

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 182

SUBJECT: Soul —

February 14th, 2021

Soul Not in the Body

“So long as we believe that soul can sin or that immortal Soul is in mortal body, we can never understand the Science of being.” (*Science and Health* 311:19-22)

“Soul is the substance, Life, and intelligence of man, which is individualized, but not in matter.” (*Science and Health* 477:22-24)

“Until *Science and Health* was published the soul was supposed to be something located somewhere in the material body....The writer remembers hearing two zealous church members discussing its location, the one contending that it was in the brain, the other in the heart...doctors were agreed that if the soul existed in man, its location and functions would surely have been revealed by the scalpel or microscope, and as there was no material evidence of its existence, it was reasonable to conclude that it did not exist....In striking contrast with all mere opinion on the subject is the inspired declaration of our text-book, that Soul is divine, — that ‘God and Soul are one, and this one never belongs to a limited mind or to a limited body.’ (*Science and Health* 335)” (*Christian Science Sentinel*, “The ‘Science of Soul’” – 8/17/1907, Annie M. Knott)

Christ Jesus: “fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul.” (Matthew 10:28)

“Soul is sinless, not to be found in the body;” (*Science and Health* 288:22-23)

From Martha Wilcox, *Association Address of 1923*, “Seven Synonyms”:

- A false sense of Soul is most prevalent throughout the world.
- Nearly everybody believes that Soul is a reality in mortal body.

- Mrs. Eddy says that this prevalent false sense of Soul as confined in the body, is the cause of all sin, disease and death.

- This false sense of Soul...is the basis for animal magnetism and mental malpractice. All experiences of separation, loss, and poverty, are the result of the greatest of all superstitions — this false sense of Soul in a mortal body.

- ...neither God, nor any part of God is in the material body, nor in any of His expressions. There is nothing but His infinite Soul, and so there is nothing for Him to be in.

Infinite Resources of Soul — Here and Now

“Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind, and happiness would be more readily attained and would be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul.” (*Science and Health* 60:29-31)

“Mankind tenaciously holds to the sense of limitation which...shut[s] itself off from the grand possibilities which belong to the real man, God’s idea...few, if any, before the revelation of Christian Science, grasped the possibilities of good within reach of all mortals, who will prepare to utilize the good at hand...our Leader assures us that not only does God, Soul, have infinite capacities for blessing us, but these blessings are constantly available for our use...the perfection which belongs to man by right of his divine sonship is available to us now, is possible of present demonstration....‘This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility.’ (*Science and Health* 574:1-2)...we are assured by the Master himself that if we ask aright and in full faith, we shall receive now of the infinite resources which Soul has for those who have learned to hold thought in the attitude of righteous prayer...spiritual understanding enables us to...find the inexhaustible abundance which the loving Father-Mother God has in store for all His children. It opens the treasure house of Soul and unlocks the

infinite capacities which are ever ready to bless mankind. How important is this possibility of bringing into present experience these holy gifts! What are they? Humanly expressed they are health, happiness, abundance, joy, wisdom, purity, righteousness — in fact, all that makes for purposeful living...A cardinal fact to be observed in drawing upon these infinite resources of Soul is that it must be done unselfishly, with humility, and with right desire.... The infinite resources of Soul include all that makes for perfection. Nothing is omitted; nothing is lacking... The understanding heart opens the gate to their full realization, here and now.” (*Christian Science Sentinel*, “Soul’s Resources,” 9/7/1929, by Albert F. Gilmore)

From Martha Wilcox, *Association Address of 1923*, “Seven Synonyms”:

- Soul is radiating forth those qualities of substance, immortality, wholeness, life, action, beauty, joy, strength, ability and power; and man, like the sunbeam, is showing forth all the qualities expressed by God, who is radiating forth these qualities.

- Let us go to work and clear away limited, negative, fearful thoughts. When we have cleared away the belief of anything existing except the one infinite Soul and its reflection, we shall find the true reflection everywhere.

