

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Ancient and Modern
Necromancy, Alias Mesmerism
and Hypnotism, Denounced —
November 29th, 2020**

Is There Any Power Apart from God? Seriously?

Why would anyone seek other help apart from God? Only if they believed there is a power apart from our Father-Mother, our “Great Redeemer and Friend.”

When people go to fortune tellers, witch doctors, materia medica, or anything else, it is because they either know **not** God or they do believe that is where the power to heal, save, or even comfort lies. I am grateful that I now clearly realize that anything I allow to disturb my thinking is something I still **believe** has more power than God. This has to be why in *Science and Health* we read:

“There is no power apart from God. Omnipotence has all-power, and to acknowledge any other power is to dishonor God.” (228:25-27)

“No power can withstand divine Love.” (224:31)

“The power of Christian Science and divine Love is omnipotent. It is indeed adequate to **unclasp** the hold and to destroy disease, sin, and death.” (412:13-15) (Emphasis added.)

“What God cannot do, man need not attempt.” (231:7-8)

The Bible, as well as Mrs. Eddy’s other writings, have endless statements about God’s Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience, and Omni-action. This simple statement, “Is there anything above God’s head?” from Dorothy Rieke’s *Wonderful Things are Happening*, is another quick reminder.

Is it not wise then to spend enough time making our own reminder, in order to be aware consistently of the **supremacy of our ever-present God**? Other systems may heal physically, while God alone heals both physically and morally! Should we even begin to think about the costs involved in other systems? Let’s **not** forget this law, **I Am All**!

“What God Cannot Do, Man Need Not Attempt.”

The “Fruitage” chapter in *Science and Health* is one that has often grounded me when doubt or fear tries to knock at the door. The testimonies of the healings that occurred from simply reading *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, are glowing with light, and they always encourage me to keep reading this book. How these testimonies can be disregarded is a question to me.

Many people have been talking about a vaccination that is coming to wipe out the corona virus, or “nameless nothing” that this church has so correctly named.

I have heard it said that it is “normal” for pandemics/epidemics to come about every 100 years or so. Vaccinations appear to have wiped out many so-called diseases, but I have been wondering how to get to the bottom of all of this, while many people are rejoicing that what is coming soon is a miracle drug. On a human level, there is no such thing, as side effects of drugs are often listed, and discovered later.

“Such theories have no relationship to Christian Science, which rests on the conception of God as the only Life, substance, and intelligence, and excludes the human mind as a spiritual factor in the healing work.” (*Science and Health* 185:17-21)

Mary Baker Eddy writes in her preface of *Science and Health*, (viii:16): “Sickness has been combated for centuries by doctors using material remedies; but the question arises, Is there less sickness because of these practitioners? A vigorous ‘No’ is the response deducible from two connate facts, — the reputed longevity of the Antediluvians, and the rapid multiplication and increased violence of diseases since the flood.”

In the lesson this week, we read in *Science and Health*, (104:23-28): “If he heals sickness through a belief, and a belief originally caused the sickness, it is a case of the greater error overcoming the lesser. This greater error thereafter occupies the ground, leaving the case worse than before it was grasped by the stronger error.” (“he” being the hypnotizer.)

There is a quote I like by Albert Einstein which says: “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

This week’s lesson has some great and powerful statements that are explaining to me why, although it appears that drugs do temporarily wipe out a disease with one name, another one springs up and is then advertised with a new name. The one and only God, Spirit, takes the axe to the root that caused the belief of disease, — that there is life, truth, and intelligence in matter.

I am grateful that we have been given the textbook of Christian Science, — the second coming of Christ, *Science and Health*, — and know that the testimonies in the “Fruitage” chapter can shine their glory and proof that “no lesser power equals the infinite All-power.”

There is only one permanent answer to all human woes - it is the Christ Truth of Life in Spirit, God!

The most effective vaccination has always been here, and perhaps it takes times like these for the overall need to turn to the perfect Laboratory — Divine Source — to find it. As Mrs. Eddy says in *Divinity Course and General Collectanea* (the “Blue Book”) on page 269:

“Regarding vaccination; there is only the mental vaccination; I would take the point of Spirit which is Truth and prick the human affections, then inoculate with divine Love, circulating the system of thought, and the liability of contagious disease, sin, or sickness will cease.”

Perfect! And that would not “break the bank” in the least!!

