

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Substance — March 15th,
2020**

Giving Does Not Impoverish Us.

“Mind-science teaches that mortals need ‘not be weary in well doing.’ It dissipates fatigue in doing good. Giving does not impoverish us in the service of our Maker, neither does withholding enrich us. We have strength in proportion to our apprehension of truth, and our strength is not lessened by giving utterance to truth.” (*Science and Health*, p. 79) This is such a fortifying and strengthening statement by Mrs. Eddy. The word “dissipate” according to the 1828 Dictionary, means “to scatter; to disperse; to drive asunder; denotes the dispersion of things that vanish.” I am sure we have all felt fatigue and other negative emotions vanishing as we involve ourselves in some unselfed effort – forgetting our own problems in helping another. It is a basic rule in Christian Science and one that is essential to teach to our children so they don’t grow up totally self-involved! As one of my favorite hymns, #360 so beautifully states, “True, the heart grows rich in giving; All its wealth is living grain; Seeds which mildew in the garner, Scattered, fill with gold the plain. Is thy burden hard and heavy? Do thy steps drag wearily? Help to bear thy brother’s burden, God will bear both it and thee.” *****

As God Directs

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” (II Corinthians 9:7)

Matthew Henry says, “Works of charity, like other good works, should be done with thought and design; whereas some do good only by accident,” and “We should give liberally, with an open hand, and cheerfully, with an open countenance, being glad we have ability and an opportunity to be charitable.” To me this illustrated the perfect blend of Principle and Love. Prayerfully asking God what is the right thing to do or how much to give and then cheerfully, thankfully, trusting and obeying God’s direction.

When I was first beginning to give to church and had a lot of bills, this is what the practitioner said to do. As I did this, asking God how much to give to church, and giving it to church first, then gratefully (because God gave me the “substance” to pay them) paying the bills. Following this “plan” the bills were paid off and I was tithing to church. Very grateful for these lessons. *****

Living Consistently With Our Prayer

“The test of all prayer lies in the answer to these questions: Do we love our neighbor better because of this asking? Do we pursue the old selfishness, satisfied with having prayed for something better, though we give no evidence of the sincerity of our requests by living consistently with our prayer?” *Science and Health*, p. 9.

This week I used the above citation from our weekly Lesson to “test” my prayer. I realized I needed to pay more attention to what I was praying so that I could also follow it by “living consistently” with it. Am I asking God to help me love and then demonstrating love in all I do? Am I praying for peace and then watching my thought and actions for that which would rob my peace? Am I affirming my right to confidence but then entertaining fearful thinking? Keeping the window of thought clean so I can demonstrate this Science of Christ. I am very grateful for Science and Health by Mrs. Eddy and the Plainfield church which

teach and push us to live prayer in thought and deed. *****

Missing The Greater Good

John 6:26. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.”

From Spurgeon’s commentary on that verse: “You are loafers — loaf-hunters. You seek not me, but mine. **It is not for the good that I can give your souls**, but it is that you may have another meal, that you are here. Yours is cupboard love. You come after what you can get.”
(*Emphasis added*)

This comment made me think of so many who have used Science only for material gain, comfort in body, but missed the greater understanding to help themselves and be able to help others. Many do say I have been a Scientist all my life, I have had many healings and are perturbed and disappointed that a particular challenge appears not to yield. Spurgeon’s term “cupboard love” is appropriate here; since such are those who leave after being fed (healed) without a thought about striving to satisfy one’s soul, so that the understanding to enable one to bless another may be gained. Mrs. Eddy also says that we can all do more...we are blessed in more ways than one when we seek to share what Christian Science gives us. May we all do more and know that God does help each one to do more if we ask.

A selfish approach to this selfless mission leaves us missing the greater good. As Mrs. Eddy instructs, our rock of salvation and reason for existing should be, to be “able to impart truth, health, and happiness.” *My*. p.165. *****

Perfect Treatment For "Fear Mongering Illusion"!

“What if the old dragon should send forth a new flood to drown the Christ-idea? He can neither drown your voice with its roar, nor again sink the world into the deep waters of chaos and old night....Those ready for the blessing you

impart will give thanks. The waters will be pacified, and Christ will command the wave.”
(*Science and Health*, p. 570) This is the perfect treatment for the “fear mongering illusion” (called virus) right here in this week’s lesson! – for Christ IS commanding this wave with perfect peace and assurance and shutting down any false voices claiming otherwise. *****

“The waters will be pacified, and Christ will command the wave.” (*Science and Health*, p 570: 21.)

“From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” (Psalm 61:2, — the prayer of David, who, far from home, was tempted to feel unsafe from enemies within and without.)

