

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Truth — July 25th, 2021

BE WHOLE of Thy Plague

Be whole. Accept complete healing. Don't accept reversal. Be whole. Separate yourself from the thought of plague.

Whole as Divine Love.

Opened *Science & Health*, pg. 223,3 thought-provoking in light of any claim of disease: Mary Baker Eddy says to us... 'Sooner or later we shall learn that the fetters of man's finite capacity are forged by the illusion that he lives in body instead of in Soul, in matter instead of in Spirit.' Behind these words is the tangible vibratory presence of Divine Love.

So grateful to Divine Love for *Science & Health*.

"Unto Such As Keep His Covenant And Testimonies"

"All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies."

Each and every challenge calling for watching, prayer, spiritual warfare always involves movement of my mentality from problem-consciousness to solution-consciousness. Dwelling on the problem is error. Dwelling on the solution to the problem is truth. These two states of mind are completely opposed to each other: one is covenant-breaking and the other is covenant-keeping. Holding to the testimony of the 5 senses is not keeping *His* testimonies, but rather losing sight of them, casting them away. Victory is assured only when I go up higher, orienting my mind (and

mood) toward the solution, refusing to sink into the depths of the problem.

Of the 12 spies sent out to report on the lay of the promised land, only 2 were solution-oriented and brought back a good report. The rest of the spies were problem-oriented to the point of despair.

As Churchill declared, "Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision."

"...[T]he Master bade his students be wise as the serpent, i.e., never allow the belief of Life and sensation in matter to put to silence the opposite, science of being." (*S&H*, 1st edition, p. 250).

10 of the 12 spies "put to silence the science of being" with disastrous results. Fear puts to silence the voice of the angels that hold the key to the solution of every problem imaginable to humankind. "...we saw the giants ... and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:33.) Thus, as the 10 spies fixed their gaze on the false testimony of their 5 senses, their despair doubled: not only did they see themselves as utterly squashable insects but imagined their enemies viewing Israel as easy prey as well.

A similar example of such misuse of imagination occurs in the Apocalypse of John, where mortal mind has magnified the serpent of Genesis into a dragon of monstrous proportions.

As the saying goes: "Two men looked out through prison bars: One saw mud, and the other saw stars." 2 Israeli spies saw "stars" – namely, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience, and Omni-Activity – and the problem of "giants" made a swift getaway: into its native nothingness.

Adding to the conversation above in relation to Jesus' Covenant.

If Divine Science is to percolate through and be maintained in the world, we are asked to bring this about through conscious knowledge and practice of the commandments as preliminary stepping-stones. Thereafter, we are asked to keep them, plus Jesus' new covenant, active in our awareness. This requires dedication.

Jesus' covenant, understood and practised, promises we will reach the point, ultimately, where we are self-complete in God. Recall that Jesus could share his accomplishments and achievements with only a few. Thus, I consider His covenant and commandments, when practised together, are a map to Eternal Life, Love and Truth.

To me, the Sermon on the Mount represents the essence of Christ's covenant. It is an uncompromising set of profound spiritual truths. And these simple, yet profound truths, are expanded upon, and stated repeatedly, in *Science and Health* by Mary Baker Eddy.

It is always from within that the Spirit of God is flowing; it is always from within that Jesus' commandments and covenant are waiting for our expression.

"Virtue had Gone Out of Him"

"And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?" (Mark 5)

In reading a little, I learned that some of the meanings to the word "virtue" used here were moral goodness, power, obedience to Truth, purity. One commentator spoke to the fact that many were crowding around, most likely touching Jesus in this crowd, but not all were affected by this touch. Several writers referred to the "virtue had gone out of him" as the power of the holy Spirit, goodwill of God, that which drives out evil spirits, the Love of God.