Prayer and Fasting

“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” (Matthew 17:21)

We were given the above instruction to work with during our November 22, 2020 Roundtable, rather than take in all that is being presented to us during this transitional period.

“Jesus healed the young man then and there, and he neither prayed nor fasted as men interpret those words today. Is it not reasonable to suppose, therefore, that the fasting (denial) meant the denial of the reality of any such thing as fits (Mark 9:7, 9, 25-9), or lunacy, and that the prayer meant the affirmation of the all-presence and the all-power of God wherein there is no possibility of either fits or lunacy? These are the essential features in the Christian Science prayer of today....” From *Divinity Course and General Collectanea* (the “Blue Book”) by Mary Baker Eddy, page 209.

“When his disciples asked him why they could not heal that case, Jesus, the master Metaphysician, answered, ‘Because of your unbelief’ (lack of *faith*); and then continued: ‘If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove.’ Also he added: ‘This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting’ (refraining from admitting the claims of the senses). ... Be patient, O Christian Scientist! It is well that thou canst unloose the sandals of thy Master’s feet.” (*Miscellany* 222:7-14, 19-21)

“Science is absolute, and best understood through the study of my works and the daily Christian demonstration thereof. It is their *materiality* that clogs the progress of students, and ‘this kind goeth not forth but by prayer and fasting.’

It is materialism through which the animal magnetizer preys, and in turn becomes a prey. Spirituality is the basis of all true thought and volition. Assembling themselves together, and listening to each other amicably, or contentiously, is no aid to students in acquiring solid Christian Science. Experience and, above all, *obedience*, are the aids and tests of growth and understanding in this direction. With love, MARY B. G. EDDY” (*Miscellaneous Writings* 156:17-30)

“Jesus said to his disciples, ‘This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting,’ but he did not appoint a fast. Merely to abstain from eating was not sufficient to meet his demand. The animus of his saying was: Silence appetites, passion, and all that wars against Spirit and spiritual power.” (*Miscellany* 339:24-29)

Thank you for posting this citation and Mrs. Eddy’s comments on it. I also found it interesting when I read of the circumstances of Jesus’ rebuke to the nine disciples. The disciples had not been in earnest prayer — they had been having a good time while Jesus, John, Peter, and James were away. When suddenly thrust into a situation which required not only a strong rebuke, but also required that they be in a state of spiritual connection with God so that His Truth could be demonstrated to heal, they failed like the virgins who brought no oil with them when waiting to meet the bridegroom and were left out. The moral of Jesus’ story was to “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.” (Mathew 25:13)

From *John Gill’s Exposition of the Bible*: “It seems that Christ not only suggests, that faith was greatly wanting in his disciples; for which reason they could not cast out the devil, and heal the lunatic; but they had been wanting in prayer to God, to assist them in the exercise of their miraculous gifts; and that whilst Christ, and the other three disciples were on the mount, they had been feasting and indulging themselves with the people, and so were in a very undue disposition of mind, for such extraordinary service, for which our Lord tacitly rebukes them.”

In giving much thought to what Christ Jesus said about prayer and fasting, the following helps me:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22, 23)

Who shall disannul God’s purpose?

“For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul *it*? and his hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back?” (Isaiah 14:27)

Barnes’ Notes on the Bible says in part:

“Who shall disannul it? — Who has power to defeat his purposes? Difficult as they may be in appearance, and incredible as their fulfillment may seem, yet his purposes are formed in full view of all the circumstances; and there is no power to resist his arm, or to turn him aside from the execution of his designs. By this assurance God designed to comfort his people... And by the same consideration his people may be comforted at all times. His plans shall stand. None can disannul them. No arm has power to resist him. None of the schemes formed against him shall ever prosper. ... Whatever ills, therefore, may befall his people; however thick, and gloomy, and sad their calamities may be ... yet they may have the assurance that all his plans are wise, and that they all shall stand. No matter how many, or how mighty may be the foes of the church ... or how self-confident may be their leaders, they have no power to resist God. If their plans are in his way they will be thrown down ... Who can stand against God? and who can resist the execution of his will?”

“*God is omnipotent, supreme.*” (*Science and Health* 17:2-3)

“Mankind must learn that evil is not power.” (*Ibid.* 102:30)

“There is no power apart from God.” (*Ibid.* 228:25)

Thank you lesson writers for this wonderful lesson on God’s power.