“Doeth Good to his Own Soul”

“The merciful man doeth good to his own soul:” (Proverbs 11:17)

“Soul has infinite resources with which to bless mankind, and happiness would be more readily attained and would be more secure in our keeping, if sought in Soul.” (*Science and Health* 60:29)

From *Proverbs at a Glance*:

“The overriding theme of this book is wisdom, which may be generally defined as seeing ourselves and our world through the eyes of God. This priceless gift thus becomes ours when we acknowledge and act upon the fact of God’s presence in our lives and of His desire to exercise priority over our lives. Wisdom then seeks and provides our proper responses in all matters,

including the domestic, the business, religious, and social world.” (*Willmington’s Guide to the Bible*)

“Remember, God gave you something very special to do in this life, and no one but you can do it! How important it is for you to fulfill His plan for you. This position is safe and secure in Him. No one can take it from you or move you out of it, because it came to you from God.” [Presence, Certainty, Position](#) by Mary Beth Singleterry

I love this beautiful Lesson on Soul and our relationship as sons and daughters. To me, to be merciful means to live these Truths from the Bible and Mrs. Eddy’s writings to the best of our ability. It is merciful to guard our hearts and minds from the false systems and teachings. It is merciful, and “doeth good to his own soul” when we make sure we cultivate listening to God. It seems often we take care of things better than we take care of “our own soul.” I am grateful to be at this church, finding purpose in and learning how to seek happiness “in Soul”, for only God knows best what we need.

Soul’s Representative

“Life is the law of Soul, even the law of the spirit of Truth, and Soul is never without its representative. Man’s individual being can no more die nor disappear in unconsciousness than can Soul, for both are immortal.” (*Science and Health* 427:2-7)

As Soul’s representative, man is forever held in the bosom of Love. Therefore, there is no such thing as a lost soul, a departed soul, nor forgotten nor forsaken soul. “Man’s individual being,” *our* individual being and individuality, is forever intact in God, Soul. Mrs. Eddy says in *Unity of Good* (48:7-9): “He [God, Soul] sustains my individuality. Nay, more — He *is* my individuality and my Life.” This is true for everyone, everywhere.

SUBJECT: Mind —

February 21st, 2021

“The Fear of the Law is the Beginning of Wisdom”

On a practical level, it is useful to de-personalize (or de-anthropomorphize) Proverbs 9:10 — “The

fear of the LORD [law] *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.”

The most powerful law in the universe — the basis of all scientific thought — is the immutable law of “like produces like.”

It was respect for the law of “like produces like” that inspired Paul the Apostle to write to the Philippians: “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8 - constructive thinking made all the more significant since it was known throughout the early church world that Paul was about to be tried and sentenced to death in Rome.)

The Apostle understood that thinking upon such things will cause them to be manifest in the thinker’s life and thereby influence the whole world for good.

This is the beginning of wisdom: to the exact degree I think upon God-things — good exclusively — I will be godly.

“The great mistake of mortals is to suppose that man, God’s image and likeness, is both matter and Spirit, both good and evil.” (*Science and Health* 216:18-21)

Why did Mrs. Eddy call it “*the* great mistake” instead of “*a* great mistake”?

Because the law of “like produces like” is constantly in action every moment throughout the universe, therefore relativistic thinking that life is both good and bad, both truth and error, both right-side up and upside down, both right and wrong, both blessing and curse, both self-determination consciousness and victimization consciousness, both Principle and person, will externalize in a life of limitation, confusion, bondage to the world of the senses.

The suffering that results from such contradictory thinking is activated automatically, impersonally, and is a major component of this great law, which is the schoolmaster that will

eventually train the minds of all who dwell on earth to think according to the Apostle’s admonition. Healthy respect and holy reverence for the immutable law is the beginning of wisdom.

“Give Her the Living Child, and In No Wise Slay It”

“And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. Then spake the woman whose the living child *was* unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, *but* divide *it*. Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she *is* the mother thereof.” (I Kings 3:25-27)

It struck me this week that while Solomon surely needed wisdom in this instance, it was the mother’s unselfed love that allowed for the inspiration from God to say the words that ended the debate. And what a test of her obedience to God this was, for her to actually say, “O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it.” As a parent, I can only imagine. The inspiration behind what she said was so clear that Solomon used those words in his final verdict.

