

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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**SUBJECT: Love —**

**January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

## **The Greatest Thing in the World**

Anytime we have a lesson with the subject on “Love” I find it helpful to go back to the little book *The Greatest Thing in the World* by Henry Drummond which can be found on our website either in audio or in written word. It is such a wonderful little book which expounds upon the beautiful chapter in the Bible, I Corinthians 13 — all about the importance of Love and living a life of love.

Henry Drummond suggests we read this chapter every week for three months for a life-changing experience. He speaks of the wonderful missionary work of David Livingstone, whose life of love changed and healed and inspired the lives of so many. Mr. Drummond says to “Take into your sphere of labor, where you also mean to lay down your life, that simple charm [love], and your lifework must succeed. You can take nothing greater, you need take nothing less.” What inspiring words of wisdom and how greatly it will bless anyone who heeds them.

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## **Love Fills All Space. That is Enough!**

“The depth, breadth, height, might, majesty, and glory of infinite Love fill all space. That is enough!” (*Science and Health* 520:3-5)

Enough – (Hebrew to rest, to be quiet or satisfied.) A sufficiency; a quantity of a thing which satisfies desire or is adequate to the wants.

So many times, this quote from *Science and Health* has been “enough” to bring my thought back into alignment with the truth and brings the

quiet and assurance that I can just rest in this fact. Dorothy Rieke says of this quote in her booklet “Wonderful Things are Happening,” “Somehow I seem to feel deeply His allness when I say, ‘Why, I’m right in the very midst of God. Fifty billion miles all around me there’s nothing but God... Therefore, there is absolutely nothing to touch me but God. There is nothing to influence me, condition me, govern or control me, but God!’”

I know this love that we are all reading and studying about this week can’t help but be felt by everyone!

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## **Compassion**

One of the transitional qualities in Mrs. Eddy’s *Second Degree* of the Scientific Translation of Mortal Mind – “Evil beliefs disappearing. MORAL. Humanity, honesty, affection, compassion, hope, faith, meekness, temperance.” (*Science and Health* 115:25-27)

Galatians 6:1-2 – Referred to as a definition of compassion: “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Helpful comments about COMPASSION from several articles in Christian Science periodicals:

- Love and compassion are closely related
- In the rush and turmoil of everyday life it would often appear that there is danger of forgetting the necessity of exercising the quality of compassion
- Tender, ministering love; helpful word; loving thought; Christly affection
- Deep spiritual consciousness; discerning our brother’s need; binding up the broken-hearted
- A divinely mental quality; lovingkindness and encouragement; Christly nature
- Being rid of criticism, condemnation, and self-righteousness
- We can never learn compassion until we have

realized our own need of forgiveness

- Compassion and humility must ever walk hand in hand
- Active state of love; love in action; tender word, kindly act
- True compassion brings spontaneity and quick healing
- While the letter is necessary, “It is the spirit that quickeneth” (John 6:63)
- It is impossible to dissociate Jesus’ healings from compassion
- Compassion is of close kindred to charity (I Corinthians 13:1-13)
- Are we making practical the Christian application of God’s law through self-sacrifice and unselfed love, by encouraging and ministering to the needs of those in distress?

Mrs. Eddy: “Jesus was compassionate, true, faithful to rebuke, ready to forgive.” (*Message for 1902* 18:12)

As I ponder the above list and seek to reflect the quality of compassion more in my daily life, I’m grateful for this comment in one of the articles: “Some people seem naturally more compassionate than others, but this quality of love belongs to all by divine inheritance, and all can cultivate it till it blooms afresh in their hearts. We can always draw nearer to the dear Father, that it may flourish and grow....”

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## Dews of Love

“Warmed by the sunshine of Truth, watered by the heavenly dews of Love, the fruits of Christian Science spring upward, and away from the sordid soil of self and matter. Are we clearing the gardens of thought by uprooting the noxious weeds of passion, malice, envy, and strife? Are we picking away the cold, hard pebbles of selfishness, uncovering the secrets of sin and burnishing anew the hidden gems of Love, that their pure perfection shall appear? Are we feeling the vernal freshness and sunshine of enlightened faith?”