Cause and Effect – Adapted from Psalm 91

Because he hath set his love upon me,
therefore will I deliver him:

Because he hath set his love upon me,
I will set him on high, *because* he hath known my
name.

Because he hath set his love upon me,
he shall call upon me, and I will answer him,

Because he hath set his love upon me,
I will be with him in trouble.

Because he hath set his love upon me,
I will deliver him, and

Because he hath set his love upon me,
[I will] honour him.

Because he hath set his love upon me,
With long life will I satisfy him, and

Because he hath set his love upon me,
I will shew him my salvation.

**SUBJECT: God the Only Cause
and Creator —
December 6th, 2020**

“Woe Unto Him That Saith ... to the Woman, What Hast Thou Brought Forth?”

“Woe unto him that saith unto *his* father, What
begetteth thou? or to the woman, What hast thou
brought forth?” (Isaiah 45:10)

This brought back what Mary Baker Eddy wrote
on page 26 of *Retrospection and Introspection*:

“Jesus of Nazareth was a natural and divine
Scientist. He was so before the material world saw
him. He who antedated Abraham, and gave the
world a new date in the Christian era, was a
Christian Scientist, who needed no discovery of the
Science of being in order to rebuke the evidence.
To one ‘born of the flesh,’ however, divine Science
must be a discovery. Woman must give it birth.”

Interpreting Isaiah 45:10 in this way, the thought
that having antagonism to Christian Science brings
“Grief; sorrow; misery” (as Webster’s 1828

Dictionary defines “woe”), I can see, is not a
“curse” (another definition) but comes from the
fact that you are denying the blessing that God is
giving you. I did it for a long time, and “grief,
sorrow, misery” are pretty much what I had, and
cursed is how I felt.

Recently, we had a Bible Study about
Nicodemus trying to understand when “Jesus
answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say
unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot
see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3) As a child
going to Christian churches, being “born again”
was a prominent desire, and yet no matter how
many times I was baptized in pools, rivers, etc., I
was no better off. Not until coming to Plainfield
and learning that being born again is that process of
being purged of false beliefs and gaining the
understanding of Mary Baker Eddy’s revelation,
did I start to put off the “grief, sorrow, misery” of
that old man, and in some way “see the kingdom of
God.”

I am so grateful for this process. I am also
grateful for these lessons that bring out new
understanding each week. Since Christian Science
is provable, I can take this thought that “grief,
sorrow, misery” are signs that I am striving with
my Maker (Isaiah 45:9) in some manner, and work
to lift my thought, instead of continuing to push
back against the Christ.

It is so wonderful to be a member of this Church,
and for all the weekly lessons, Roundtables, Bible
Studies, and practitioner support. I am so grateful to
be here! Thank you!

God’s Thoughts Not My Thoughts

When three kingdoms gathered their armies in
great multitudes against Israel, King “Jehoshaphat
stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye
inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your
God, so shall ye be established; believe his
prophets, so shall ye prosper. And when he had
consulted with the people, he appointed singers
unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of
holiness, as they went out before the army, and to
say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy *endureth* for
ever. And when they began to sing and to praise,

the LORD set ambushments against” the triple-threat looming over God’s people. (II Chronicles 20:20-22)

Thus, to rise above any seeming impossible crisis facing me or my nation, the first requirement is to stand still, with ever-growing awareness of the beauty of holiness. Stand aside and let the Power that creates worlds have the right-of-way.

The Bible then reveals yet another key to achieving final victory over troublesome circumstances:

“And when Judah came toward *the watch tower in the wilderness*, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they *were* dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.” (II Chronicles 20:24) (Emphasis added.)

Praising and contemplating the beauty of holiness ultimately brought the nation to the watch tower in the wilderness. This wonderful watch tower is that place in Spirit from which I can at last see as God sees, think as God thinks, know as God knows about anything, any challenge.

It is the place of heightened awareness, the secret place of the *Most* High, that infinite height from which I know that Truth prevails, and error — no matter how great it seems to be — destroys itself. From that watch tower — right in the midst of what appears to sense as a howling wilderness — I can comprehend no evil shall befall me, “neither shall any plague come nigh [my] dwelling.” (Ps. 91:10.) Only from that watch tower could the people see clearly the ultimate undoing — indeed the non-existence — of their would-be assailants. From that watch tower perspective, I pray not *for* victory, but *from* victory.

“Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.” (Ps. 24:7-8) The great visionary and poet, William Blake, wrote: “If the doors of perception were cleansed, every thing would appear to man as it is, Infinite. For man has closed himself up, till he sees all things through narrow chinks of his cavern.”

How Jehoshaphat overcame also teaches me how to overcome, how to lift up my head (elevate my mentality), stand porter at the door of thought, and let the Lord enter through the gates of consciousness like a flood; let the Lord who is mighty in battle take up residence on the battlefields of life, changing them into abodes of peace, so that “the wilderness ... shall be glad ... and the desert ... blossom as the rose.” (Isaiah 35:1)

The Mountains, Hills, and Trees

“For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.” (Isaiah 55:12)

This is one of my favorite verses in the Bible. It was written about the Jewish people who were in bondage in Babylon, and tells about their rescue by God and their return to Jerusalem. One Bible commentator calls it their trip home, and writes, “the mountains and hills may signify the kings of the nations, and the trees of the field the people rejoicing at their deliverance, as they pass along: it may well apply to all believers in whom a wonderful change is wrought.” When I first came to Christian Science and Plainfield Church, it was like a joyous returning home. The *Contemporary English Version of the Bible* translates this verse: “When you are set free, you will celebrate and travel home in peace. Mountains and hills will sing as you pass by, and trees will clap.”

Another Bible commentary — to which I’ve added some definitions in italics — states: “the visual of the mountains and hills singing (*celebrating and giving praise*) and the trees clapping their hands sound like an audience happy with results. The tops of the trees are being moved (*stirred*) with gentle (*like God’s still, small voice*) breezes of wind, they bow themselves (*in humility*), and the branches intertwining and clasping each other like hands and arms (*in prayer, love, and unity*).” What a beautiful lesson from trees and mountains of how to celebrate God’s creation and Love!

The Gift of God!

“He hath made every *thing* beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. ... it *is* the gift of God.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11, 13)

This reminded me to make sure that this reverence for life and work is in my heart and being expressed in my actions.

“... work is a blessing when we see it as ‘the gift of God.’ If we see it only as drudgery and hardship, then it can indeed be ‘in sorrow.’ Every thing is as God made it; not as it appears to us. We have the world so much in our hearts, are so taken up with thoughts and cares of worldly things, that we have neither time nor spirit to see God’s hand in them. The world has not only gained possession of the heart, but has formed thoughts against the beauty of God’s works.” (Matthew Henry)

“... we should do all things with sobriety and in the fear of God, as he gives not his gifts to the intent that they should be abused.” (*Geneva Study Bible*)

“God is a business God. He attends to the business of the universe, and you reflect this business ability. The divine and perfect law of attraction is operating in and through the law of adjustment, bringing to me all that belongs to me. Today divine Mind adjusts me to my work, and adjusts my work to me. Under this law of adjustment, God’s law, my work must be successful.” (From “Business” by Mary Baker Eddy.)

The Single Eye

In this week’s “Watching Point,” it talks about keeping our eye on Cause not on effect, and that is exactly what Hannah did in I Samuel. Her total devotion to God was evident when she withstood the taunting about being childless, without finding fault in her tormentor. Also, after her prayer was answered with the birth of Samuel, she delivered him to God at the temple to assist Eli, and her

song/prayer was to God (Cause) without elaborating on Samuel (effect).

Her prayer was profound in her adoration of our One True God — His glorious triumphs, His awesome power, and His unsearchable wisdom. (I Samuel 2:1-10) This is such a wonderful lesson for me. No matter what, turn to Cause and avoid examining effect.

Thank you Lesson writer and the Bible Study today.

Hymn 236

*From The Christian Science Hymnal
1932 edition*

O peace of the world, O hope in each breast,
O Bethlehem star that ages have blest,
A day of fresh promise breaks over the land,
Gaunt warfare is doomed, and God’s kingdom
at hand!

From cannon and sword shape tillers of soil,
No more let dire hate man’s spirit despoil,
Let Truth be proclaimed, let God’s love be retold,
That men of good will may their brethren uphold.

As stars in their courses never contend,
As blossoms their hues in harmony blend,
As bird voices mingle in joyful refrain,
So God’s loving children in concord remain.

Our God is one Mind, the Mind we adore;
Ineffable joy His love doth outpour;
Let nations be one in a union of love,
God’s bountiful peace, all earth’s treasures above.