I asked myself if when I read *Science and Health*, the Christ, Truth in this age, "Am I reaching out for the Christ, Truth in faith, with expectancy of healing?" The Christ was there but not all reached

out to him with faith nor were affected by proximity to the Christ. I took to heart that this particular healing was mentioned in the Bible in great detail out of the many testimonies of those healed by him. So I took this as an instructive example of receptive thought. It took such courage and faith for her to come forward to acknowledge the truth and risk the consequences. Her honesty was part of the complete healing. I am very grateful that this story has been included in several of our lessons lately. So much to gain from one story. Thank you lesson writers!

"More Faith"

"When we come to have more faith in the truth of being than we have in error, more faith in Spirit than in matter, more faith in living than in dying, more faith in God than in man, then no material suppositions can prevent us from healing the sick and destroying error." (S&H 368:14-19)

I love this statement in *Science and Health*. Last week's Lesson Sermon spoke of "unflinching faith in God". Webster defines "unflinching" as "never failing to undertake, perform or proceed; never shrinking; never withdrawing." This is the "more faith" that is required in order to heal the sick and destroy error. It is absolute reliance and trust in Truth. This faith is from God *only*, and is a rock upon which to stand. I have witnessed this faith demonstrated in this church many times, and pray to God that I may express it also.

Without a firm intuitive sense that our faith in Divine Mind is prudent, the Truth as presented by Mary Baker Eddy could not bear fruit. Mrs. Eddy asks us to have 'unflinching' faith in Divine Mind. She asks us to prove to ourselves: (i) That mortal mind, chocker-block with claims of sin, disease and death, is unreal; (ii) That Eternal Life is Reality; a truth demonstrated repeatedly by Jesus the Christ (for our benefit).

As we hold hands in Faith, keeping Divine Mind in our Heart, we are being drawn to Christ Understanding with signs following.

SUBJECT: Love — August 1st, 2021

“Great Peace Have They Which Love Thy Law”

In an article entitled, “Love is the fulfilling of the law,” (CSJ, March 1915, by Willard S. Mattox), the author contrasts human law with God’s law. He points out that human law “is based on the assumption that man is fundamentally disposed to violate the law, and as a consequence, penalties are provided in advance of the expected violation” and “this inculcates fear. . . and fear is a prolific producer of evil effect.” By contrast, “The statutes promulgated by divine intelligence have no consciousness of a willingness, an intent, or a disposition which is opposed to their benign activities. These statutes...are in their very essence tender, loving, and gracious.... Nothing, then, in the universe, including man, is under fear of punishment from the law of God, because that law means, and is, only life, harmony, and perfect being to every created thing.”

Further, the author states that “Love is the realization of the law. When we understand that law can never accomplish anything but love, there will be no law to hurt us. Law which finds its fulfilment or expression in love, must be perfect... Therefore, law never punishes, never condemns, never penalizes, since law which is perfection’s self cannot be conscious of anything that deserves to be punished, and cannot consciously operate to produce anything like punishment.”

What peace is ours, indeed, as we love God’s law, His commandments/statutes, through this understanding of “law” as taught in Christian Science!

Some Notes on True Vision by John Morgan

While we study the Lesson Sermons on the synonyms for God, I also love to refer to the pamphlet “Some Notes on True Vision” by John Morgan (found on our website). Mr. Morgan takes each synonym and beautifully applies it to our

vision, and vision is so important to all aspects of our lives. The following are a couple of excerpts from what he wrote about the synonym “LOVE”: “LOVE beholds me as its own beloved. The divine Mother, Love, conceives me as complete and perfect. I reflect this divine conception and accept it, and so conceive and behold everyone in Love.” “I saw the love of God encircling the universe and man, filling all space, and that divine Love so permeated my own consciousness that I loved with Christ-like compassion everything I saw. This realization of divine Love called into expression the beauty of holiness, the perfection of being which healed and regenerated and saved all who turned to me for help.” (attributed to Mrs. Eddy. From “General Collectanea” published by Gilbert Carpenter Jr.)