This passage from “Fidelity” in *Miscellaneous Writings* by Mary Baker Eddy struck me as fitting perfectly with this week’s Lesson called LOVE.

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## Love of the Christ, Truth

I heard a story once of a woman who was giving a big party and she was inviting her many friends to come. As the guests were mingling, it was clear that they didn’t know each other very well, and if they did know one another, they were of very different mindsets, different ends of the spectrum in religious beliefs, backgrounds and political affiliations. Surprisingly, they all got along beautifully that evening and they wondered how this could be. Then, they realized that what they had in common was the love of their host. And because their love for her was far greater than their differences, they were able to put their differences aside.

Love of the Christ, Truth eclipses the personal.

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## “Dear-Bought Treasures”

“That he might liberally pour his dear-bought treasures into empty or sin-filled human storehouses, was the inspiration of Jesus’ intense human sacrifice.” (*Science and Health* 54:10-13)

Jesus’ “dear-bought” treasures came as a result of overcoming all the errors of the world. It made me think how often, when I have had a hard lesson to learn, it was only learned or “dearly-bought” through much suffering. But, when it finally *was* learned, it became a treasure to me, because it filled me with a sense of my dear Father’s love. Then, it enabled me to show compassion for others who may be going through the same thing. I needed to have the hardness of my heart wounded enough so I might have the tenderness to feel another’s pain, — and comfort them with Christly love.

I love the poem by A. E. Hamilton that Mrs. Eddy placed at the end of “Waymarks” (*Retrospection* 95:4):

“Ask God to give thee skill  
In comfort’s art:  
That thou may’st consecrated be  
And set apart  
Unto a life of sympathy.  
For heavy is the weight of ill  
In every heart;  
And comforters are needed much  
Of Christlike touch.”

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## **SUBJECT: Spirit — February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

### **Walk in The Spirit**

“*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit,” (Galatians 5:16)

Walk: “In Scripture, to live and act or behave; to pursue a particular course of life. To walk with God, to live in obedience to his commands, and have communion with him. (Genesis 5) To walk after the Spirit, to be guided by the counsels and influences of the Spirit and by the word of God, and to live a life of holy deportment.” (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*)

“To be ‘present with the Lord’ is to have, not mere emotional ecstasy or faith, but the actual demonstration and understanding of Life as revealed in Christian Science. To be ‘with the Lord’ is to be in obedience to the law of God,” (*Science and Health* 14:6-10)

I am grateful for this week’s Lesson which gave me a fuller sense of the biblical principle of walking “in the Spirit” as being the daily demonstration of Christian Science. When I walk, I need to know the way, look where I am walking, use the directions I have been given, and keep moving in the light I have. Each has their own place on the path and the same access to God’s guidance, dominion, and support.

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Thank you for your post. I would like to add some thoughts from John Morgan’s “Some Notes on True Vision.” He says with regards to the synonym Spirit, “Through Spirit I see all things rightly, clearly, correctly, distinctly, spiritually. This gives me discernment, so that I differentiate between one idea and another, also between true and false...The clear sight of Spirit does not blind me to faults and errors. Rather I detect them more clearly - but as unrealities. I discern only the good and the true to be real, and so my eye is single...It is Spirit that does the seeing, not flesh, and the senses of Spirit are indestructible and perfect. My outlook is always positive, never negative, because my vision is spiritual.” Is this not also being ‘present with the Lord’ and ‘walking in the Spirit’?

I am also grateful for this Lesson on how to walk in the Spirit.

