

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 166

**SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man —  
June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## "No Power Opposed to God"

"In Science, you can have no power opposed to God....Your influence for good depends upon the weight you throw into the right scale. The good you do and embody gives you the only power obtainable. Evil is not power. It is a mockery of strength, which ere long betrays its weakness and falls, never to rise." (*Science and Health*, p. 192)

- Mockery – vain imitation or effort
- Erelong – before long
- Betrays – discloses or permits to appear what is intended to be kept a secret  
(all definitions from Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

This is reassuring to me in my work for myself and the world, that my right thinking, or the Truth about the lie that I am knowing, — whatever it is, — is the only power obtainable. That evil's vain imitation of strength (or the denial of God's allness) before long discloses what was intended to be kept secret, — its weakness, — therefore falling, never to rise. It can't help itself, because "In Science you can have no power opposed to God." Thank you lesson writers for this powerful lesson sermon.

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## "The Test of Science"

"All forms of error support the false conclusions that there is more than one Life....Such theories are evidently erroneous. They can never stand the test of Science." (*Science and Health*, p. 204)

Test — a large vessel in which metals are melted for trial and refinement; hence, any critical trial and examination. (Webster 1828)

The teaching I've received here in Plainfield Church, and the help of practitioner, has helped me to realize that any error that comes to me, is merely a test to try my "metal" — my faith in God and understanding of Christian Science. It is meant to melt any hardness of my heart, examine and purify my thought, strengthen my spiritual resolve, and bring me closer to God. As I steadfastly hold this attitude of thought — with God's help — any and every error "can never stand the test of Science" — never stand against the Truth. Thank you for this encouraging and powerful Lesson-Sermon.

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## Maketh the Lord His Trust

"Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust." Psalm 40:4

"Trust: Confidence; a reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle of another person."  
Webster's 1828 Dictionary

During the Roundtable this past Sunday, one of the definitions of hard-heartedness which was given was, "not willing to let go of beliefs." I am very grateful for these classes that are meant to keep us progressing in this Science of the Christ as Mrs. Eddy intended.

We were also instructed to keep God foremost in thought, and that peace comes in having a deep relationship with God. Elisha had this peace, trust, and relationship with God. He was able to see God working and to help his servant see also. "...they that be with us are more than they that be with them....the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." (II Kings 6:16, 17)

The servant's heart was receptive to Elisha and he was blessed to be able to see evidence of God's allness and protection.

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## The Wonderful Results of Angel Thoughts Entertained

A century ago, Carmeline Ledoux shared this testimonial concerning “God the Preserver of Man” (*Christian Science Sentinel*, February, 1920) –

One morning, I was called to the telephone in the office where I work, to hear that I must go home as my little boy had been run over by an automobile. My daughter had telephoned a Christian Science practitioner, asking for treatment for the child. As I left the office, this beautiful passage from p. 582 of our textbook, “*Science and Health*” by Mrs. Eddy, came to me: “CHILDREN. The spiritual thoughts and representatives of Life, Truth, and Love.” I knew that if the child was the spiritual representative of Life, he could not be the material representative of its opposite. Before reaching home, I was able to say: “Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always.”

When I entered the room where my little boy lay, and bent over his bed, he whispered, “Mother, I’ve been knowing that,” and pointed to a motto on the wall which read: “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

The chauffeur of the car which ran over the boy made a report for the highway commissioners of Boston, in which he stated that one wheel passed directly over the child’s stomach and a spring hit him on the hip. There was material evidence to corroborate this statement.

We acknowledged no material laws, however, but considered this only one more opportunity to prove God’s allness. We knew that matter, being unreal, could be neither crushed, bruised, nor broken. The accident occurred at half past eight in the morning. At eleven of the same forenoon the child was sitting up in bed, reading; at noon he had lunch at the table; in the afternoon he was up, dressed, and playing with some little boys who came to inquire about their schoolmate. The next morning, he went to school as usual.

I am inexpressibly grateful to God for this beautiful healing. I am grateful for the practitioner’s

help and for the Lesson-Sermon that week, the subject of which was “God the Preserver of Man.” Words are wholly inadequate to express my gratitude to our beloved Leader, who has taught us to know a God who is Life, and a Life that is God.

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## Exodus 23:25

“And ye shall serve the Lord your God,  
And he shall bless thy bread,  
And thy water;  
And I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.”

There is so much in the Lesson,  
I choose this for today.  
It reminds me God first,  
And daily moments of literally bread and water  
Start with God.  
Thank you.

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## SUBJECT: Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force? — June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### Radiation & Service

“God fashions all things, after His own likeness....Love, redolent with unselfishness, bathes all in beauty and light. The grass beneath our feet silently exclaims, ‘The meek shall inherit the earth.’ The modest arbutus sends her sweet breath to heaven. The great rock gives shadow and shelter. The sunlight glints from the church-dome, glances into the prison-cell, glides into the sick-chamber, brightens the flower, beautifies the landscape, blesses the earth.” (*Science & Health*, p. 516.)

It struck me this week how, according to Christian Science, every creation of God radiates something that is of service to each of its fellow creatures.

From the *Blue Book*: “One day Mrs. Eddy said to a student, ‘Are you working?’ He began to tell of his hours of study and work.

