepared of God'

for her temporary protection, and becomes active again on the stage of human affairs.” (Taken from pp. 254-255, *Revelation Interpreted* by Rev. G. A. Kratzer) *****

Thank you so much for this post, Parthens, which brought me to tears. And thank you, Dale, for the follow-up. I am grateful to learn about this important history.

Grateful that Christ has enabled me to do God's work

2. I Timothy 1

12 “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”

From the 1828 Webster's Dictionary:

“Enabled: Supplied with sufficient power, physical, moral or legal.”

“Ministry: The office, duties or functions of a subordinate agent of any kind.”

“Subordinate: To place in order or rank below something else;...”

These verses really spoke to me this week, as they echo my own gratitude. To come here and find my calling — especially after years of fairly vocal disdain for Christianity and Christian Science — really speaks to the level of mercy God is capable of! And, to find that each day, whatever I feel called to do, I have already been “supplied with sufficient power” to do it because of the Christ, and this Science.... Well, what more proof would I need that I am in my right place, and that God is good?

Thank you so much for this lesson!