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### **Absent from the body, Present with the Lord**

“...absent from the body. . .present with the Lord” (II Corinthians 5:8) – Some comments I found helpful from Christian Science articles:

- Leaving our bodies behind; getting that despot, the body, out of the way
- Leaving all for Christ; taking no thought for material things; putting off the old man
- Spiritualizing thought; putting on the new man
- Giving up the false claims of the body, pain, distress, discomfort, mind in matter
- Losing the false material sense of body, man, earth, and heaven; gaining a true or spiritual sense of God and man; no longer looking into the empty tomb of matter
- Claiming victory over the corporeal senses, all forms of sensuality; destroying of fear, passion, anger, lust, and kindred errors; exercising man’s God-given dominion over the corporeal senses; living above corporeal sense, which is “from beneath”
- Thinking least about the body; “. . .the Christian Scientist takes the best care of his body when he leaves it most out of his thought. . .” (*Science and Health* 383:7-9)
- Being absent from the belief that bodily existence constitutes the life of man
- Realizing man’s true selfhood is the “building of God” — the “house not made with hands”
- Correcting the erroneous belief that a material structure constitutes man and is subject to pain, by becoming conscious of the perfection of man in the spiritual order of being
- Abandoning the untrue belief that man is physical; turning away from the body; “Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, — neither in nor of matter, — and the body will then utter no complaints” (*Science and Health* 14:12-14) maintaining consciousness of the omnipotence of good
- Replacing thoughts of disease of the body with truths of man’s perfection as a child of God
- Reversing any thinking that is unlike God, good,

and replacing with Godlike thoughts

- Becoming conscious of God's presence; being in His living, loving, abiding presence
- Accepting glorious glimpses of our true self as the very image of radiant Love, embodying harmony and light; “. . .if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” (Matthew 6:22)
- Accepting all that is good, pure, true that belongs to God and to His man
- Acting on the inspiration to do right, be unselfish, loving, and kind
- Giving up control to an unseen higher intelligence or power, the one Mind
- Reaching the true and glorious sense of man as the divine idea of Spirit – heavenly illumination
- Tasting the beauty of holiness and the peace that passeth all understanding
- Praying unceasingly

As one “. . .thinketh in his heart, so is he;...” (Proverbs 23:7)

“Improve your thinking and you improve your body, indeed your whole being. Put emphasis steadfastly on the salubrious [health-giving], the imperishable, the beautiful, the magnanimous [generous, forgiving]; in the same instant rejecting the sickly, the fearsome, the oppressive, the mean. In this mood you live in Spirit and Spirit lives in you. This looks toward the millennium.” (*Leaves of Healing*, “The Substantiality of Spirit,” p.199, by Peter V. Ross)

“The sacred privilege of being ‘absent from the body’ is a present-day possibility....” (*Christian Science Journal*, December 1916, “Absent from the Body” by Clarence W. Chadwick)

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### **“Quench not the Spirit”**

“Quench not the Spirit.” (I Thessalonians 5:19) and (*Science and Health* 490:19)

From *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*: “Quench – extinguish, put out, quiet, repress, allay, destroy, check, stifle, to cool.”

When the Spirit is NOT quenched:

- Enthusiasm is kept constantly burning; burning more intensely, shining brighter, giving light and

heat

- Keeping nourished with proper care and attention
- Stirring up, kindling up, causing to burn
- Having enthusiasm that bursts out in prayers, praises, thanksgivings
- Expressing the effect of the Holy Ghost working upon us
- Consuming ardour and enthusiasm, love to God and man
- Love giving a vehement flame
- Zeal which is the boiling up of love, fervency
- Lively exercise of Christian graces
- Declaring the mighty works of God
- Fervour of spirit; Christian enthusiasm for what is good
- Spiritual force
- Allowing the Holy Ghost to empower our lives; being “filled with the Spirit;” (Eph 5:18)
- An open meeting, a liberty of prophesying/preaching, a gathering in which any one can speak as the Spirit gives him utterance.

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### **“...the Earnest of the Spirit”**

“Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.” (II Corinthians 5:5)

*Webster's 1828 Dictionary* definition of “earnest” was most helpful: “Seriousness; a reality; a real event; as opposed to jesting or feigned appearance ... **First fruits**; that which is in advance, and gives promise of something to come. Early fruit may be an *earnest* of fruit to follow... This sense of the word is primary, denoting that which goes before, or in advance. Thus the *earnest* of the spirit is given to saints, as a pledge or assurance of their future enjoyment of God's presence and favor.”

How wonderful to know that this firstfruit of the Spirit is God's “pledge and assurance” to us as we walk in obedience to Him.

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