

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 200

**SUBJECT: Mortals and Immortals —
November 14th, 2021**

Immortality: I Am

Christ Science's overarching message is that Immortality is Spirit, and I AM Immortal Spirit once (my) ignorance of this Truth fails to impress itself upon me as personal sense, mortality or error (*Science and Health* 1875, Ch.1).

Mary Baker Eddy, following Jesus of Nazareth, says that to be a master of Life (a master of so-called mortal mind or error) understand God as the divine Principle of Immortal existence (*Ibid*). As well, Mrs. Eddy says not to surrender to so-called mortal mind's right-thinking and wrong-thinking opinions and beliefs as these are not of God, so never should be allowed to take hold in mind as reality (*Unity of Good*, p.45).

Of significance is that realization of Immortality comes with Christ-understanding, which has no cognizance of life in matter (*S&H*, 1875, Ch.1). Saint John described Immortality by way of divine vision after direct experience of it with Jesus. Mary Baker Eddy experienced Immortal awareness as an inward intuitive realization. She, like Saint John, taught that everyone, ultimately, will realise, "man *IS*, NOT *SHALL BE*, perfect and immortal" (*S&H*, p.428). I am not mortal mind and finite body, but I am a reflection or image of Infinite Spirit, Soul, Immortality. Awareness of this draws me to Truth as a magnet draws a nail, and gratitude bubbles. That said, "God is Light [Eternality] and in Him is no darkness [mortal sense, error] at all" (1 John 1:5). So, in the Kingdom of God, nothing is mortal or finite, "ALL is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation" (*S&H*, p. 476)(emphasis added).

The word 'ALL' encompasses eternality, immortality and illimitability – God, Good, Soul, Spirit, Love. 'All' is a big word!

Shockingly, human beings suffer from two combined afflictions of mortal mind, mass hypnotism and individual hypnotism. Humankind are hypnotised and truly believe in the reality of birth, decay and death. Both mass and individual hypnotism present as NOTHINGNESS to Immortal awareness (Christ-understanding). There is no hypnotism in Christ-consciousness! (*S&H* 1875, Ch.1). By extension, there can be no cause and no effect from hypnotism (such as anger creates arthritis), since both the cause (anger) and the effect (arthritis) are hypnotism, so do not, cannot, and never will, exist in Immortality. This Truth is the linchpin of Jesus' thirty-seven miracles (*Ibid*. p.303).

May I always remember: God is All. God is Immortality. And, I AM That. I AM "the image and likeness of God" in Reality. May I never forget: In the PRESENCE of Christ-woman or Christ-man, mortal-mind or error has absolutely no power as thought, word, action, place or thing.

Wow!! I loved I AM **That**.

I AM "the image and likeness of God" in Reality. I especially love how you did a full stop after 'That'. I've never thought of it exactly like that before. Thank you!!!!

God is.....**That**. God is the There. The out There. The in There. The Here. The This. God is the Everywhere. The Everything. The Us. The Them. The I. The We. It. What. How. Why. When. Where. Before. Now. Future. Ever. Every. Always. and even the Etc., too. Loved it!

Seek the Spiritual Status of Man

“Learn this, O mortal, and earnestly seek the spiritual status of man, which is outside of all material selfhood.” (*Science and Health*, p. 476). In the marginal heading next to the above line, Mrs. Eddy wrote, “Imperishable identity.” The line comes from the “Question. — What is man?” In this same paragraph, there are many powerful statements of God’s “law”. Putting this in the lesson made me really study and appreciate the familiar paragraph with new eyes. Thank you, lesson writer.

“Status: The condition of a person or thing in the eyes of the law.” (Webster’s Online Dictionary). “... all that means primary law, all that means divine law, all that means divine provision for you, ...means for you life, means health for you; it means harmony; it means the overcoming of evil; it means the dominion over all that would beset you and torment or molest or hurt you. There is no law against you.” There is No Law Against You From *Lectures and Articles* by Edward Kimball.

Thank you. This is what I need today. Thank you for referencing the Kimball article.