Thank you for this post! When I read “I saw the love of God encircling the universe and man, filling all space, and that divine Love so permeated my own consciousness that I loved with Christ-like compassion everything I saw” I was reminded of what the mother of the child said in her testimony about when Mrs. Eddy healed her little girl of the boil on her head (*The Healer – The Healing Work of Mary Baker Eddy*, pp. 120-121):

“I wish I could make the world know what I saw when Mrs. Eddy looked on those children... I saw for the first time the real Mother-Love... It is impossible to put into words what the uncovering of my own lack of the real Mother-Love meant to me. As I...walked toward the line of trees in the front yard, there was a bird sitting on the limb of a tree, and I saw the same Love, poured out on that bird that I had seen flow from Mrs. Eddy to my children. I looked down at the grass and the flowers and there was the same Love resting on them. It is difficult for me to put into words what I saw. This Love was everywhere, like the light, but it was divine, not mere human affection. I looked at the people milling around on the lawn and I saw it poured out on them....It was not only everywhere present, like the light, but it was an intelligent presence that spoke to me, and I found myself weeping as I walked back and forth under the trees and saying out loud, ‘Why did I never know you before? Why have I not known you always?’...

When we got back to the hotel, there was no boil on my child's head."

Thank you! I love this healing so much and am so grateful you posted it here.

Love never loses sight of loveliness. Its halo rests upon its object. *Science & Health* p.248:3

"Take Diligent Heed"

"...take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law" (Joshua 22:5). I found these Webster 1828 definitions helpful:

Diligent – Steady in application; constant and careful in effort; assiduous, attentive, industrious
Heed – Attention; caution; care; watch for danger; notice; circumspection.

So if I truly love, I will give steady, constant and careful effort in following God's direction. I will be consistent in not entertaining any "ups" or "downs" to spoil my temperament and keep me from loving more. I will be alert to error's suggestions, and deny them and kick them out of my thinking immediately and with vigor. This is being diligent and consistent in applying the Truth.

I often recall Mr. Evans' loving warning to me to be consistent, — and *not to be consistent in inconsistency*. Such good, loving advice.

Great post. I add, from my understanding of this week's lesson, which is a great lesson with a challenging subject matter, Spiritually stimulating! I will follow the Sermon on the Mount, live Christ's two great commandments, and study *Science and Health*, even as I remain ever alert to mortal mind's attempts to mesmerize. Truth reveals the spiritual nature of my being: 'I and my Father are One'.

Striving to live as Spiritual Being, while striving to understand Soul, is a glorious adventure, especially when divine Love stirs within, as a living Reality, even if in a teaspoon measure.

"Under Whose Wings Thou Art Come to Trust."

"The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." (Ruth 2)

Trust: Confidence; a reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle. To commit to the care of, in confidence, to depend on; Trust your Maker with yourself and all your concerns.

"...whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." (Prov 29).

I love the words from this story, "under whose wings thou art come to trust." The part of the definition, "resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle" reminded me of the quote given to us at last Roundtable, "Christian Science explains all cause and effect as mental, not physical. It lifts the veil of mystery from Soul and body. It shows the scientific relation of man to God, disentangles the interlaced ambiguities of being, and sets free the imprisoned thought." (from *Science and Health*, p. 114) and "unwinds the snarls" in a way only Christ, Truth can.

Ruth appeared to have few options but she was free in heart and thought trusting God whom she had come to know through Naomi, and this met their need of supply and protection.

Hymn 79

From the Christian Science Hymnal, 1932 edition

God is Love; His mercy brightens
All the path in which we rove;
Bliss He wakes and woe He lightens;
God is wisdom, God is Love.

E'en the hour that darkest seemeth,
Will His changeless goodness prove;
Through the mist His brightness streameth;
God is wisdom, God is Love.

He with earthly cares entwineth
Hope and comfort from above;
Everywhere His glory shineth;
God is wisdom, God is love.