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, was faced with multiple crises occurring simultaneously. In his famous soliloquy, Hamlet expresses indecision whether “to take arms against a sea of troubles” or simply give up. Alexander Pope likened this sea of troubles to flood-waters besieging the walls of a city.

At the climax of the exodus from Egypt, Moses had to face 3 major problems occurring all at once: 1) the army of Pharaoh pursuing him, 2) the defenseless, terrified people violently protesting against Moses, doubting and denouncing his whole exit plan, and 3) the presence of the Red Sea stopping their flight.

Against all such discord and instability, God remains immovable, more unchangeable than a tuning fork that maintains its pitch every moment, day by day.

From the human standpoint (which is sinking sand), Moses could not possibly take up arms against the sea of compound troubles threatening him from every direction. But, placing his trust in the “*Rock* [substance] that is higher than” himself — something more concrete than the most dense of material solids — he was able to stand on infinitely higher ground, infinitely more substantial than the convulsive, rancorous waters clamoring for his attention, tempting him to take his eyes off God and thereby fail in his mission.

*Thus Truth engrounds me on the rock,
Upon Life's shore,
'Gainst which the winds and waves can shock,
Oh, nevermore!*

(Mary Baker Eddy, Hymn 254)

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Zech. 4:6.) Thus shall Christian Scientists becalm the tempestuous waters spewed forth from the mouth of the illusory, thrashing serpent of mortal mind and transform them into a sea of glass, mirroring the eternal stability of the substance of Spirit.

The Voice of Truth *is* being broadcast throughout the thought of mankind — as our church services, our magazine, website, recordings, Roundtables, Bible Studies, testimonies, Lessons, Forum, etc. This *is* the almighty VOICE of TRUTH and does still the wave of fear. As our practitioner said this Wednesday, more love is the answer. “In atmosphere of Love divine, We live, and move, and breathe;...” (Hymn 144) Thank you for these posts! *****

The First Commandment

Mark 12:28-31 – “Which is the first commandment of all?

“And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

“And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.”

Working with the citation where the Christ called us to the second Commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, reminds me of our Plainfield Independent Church that does fulfill this Commandment. While covering this topic in our Bible studies I often thought of what Christ Jesus said. There is no greater demonstration of

this Commandment than the Watches that are done that protect and heal all mankind. I also pay attention to trusting God and even pray to keep my covenant with Him to love Him with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I ask to see if there is a “neighbor” in need. I am also learning that He will guide me in the details of my life. *****

Hymn 224

*From The Christian Science
Hymnal, 1932 edition*

O Lord, I would delight in Thee,
And on Thy care depend;
To Thee in every trouble flee,
My best, my ever Friend.
When all material streams are dried,
Thy fullness is the same;
May I with this be satisfied,
And glory in Thy name.
All good, where'er it may be found,
Its source doth find in Thee;
I must have all things and abound,
While God is God to me.
O that I had a stronger faith,
To look within the veil,
To credit what my Saviour saith,
Whose word can never fail.
He that has made my heaven secure,
Will here all good provide;
While Christ is rich, can I be poor?
What can I want beside?
O God, I cast my care on Thee;
I triumph and adore;
Henceforth my great concern shall be
To love and praise Thee more.

SUBJECT: Matter — March 22nd, 2020

Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord

“Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord.”
Zechariah 2:13

This week’s Bible Lesson corresponds perfectly to the latest Sunday Roundtable, “Christ Will Command the Wave.” It was brought out that during this time of quarantine and shut-down of most activities we should be using this time to be quiet and examine our thinking, in prayer, in love for all mankind, to break this spell of divisiveness and hatred, in repentance, and re-evaluating our priorities, “that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

Have the things of God become, “foolishness unto” me? Or do I, “look to his Maker, and his eyes shall have respect to the Holy One of Israel.”
Isaiah 17:7

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked.”
Galatians 6:7

Am I part of the “corruption” written about in Galatians or do I use my time to, “soweth to the Spirit”? (Gal. 6:8)

These are a few of the citations that stood out to me as God speaking to us at this time. This Lesson was written long before the challenges that are before us. I am grateful to the Lesson writers for the work they do to provide us with these timely Truths for us to use.

“Rise in the strength of Spirit to resist all that is unlike good. God has made man capable of this, and nothing can vitiate the ability and power divinely bestowed on man.” *Science and Health*, p. 393. *****

Thanks for this striking Golden text; thanks for your post — “**Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord.**”

This is a powerful command to shut up the lying suggestions that come to tempt... Have had some use of it with effect!! Yes, enough, be quiet, — Christ is in command!

From Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary: “ ‘Be silent, O all flesh’ (Hab 2:20). ‘Let all in silent awe and reverence await the

Lord’s coming interposition in behalf of His people!’ The address is both to the Gentile foes, who prided themselves on their power as if irresistible, and to the unbelieving Jews, who distrusted God’s promises as incredible. Three reasons why they must be silent are implied: (1) they are but “flesh,” weak and ignorant; (2) He is JEHOVAH, all-wise and all-powerful; (3) He is already ‘raised up out of His place,’ and **who can stand before Him?** [Pembellus], (Ps 76:8, 9).”
(*Emphasis added*) *****

“Thought passes from God to man, but neither sensation nor report goes from material body to Mind. The intercommunication is *always* from God to His idea, man.” (*Science and Health*, p. 284:30–32, *emphasis added*.)

“And great multitudes were gathered together unto him....And he spake many things unto them in parables....And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.” (Matt. 13: 2-3, 10-11.)

Evidently, Jesus did not feel as free to speak to the multitudes of Matthew 13 as he did to those in chapters 5-7, in which he speaks more directly (the Sermon on the Mount). “Bird of a feather flock together,” and, as a whole, the great multitudes of Matthew 13 were so matter-minded that they were unable to receive the thoughts that pass from God to man except in an obscure way.

On my journey “uphill all the way,” God grant that I resist, subdue, and *silence* matter-mind more with each step, so that, on each level of attainment, I may always be open to all the angel-thoughts waiting for me there.

Thank you for these posts. “The less that is said of physical structure and laws, and the more that is thought and said about moral and spiritual law, the higher will be the standard of living and the farther mortals will be removed from imbecility or disease.

“We should master fear, instead of cultivating it. It was the ignorance of our forefathers in the departments of knowledge now broadcast in the earth, that made them hardier than our trained

physiologists, more honest than our sleek politicians.” *Science and Health*, p. 197:11-20

The Readings from this Wednesday speak to me of the Lesson for this week on Matter. Christ’s Keynote is ‘Be Not Afraid.’ We are to rejoice in all things and I must say that to practice what I have learned here at Plainfield and to pray without ceasing has been a source of joy. Comforting everyone in thought, blessing them and all whom I meet or talk to. This is an opportunity to let CS shine and see hatred, malice, lies, fear — all disappear! *****

Lift Up Thine Eyes Round About...

“Lift up thine eyes round about, and see” ...the glory and goodness of divine Love all around. For me, this is God’s **command** to see and affirm His presence, His power, His law as the only reality, the only truth unfolding now and ever. Knowing this has helped me to see the beauty of Life, God, emerging everywhere, blossoming forth in Spring buds, in the new green tree leaves, in the song of the birds, in neighbors walking outside and expressing new-found love to each other, in uniting and helping each other. I thank the inspired lesson-writer for giving us this timely Lesson this week. I love what Mrs. Eddy writes: “Undisturbed amid the jarring testimony of the material senses, Science, still enthroned, is unfolding to mortals the immutable, harmonious, divine Principle, — is unfolding Life and the universe, ever present and eternal.” (*Science and Health*, p. 306:25)

Reverse It!

“Science **reverses** the false testimony of the physical senses, **and by this reversal** mortals arrive at the fundamental facts of being.” S&H 120:7 (*Emphasis added.*)

“Health is not a condition of matter, but of Mind; nor can the material senses bear reliable testimony on the subject of health. The Science of Mind-healing shows it to be impossible for aught but Mind to testify truly or to exhibit the real status of man. Therefore the divine Principle of

Science, **reversing the testimony of the physical senses**, reveals man as harmoniously existent in Truth, which is the only basis of health; and thus Science denies all disease, heals the sick, overthrows false evidence, and refutes materialistic logic.” S&H 120:15-24 (*Emphasis added.*)

The idea of reversing any material so-called law or “logic” came to me strongly this morning as I was reading the lesson. God is the only authority, substance, law, intelligence, creator of all. Yes, we need to affirm constantly these truths, but also reverse the lie! So, we can say with authority that God governs all, and this fact cannot be reversed! God’s man (and woman and children) cannot be mesmerized by suggestions that a virus can harm anyone physically or financially – and this law cannot be reversed! ETC! Annul it and make it void! And know it then goes back on itself with accelerated force! Webster’s 1828 Dictionary: Reverse: “In law, to overthrow by a contrary decision; to make void; to annul; as, to reverse a judgment, sentence or decree.” *****

It Is Our Divine Right

Thank you, God, for **YOUR** Truth explained through Christian Science, that **Man is FREE, THAT FREEDOM IS OUR BIRTHRIGHT, FREEDOM, FROM EVERY ILL!!**

“Citizens of the world, accept the ‘glorious liberty of the children of God,’ and be free! This is your divine right. The illusion of material sense, not divine law, has bound you, entangled your free limbs, crippled your capacities, enfeebled your body, and defaced the tablet of your being.” S&H 227:24