Argue For, Claim, Declare, Affirm Our Immortality Daily

“The evidence of man’s immortality will become more apparent, as material beliefs are given up and the immortal facts of being are admitted.” (*Science and Health*, p. 428 – Citation #6)

“Admit” – to grant entrance...into the mind; to receive as true. (Webster’s 1828 Dictionary) I continue to enjoy re-reading Dorothy Rieke’s article, “Immortality Brought to Light,” each time we have the Lesson entitled “Mortals and Immortals.” What struck me this time is the following statement which instructs us on our part in how evidence of our immortality “will become more apparent”:

“We are the attorneys for the case of immortality now, by declaring we are so. . . . how much more rapid will be our progress if we argue for, claim,

declare, affirm our immortality now? The prayer of affirmation is the highest, most powerful form of prayer. Thus, let our first waking thought in the morning and the last at night be one of affirmation and rejoicing that we are immortal. A hundred times a day, let us tune in on the infinite, and thank our heavenly Father that we are His immortal children.”

I am grateful to have this sage advice to add to my morning prayer arsenal, along with the Plainfield instruction to declare, “before [my] feet hit the floor,” that “God is Mind/Life. God is my mind/life. God is the only pure and perfect Mind/Life.”

Creeping Things

Martha Wilcox’s ‘Body (Second Article)’ includes the following concerning ‘creeping things’ – “Some of mortal mind’s creeping things are expressed in the material body as age, obesity, anemia, deafness, failing eyesight, wrinkles, thinning hair, slowing up of organs, and many other conditions which even Christian Scientists accept as inevitable, and over which they exercise no control.

“Where is our dominion with which we were endowed and about which we love to boast? Why do we, as Christian Scientists, permit these so-called creeping things to come upon us, or supinely accept them as beyond our control? And what are we going to do about them in the future?

“These seeming conditions are not of God, and they are not the fact of man or body. They inhere in, or are evolved from, human belief, or what is called mortal mind; and by that is meant the material opinions of mankind. If we wish to rid ourselves of these untoward conditions, it stands to reason that we must oppose and overcome these opinions of mankind rather than accept them, and the only place we can overcome them is in our individual thinking. We, as Christian Scientists, are neglecting a very important part of our work when we just let these creeping things of mortal mind do what they will with us.”

I often turn to Martha Wilcox’s articles about ‘Body’ as there is so much there to consider about

how to exercise our dominion by recognizing our spiritual identity. I am very grateful for learning about these writings. Until I found Plainfield, I had not heard of Martha Wilcox, nor some of the other devoted early workers. Thank you so much.

SUBJECT: Soul and Body — November 21st, 2021

Identity and Our Individuality

This week's lesson talks a lot about "identities", "identity" and "individuality".

"The divine Mind maintains all identities, from a blade of grass to a star, as distinct and eternal." (*Science and Health*, p. 70)

"Identity is the reflection of Spirit,..." (*S&H*, p. 477)

"...man, reflecting God, cannot lose his individuality;..." (*S&H*, p. 337)

"The loss of man's identity through the understanding which Science confers is impossible; and the notion of such a possibility is more absurd than to conclude that individual musical tones are lost in the origin of harmony." (*S&H*, p. 217)

"This scientific sense of being, forsaking matter for Spirit, by no means suggests man's absorption into Deity and the loss of his identity, but confers upon man enlarged individuality, a wider sphere of thought and action, a more expansive love, a higher and more permanent peace." (*S&H*, p. 265)

Individuality— A state of oneness

Identity—sameness

Gender identity is a hot topic these days and many children, adolescents and adults are struggling to be who they are. These citations clearly show that to think scientifically about this issue is to find our oneness with God and then we find our true identity which is the reflection of God, Spirit, not in terms of material sense. In an article entitled "Individuality" by Herbert Eustace, he says "America is the highest expression of individuality", or our highest expression of our oneness with God and that this oneness, as Jesus illustrated, provided money for taxes, supper for

his disciples and fed the multitude. All we need is found in our oneness with God.

