

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 197

SUBJECT: Reality — September 26th, 2021

Pure Eyes

(Zephaniah 3:15) "...the king of Israel, *even* the LORD, *is* in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more." Thus, we are to have purer eyes than to behold evil.

Spiritual Sense

(*Science and Health*, p. 298) "Spiritual sense, contradicting the material senses, involves intuition, hope, faith, understanding, fruition, reality."

From the 1828 Webster Dictionary:

Intuition – sight or view from a mental perception without reasoning or deduction.

Hope – expectation of obtaining the good desired.

Faith – to bind, to trust, to draw towards.

Understanding - comprehension, apprehending the real state of things.

Fruition – to use with pleasure.

(*Science and Health*, p.335: 27-28) "Reality is spiritual, harmonious, immutable, immortal, divine, eternal."

The Lesson provides us with Mrs. Eddy's insight and understanding of spiritual sense and I am very grateful!

"This World hath Blinded the Minds..."

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (II Cor. 4:4)

"Rebellion: Open and avowed renunciation of the authority of the government to which one owes allegiance; resistance to lawful authority."

Webster's 1828 Dictionary.

The topic of rebellion was brought up at last Roundtable. It was said that the Bible states in 1 Samuel 15:23, "For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft," and that we must not excuse rebellion for it is against the Christ. Rebellion would be a form of blindness and unbelief, resistance to God's authority. It is not our thinking and we don't have to be influenced by it. I can see why, when reaching for a better sense of healing, Mrs. Eddy said that we must love her more. She was the Revelator. It is said – don't shoot the messenger. When we truly love, we do not resist the message or the messenger, but obey and follow.

"As a cloud hides the sun it cannot extinguish, so false belief silences for a while the voice of immutable harmony, but false belief cannot destroy Science armed with faith, hope, and fruition."

(from *Science and Health*, p. 298)

Reality - Higher States and Stages of Consciousness

The words of the prophet Elisha, "Fear not: for they that *be* with us *are* more than they that *be* with them;" also these words from *Science and Health*, p. 570, "Millions of unprejudiced minds—simple seekers for Truth, weary wanderers, athirst in the desert—are waiting and watching for rest and drink." "As the eyes of the young man were opened to see the chariots of fire around the prophet Elisha, so were mine opened to see that divine Love was protecting the messenger of Truth to this age, and my fear of prejudice was rebuked. A little later, I found that the Journal which this gentleman prized contained an article from your pen,—a letter which you had sent to the Church in Concord, rebuking the human sense that would assume there was healing virtue in the flowers which you sent from Pleasant View, because they came from you.

Faithfully and unselfishly you are ever turning our thought to Spirit, God, who clothes the lilies in their glory and is the Giver of all good.” (Letters to our Leader, Minnie A. Scott, Sentinel (June 10, 1905)

I am so grateful for Mrs. Eddy, “the messenger of Truth to this age” for giving us Christian Science, which allows us to step up into a higher, spiritual sense of Reality – higher “states and stages of consciousness.” (*Science and Health*, p.573, 11-12)

Awareness Transformed

To me: Reality is the awareness of Life as it actually is, as opposed to universal mortal-mind and its suppositional beliefs of life. For this reason, relying upon mortal mind’s leadership blocks discernment of Eternal Life, Reality. As long as I am judging by appearances, as long as I am seeing evil and good in terms of human betterment, I am not letting ‘Spirit itself bear witness with [my] spirit’ (Rom:8-16).

It becomes necessary in Christian Science to understand spiritual Reality, which depends upon understanding Spirit as ALL-in-all and everywhere present... everywhere present as Eternal Life and Illimitable Love. As I grow in awareness of mortal existence as an illusion, I discern by degrees that mortal-mind’s beliefs projected onto Reality are not real.

Mrs. Eddy succinctly states, ‘To material sense, the unreal is the real until this sense is corrected by Christian Science’ (*Science and Health*, p. 298). Jesus of Nazareth declares, ‘My kingdom is not of this world’ (John:18-36). If Spirit were in ‘this world’ there would never be sin, disease, death, lack, flood, fire and tornado to experience even in thought and belief.

I percolate what that means!
God is Light. It is only as I rise in understanding, above the level of human thought and belief, that I approach the consciousness in which ‘there is no night’ – no evil, discord, suffering, death, no error of any nature. Every real spiritual healing that takes place in my life is evidence, if evidence were

needed, that there is a Reality in which Spirit as harmony, love, abundance, peace, wholeness and joy is the natural state of being.