I feel this is an excellent reminder that no matter the apparent circumstance, if we keep our connection with God open — and shut down any thought of being a victim or of resorting to the methods of mortal mind — the right answer will come about and the Truth of it be seen and accepted. With God, we are never victims.

I am grateful for the above post, and the reminder that we should never think of ourselves as victims. In addition, whilst considering this story, I was struck this time about the issue of justice. Solomon did not condemn these women for the way they were living, nor require them to have expensive lawyers to represent them before he would consider their case. He knew that justice, wisdom and mercy are spiritual qualities of God, Mind, and thus everywhere present and so

available to all. I'm very grateful for this thought, and for all I am learning at Plainfield.

Sound Wisdom — The Ultimate Freedom — Control Thought

“He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous...” (Proverbs 2:7)

“The expression ‘sound wisdom’ is used three times in the book of Proverbs; and it is, in fact, the only book in the Bible where we find it. This expression is translated from a Hebrew word, the meaning of which is ‘substance.’...The question arises, How are we to acquire this ‘sound wisdom’ which is true substance? ...It is our divine inheritance from our Father-Mother God, which we must discern through spiritual vision and then claim as our own, in order to demonstrate, or make practical, this durable and lasting substance in our daily experience....As this ‘sound wisdom’ is laid up for the righteous, we must understand what it means to be righteous...righteousness is, primarily, honest desire and right thinking...hence the great need to watch our every thought and motive, to think in a constructive and not a destructive manner, thereby ‘casting down imaginations’ (or false reasonings) and bringing every thought into obedience to the one Mind....Day by day, through the reflection of ‘the wisdom that is from above,’ we learn to discern between the real and the unreal, thus expanding our capacity to understand God.” (*Christian Science Sentinel*, “Sound Wisdom,” 5/26/1923, by Stella Briggs)

I am very grateful for the recent mention of the wonderful book entitled *The Ultimate Freedom*, which prompted me to re-read it this week. The author, John H. Wyndham, shares how he managed to stay alive under extreme conditions for days and weeks while in solitary confinement in a Java prison, and beyond, with nothing to read. The pivotal moment came when he prayed to be spared execution, and promised that he would live his life to serve God. “. . . this prayer brought an immediate and clear direction. As if someone had spoken the words, there came the command, ‘Control thought.’” Having read “*Science and Health*” previously, he recalled the instruction to

“shut the door of our consciousness against evil suggestions in order that it may be open to the word of God.” He discerned that “controlling my thoughts meant praying. And praying...meant thinking truly, deeply, spiritually. From that moment, fearful suggestions, resentful suggestions, hateful suggestions were barred from entering my consciousness.... I absolutely refused to let them in. As these mental suggestions were kept out, divine thoughts began to flow into my consciousness. With a rusty old nail, I scratched the letters ‘C.T.’ on the wall of my cell as a constant reminder to control thought.”

I have now posted a few notes around my home in big, bold, red letters, as MY constant reminder to “CONTROL THOUGHT”!! Thanks for the reminder about this precious and instructive book! I have now mentioned it to my state’s Joint Institutional Committee as something extra to be shared with the inmates in local jails and state-wide prisons, which would surely be a blessing to many!

“Mind is the Source of All Movement”

“Mind is the source of all movement, and there is no inertia to retard or check its perpetual and harmonious action.” (*Science and Health* 283:4)

Mind is the source of the movement of body, my body, — limbs, lungs, bowels, heart, all functions of the body. Therefore, there is no pain nor stiffness, no blockage nor cramps, no binding nor paralysis. Inertia is defined as “active resistance,” therefore there is no resistance to knowing and doing right. Mind is the source of all movement of the weather, currents of the oceans and air. Therefore, there are no discordant disturbances nor violent surges, no blanketing of mental deadness nor dullness, no oppressive nor depressive forces. Mind is the source of all movement and governs all progress and growth; therefore, there is no retrogression, reversal, nor relapse of good. All movement is perpetually harmonious in Mind.

Thank you for this wonderful treatment!