The Divine Mind Maintains All Identities

"The divine Mind maintains all identities, from a blade of grass to a star, as distinct and eternal. The questions are: What are God's identities? What is Soul? Does life or soul exist in the thing formed?" (*Science and Health*, p. 70:12-16)

This citation is so freeing and refreshing. I love each one's uniqueness that is maintained by divine Mind for His divine purpose. Each one of us like a piece of an infinite and eternal pie.

What is Soul? This question gives me pause until I consider Soul as synonymous with God's will, the highest level of accomplishment.

Thank you for this! I was reminded of the following from *Addresses* by Martha Wilcox, page 362:

"When rightly viewed, all natural things, from the sands on the seashore to the stars in the heavens, are formations of Spirit and are spiritual. So, also, is everything from a pin to a palace, including houses, and lands, and money, when these are correctly understood. Mrs. Eddy says (*S&H* 70:12), 'The divine Mind maintains all identities, from a blade of grass to a star, as distinct and eternal.' Then a star, which to one state of human consciousness is inanimate matter, when rightly viewed, is an identity or is identical with Mind, Spirit, and must be spiritual. The whole point at issue is our individual viewpoint.

To the most of us, the sand on the seashore would seem very inanimate and material, but to Jesus it would not seem so. Mrs. Eddy says (*Misc. Wr.* 74:13), 'Christ Jesus' sense of matter was the opposite of that which mortals entertain.' Then what to us is material, must have been, to Jesus, spiritual."

Purity Purifies

Plainfield's weekly homepage quotations emphasize purity, which is also high on Paul's list of essential thought-items (Phil. 4:8) – “. . . whatsoever things are pure . . . think on these things.”

“We become what we think about all day long.” (Emerson)

“[T]he corner-stone of all spiritual building is purity.” (*Science and Health* 1910, p.241)

“it is chastity and purity . . . which really attest the divine origin and operation of Christian Science.” (*Ibid*, 272)

While it is true that Jesus, our exemplar, asserted, “I am the light of the world,” he also asserted, “Ye [referring to you and me] are the light of the world.” This momentous word cannot return empty. Jesus never spoke of his I-AM-ness as person, but only as Principle. Likewise, as you and I follow in Christ's footsteps, “The ‘I’ will go to the Father when meekness, purity, and love, informed by divine Science, the Comforter, lead to the one God: then the ego is found not in matter but in Mind, for there is but one God, one Mind; and man will then claim no mind apart from God.” (*Misc.* 195)

Casting out many-mindedness, emerging into single-mindedness, is purity. It is this I-AM-ness — and this alone — that is the great light which disinfects, cleanses, and purifies a suffering world. “The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.” (Isaiah 9, Matthew 4)

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matt 5:8).

To me, the blessedness known to be perfectly pure in heart is a state of awareness in which consciousness is no longer deluded by personal sense and so-called mortal mind (‘impurity of heart’); and the blessed pure-eyed vision of God is perceived with the ‘seeing’ of the Soul, and reflected as Christ Understanding (reference *Science and Health*, 1875).

Purification

“Through the wholesome chastisements of Love, we are helped onward in the march towards righteousness, peace, and purity,...

Willingness to become as a little child and to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of the advanced idea. Gladness to leave the false landmarks and joy to see them disappear, — this disposition helps to precipitate the ultimate harmony. The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress. ‘Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.’” (*Science and Health* p. 323).

“Purification: The act or operation of separating and removing from any thing that which is foreign to it.” 1828 Webster's Dictionary

I appreciate this wonderful Bible lesson on our true identity as a reflection of God. The idea of purification has been a difficult concept to me, feeling that sometimes it is too late. This time when I looked up the word “purification”, I noticed that it read, “separating from that which is foreign to it”. This helped me see that through God, not my will, my true identity is restored/revealed by removing that which is “foreign” (not belonging; not connected with, not native or natural.) “Through the wholesome chastisements of Love”, we are restored (made aware of) our (to) the original state. I am so grateful we are encouraged to look more deeply into these citations and make them our own.

Joy To Our World