Jesus warns that anyone who is overly involved in the temporary manifestation of mortal life will lose sight of the Eternal Life underpinning it (Luke:17-32,33). Importantly, Jesus as Christ promises that whosoever is prepared to sacrifice everything in ‘this world’ of a temporary nature in order to gain awareness of Spirit will find human life transformed into Eternal Life, which is the Reality. In conclusion: Discerning the unreal and illusory nature of the discords of this world, together with actually experiencing God as All-in-all, is transforming my awareness of Reality.

Thank you, Plainfield CS. Thank YOU! I am seeking a change of awareness that you are helping me with by your extraordinarily demanding yet sweet-satisfying weekly lessons.

...The Things Which are not Seen

Bible Citation 3, 11 Corinthians 4:18: “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.” This reminds me of Hymn 87, part of which reads “God is on the field, although He seems invisible.”

God’s glory is a wondrous thing,
Most strange in all its ways,
And of all things on earth, least like
What men agree to praise.

O blest is he to whom is given
The instinct that can tell
That God is on the field, although
He seems invisible.

And blest is he who can divine
Where right doth really lie,
And dares to side with what seems wrong
To mortals’ blindfold eye.

For right is right, since God is God;
And right the day must win;

To doubt would be disloyalty,
To falter would be sin.

Only One Way

(*Science and Health*, p. 242: 9-14) “There is but one way to heaven, harmony, and Christ in divine Science shows us this way. It is to know no other reality — to have no other consciousness of life — than good, God and His reflection, and to rise superior to the so-called pain and pleasure of the senses.”

What sound counsel that is! To make this my reality, so that it helps me see the lies of all imperfections! Thanks for including this in the subject of REALITY.

SUBJECT: Unreality — October 3rd, 2021

Unreality: A Deep-rooted False Belief

‘God is ever present, He is neither absent from Himself (My Christ) nor from the universe’ (Unity: 60:21-22). As Jesus Christ teaches over and over: When mind is disciplined by Truth teachings and prayer, spiritual understanding, a faculty of soul, reveals the Father which is in Heaven. Then, the real and eternal is distinct from the unreal and temporal.

So-called mortal mind tempts men and women into accepting they are limited personalities living apart from God, so they must put up with conditions unlike Eden. Acceptance does not make it so! Yet mortals do accept a kingdom divided against itself. With the same breath they articulate truth and error. They say that God is All, there is none beside God, then talk incessantly of sin, sickness and death as realities.

‘Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessings and cursing’ (James 3:9). Naturally, once men and women become aware of Christ, they will not be led or guided by self-preservation, fear, hate or human judgement, nor will they accept sin, sickness and death as realities.

With the actual Awareness of Christ, Jesus did not ‘take thought’ while on earth when feeding the 5000 or walking on water. His Christ Consciousness furnished the wisdom and the abundance without struggle, anxiety or strife. Christ-man and Christ-woman embody Divine Love and Immortality thus lives, works and moves in God’s sufficiency and sees God in every form everywhere (2 Cor 3:5).

‘I am that I am’ (Ex 3:14, John 8:24).

Christ Science ‘reveals a necessity for overcoming the world, the flesh, and evil, and thus destroying all error’ (*Science and Health* p.10) through understanding I AM Divine Love and Immortality.

Thank you, Plainfield CS, for the opportunity of studying this week’s lesson with others.

Concessions Outworn

“I shall be with you personally very seldom. I have a work to do that, in the words of our Master, ‘ye know not of.’ From the interior of Africa to the utmost parts of the earth, the sick and the heavenly homesick or hungry hearts are calling on me for help, and I am helping them.” (*My*.147:25–30). This sentence marked the closing forever of Mrs. Eddy’s concessions to unreality in serving the church she founded.

“... [Y]ea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.” (II Corinthians 5:16)

Like Jesus at the last supper, here we find the very discoverer and founder of Christian Science herself, late in life, could no longer consent to baby-sitting matter regarding the Christian Science organization. “The Passover, which Jesus ate with his disciples . . . on the night before his crucifixion . . . in the twilight of a glorious career . . . closed forever Jesus’ . . . concessions to matter.” (*Science and Health*, 1910 edition, p. 32:28 – 33:1) Thus, may God grant that I so follow in the footsteps of Christ Jesus and Mrs. Eddy, from matter to Spirit, from personal to impersonal, from unreality to reality, heedless of the cost.

The Temple of the Living God

“...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (II Corinthians 6). When I read this line in the Lesson this week, I imagined the story of when Jesus turned over the money changers’ tables, cleansing the temple and declaring it to be a house of prayer.