“She said, ‘When you see old age, do you declare that Life is eternal activity, beauty and joy? When you see the leaves falling and hear the wind blow, do you declare that there is no change, decay or cold? When you see deformity and disease, do you declare that man is made in the image and likeness of God?’

“The student answered, ‘Mrs. Eddy, I am not working.’”

These instructions are more relevant today than when Mrs. Eddy spoke them. On page 356 of *Miscellaneous Writings*, she writes: “The pent-up elements of mortal mind need no terrible detonation to free them. Envy, rivalry, hate need no temporary indulgence that they be destroyed through suffering; they should be stifled from lack of air and freedom.”

So, the question I must ask myself every day is, am I giving error life and breath, or am I holding error in check by stifling and strangling it?

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## "God Almighty, or God All Sufficient"

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.” (Genesis 17:1, 2)

Spurgeon’s commentary writes about this “I am the Almighty God.”

“True confidence leans alone on God who declares himself to be God Almighty, or God All Sufficient....The Lord is all sufficient in power to accomplish his own purposes; he is all sufficient in wisdom to find his own way through difficulties which to us may appear to be like a maze but to him are plain enough. And he is all sufficient in love so that he will never fail us for lack of mercy in his heart or pity in his bosom. God is God All Sufficient! The Lord meant the language before us to be a gentle but unmistakable rebuke for Abram, for he said in effect, ‘I am God All Sufficient — quite sufficient to fulfill my own purposes without your help, quite able to achieve my own designs...’”

How reassuring to know that no matter how difficult a situation appears to be to the mortal sense of things, the mortal sense of anything can never see beyond its own finite viewpoint, a viewpoint outside of the Allness of God. Within that viewpoint are all kinds of limitations, — age, upbringing, education, race, economic resources, intelligence, etc., etc. God has a purpose for each and every one of his ideas, and when we drop the false sense of a selfhood apart from Almighty God, one can begin to see that God is working His purpose out for each and every one of us, and sees only infinity expressed.

Thank you lesson writers for your powerful and inspiring lessons.

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## Poor Use of Memory

“The true theory of the universe, including man, is not in material history but in spiritual development.” *Science and Health*, p. 547:25

I am grateful for this week’s powerful Lesson that followed deep instruction regarding the importance of not dwelling on the past during our last Roundtable titled, [“Dismantle the Hypnosis Machine.”](#) Both these together brought to my attention a new awareness that by focusing on mortal past leaves God out or makes Him responsible for misrule, as we read in citation 7 from the *Science and Health* section of our Lesson. If I want to claim dominion over sin, disease, and death, I cannot start from this faulty standpoint. Thinking 2+2=5 will not get me a correct answer. It is not ignoring history, but bringing the Christ to the current situation to heal and reform.

For so many years I lived as a victim. I am so grateful to be learning at this church how to correctly practice Christian Science that teaches, “Man, made in His likeness, possesses and reflects God’s dominion over all the earth.” (*Science and Health*, p. 516:19) I have seen proof in my daily life that the spiritual good I hold in consciousness and identify without, pictures itself in my experience.

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“Told about some friends calling on Mrs. Eddy one day, and a servant told them she was in the

back yard. They went around the house, and seeing Mrs. Eddy seemed to be busy, they started away; but she called to them to come to her, and then asked them if they knew what she was doing. They replied they didn't, and then she said, 'I am going back in my memory just as far as I can remember and denying all the error that ever seemed to happen to me.' It is poor use of memory to review error. The real man has no memory of evil." From *1937 College* by Bicknell Young, p. 12.

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## "Periods of Spiritual Ascension"

"The periods of spiritual ascension are the days and seasons of Mind's creation, in which beauty, sublimity, purity, and holiness — yea, the divine nature — appear in man and the universe never to disappear." (*Science and Health*, p. 509:24)

These periods of spiritual ascension are still going on now, as the eternal enactment of the law of Love and the forever unfolding consciousness of Truth, pricking men's hearts and turning thought to God. They will *never* disappear. Evil cannot resist nor hide this divine activity by arguing a downward spiral of hatred, nor can it enslave man in a material history of oppression or guilt. Man's true history is, and continues to be, "in spiritual development." (*Science and Health*, p. 547:27)

In *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy says, "God expresses in man the infinite idea forever developing itself, broadening and rising higher and higher from a boundless basis." (*Science and Health*, p. 258:13) This is the true ascension for every man, woman, and child everywhere.

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## One God Almighty

Thank you for all the posts for this Lesson.

This Lesson states clearly that God is the only creator and that He loves His creation. And I am wise to pay attention with humility and rejoicing. I must remind myself that it is always God doing and His plan is perfect for me and for everyone, "...seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." (Acts 17:25)

"Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:3-7)

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## Hymn 148

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,  
1932 Edition*

In heavenly Love abiding,  
No change my heart shall fear;  
And safe is such confiding,  
For nothing changes here.  
The storm may roar without me,  
My heart may low be laid;  
But God is round about me,  
And can I be dismayed?

Wherever He may guide me,  
No want shall turn me back;  
My Shepherd is beside me,  
And nothing can I lack.  
His wisdom ever waketh,  
His sight is never dim;  
He knows the way He taketh,  
And I will walk with Him.

Green pastures are before me,  
Which yet I have not seen;  
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,  
Where darkest clouds have been.  
My hope I cannot measure,  
My path in life is free;  
My Father has my treasure,  
And He will walk with me.