Since coming to Plainfield, I have come to learn the necessity of being vigilant and the need to consistently refuse to entertain ungodlike thoughts. Picturing myself in a holy temple casting out all that would defile the most sacred place where I commune with God has reminded me to treat this task of mental house cleaning with a greater respect and love. “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” (II Corinthians). “Say to yourself, “I am the temple of the living God; the Lord is in His holy temple, let this world of pain and trouble be still.” (How Can You Help Yourself? by Peter V. Ross)

“Fear, which is an element of all disease, must be cast out to readjust the balance for God.” (*Science and Health*, p. 392)

The Only I or Ego

“Mortal existence is a dream; mortal existence has no real entity, but saith ‘It is I.’ Spirit is the Ego which never dreams, but understands all things; which never errs, and is ever conscious; which never believes, but knows; which is never born and never dies. Spiritual man is the likeness of this Ego. Man is not God, but like a ray of light which comes from the sun, man, the outcome of God, reflects God.” (*Science and Health*, p. 250:6-13)

This passage from our lesson reminds me of a statement that Martha Wilcox makes in her address “The Word Made Flesh”, “It was the Saviour or impersonal Truth or Divine Mind that saw His own image and likeness. The human mind can see man only according to its own idea of itself, which is always material, corporeal, mortal and finite, and

as long as I see or believe man as actually material and finite and corporeal, the Saviour or impersonal Truth is not present in my consciousness.

So every morning, and many times a day, I declare, “The I or Ego or Mind, the Saviour that is present here, is aware of Himself, and this awareness of Himself is His idea, or image like Himself, and is His individual child as divine intelligence or myself, Himself, as idea, is myself.” I repeat this many times a day and it really helps me to feel my oneness with God.

I am always so grateful for our wonderful and inspiring lessons each week.

The Fount of All Being

“Inasmuch as God is good and the fount of all being, He does not produce moral or physical deformity; therefore such deformity is not real, but is illusion, the mirage of error” (*S&H*). Jesus proved the power in the Truth, through Divine Science, that Life is spiritual, eternal, not material, by disobedience to material laws and said we can do the same. Do I believe or at least accept that I too CAN do what He came to show us?

SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? — October 10th, 2021

Jesus Loved Little Children

“Jesus loved little children because of their freedom from wrong and their receptiveness of right. While age is halting between two opinions or battling with false beliefs, youth makes easy and rapid strides towards Truth.” (*Science and Health*, p.236). Addressing strongholds came up during the Sunday [Roundtable for October 3rd, 2021](#).

“STRONG-HOLD: A fortified place; a place of security.” Websters 1828 Dictionary

Something that is considered entrenched. The line, “halting between two opinions or battling with false beliefs” sounds like an example of “stronghold” thinking. The cure is to become as

little children, “freedom from wrong and their receptiveness of right.”

Jesus said “Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18).

What gratitude we owe Mary Baker Eddy for providing the Science of Christ and how to live it which is the only answer to strongholds and their prevention.

Become as Little Children

“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 18: 3,4)

Upon re-reading *Painting a Poem*, the diarylike record of James F. Gilman’s many interactions, visits, and communications with Mrs. Eddy throughout the entire process of creating the illustrations for Mrs. Eddy’s poem, *Christ and Christmas*, Mr. Gilman comments several times about Mrs. Eddy’s childlikeness – e.g.: “Her childlikeness impressed me the most...” (p.23). Then, in the *Blue Book*, we read this from our beloved Leader: “As a child puts her hand in the hand of a parent, so I have put my hand in the hand of God – and He will never let me go!” (p.196).

What a glorious and life-saving thought to keep in mind each and every day – God will NEVER let us go!! Thank you to the Plainfield Lesson writer for this beautiful Lesson that addresses the childlike thought that is so integral to our growth and ability to demonstrate Christian Science!

Treating children

“The more stubborn beliefs and theories of parents often choke the good seed in the minds of themselves and their offspring” (*Science and Health*, p. 237: 10-12) – Citation #6.

“To successfully treat children, cut off the parent thought. Man is the offspring of God, not man. . . Detach the thought of the child from the parent and the germs of erroneous seed of the parent thought will cease to impress the child” (Mary Baker Eddy, *Blue Book*,” p. 147).

Teach the Children

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6) – Golden Text.

“... teach them diligently unto thy children,...” (Deut. 6:7) – Citation #1.

“Parents should teach their children at the earliest possible period the truths of health and holiness” (*Science and Health*, p. 236:23-25) – Citation #5.

“Children should be taught the Truth-cure, Christian Science, among their first lessons,...” (*Science and Health*, p. 237: 15-16) – Citation #6.

“May 5, 1907. Mr. G.H.K. repeated from Mrs. E.: The way I would teach a child to learn the Bible would be to teach her to love it, and then she would go to the Bible to read it for her own entertainment. I would also tell her the Bible in story fashion; it will stick to the memory that way, and she will become interested to look it up for herself. I would preferably confine myself to the New Testament for a child; but the Old is good, too”. (*Blue Book* p.30)

Beautiful!

