

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 201

**SUBJECT: Ancient and Modern  
Necromancy, Alias Mesmerism and  
Hypnotism, Denounced — November  
28th, 2021**

## Man Can Do No Harm

“In reality there is no *mortal* mind, and consequently no transference of mortal thought and will-power. Life and being are of God. In Christian Science, man can do no harm, for scientific thoughts are true thoughts, passing from God to man.” (*S&H*) This is such a powerful thought to remember as we gather together this season with friends and family. Our life is in God and the only thoughts we can receive are His peaceful, good, and loving thoughts. Our contact with others can never be harmful and can only bring about God’s blessings, care, and comfort to all involved. As we know these truths consistently, it will counteract and destroy any erroneous suggestions being falsely broadcast by the media and any other misled sources. God does reign supreme and we have the right to prove this daily in our lives and to send forth His uncompromising Love throughout the land! Always, and in every moment remember, – “There is no power but of God.”! (Romans)

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## Familiar Spirits

“And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have **familiar spirits**, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God?” (emphasis added) (Citation #2 – Isa. 8:19 & one of the two Bible quotes preceding Chapter 4 in *Science & Health* – “Christian Science versus Spiritualism”).

The term “familiar spirits” appears nine times in the New Testament. Synonyms/Related Words: demons, medium, sorcerer, fortuneteller, evil spirits, witches, wizards, witchcraft, child sacrifice. God’s people were not to consult with mediums or fortunetellers. Leviticus 20:6 notes God’s opposition to involvement with people who communicate with evil or familiar spirits. The term is used in connection with a fortuneteller, a practice forbidden from God’s people under the Law of Moses. King Saul had removed witches, wizards, and mediums from Israel, yet in desperation, Saul sought a medium so he could summon the spirit of Samuel for help during a difficult time. The result was a judgment that soon took the lives of Saul and his sons. Consulting evil spirits was listed alongside witchcraft and child sacrifice. During King Josiah’s reign, his reforms included removing those who consulted familiar spirits. God called His people to consult Him, not other spirits. God foretold of judgment upon those who consulted evil spirits. Familiar spirits are evil spirits, or demons, that have no place in the life of a Christian. We are to live by God’s Spirit and stand against the spiritual forces of evil as we seek to live for the Lord. (Source: [www.compellingtruth.org](http://www.compellingtruth.org)).

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## Divine – Divination

Saul asked the familiar spirit (*medium/sorcerer*) at Endor “I pray thee, **divine** unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring *him* up, whom I shall name unto thee.” (1 Samuel 28:8) (emphasis added).

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, the word ‘divination’ means the skill or act of saying or discovering what will happen in the future.

What a massacre of true meaning of the words ‘Divine’ and ‘Divination’! What an outrage!

The human mind cannot divine. Mind – the ever-presence always knows and does not have to search to discover.

Herbert Eustace said (Pg. 35 of Christian Science Its “Clear Correct Teaching” and Complete Writings) “Analyze every word carefully, for only to the degree that it defines God to you does a word have value.”

The spiritual meaning of the words would be:  
What is Divine? The Divine is the Divine.  
The Divine divines.  
What does the Divine divine?  
That which the Divine divines is his divination... manifestation.  
Spiritual man and the spiritual universe is the Divine’s divination.  
It’s OK for God, the Diviner, to divine. That doesn’t break any laws.  
Man does not divine. He is the divination.

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## Denounce

Subject — Ancient and Modern Necromancy, Alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism, Denounced

“Denounce: censure, condemn, damn, decry, reprehend.” Webster’s 1828 Dictionary  
The opposite meaning of denounce: allow, applaud, approve, ignore, commend, compliment, praise welcome.  
“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Rev. 3:16).

James describes being lukewarm or wishy-washy as: “For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:6-8). Whether we call it being lukewarm, wishy-washy, or double minded, the Bible warns us of the results of being lukewarm. This would also include indifference, apathy, or tolerance. There is no nice moderate stance toward the forms necromancy and hypnotism take and is generally accepted as harmless in society today. Either you are for it or against it. It is written,

Christ Jesus “loved righteousness, and hated iniquity.” We see where it landed Saul in the lesson this week. He was tempted because he had drifted from his connection with God, after allowing jealousy to overtake his thought.

Mrs. Eddy writes on the last page of the chapter ‘Christian Science versus Spiritualism’, page 99, “Those individuals, who adopt theosophy, spiritualism, or hypnotism, may possess natures above some others who eschew their false beliefs. Therefore my contest is not with the individual, but with the false system. I love mankind, and shall continue to labor and to endure.”

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## Adam’s Dream

Mary Baker Eddy in *Science and Health* declares that “evil is not power. Its so-called despotism [exercise of cruel and oppressive power] is but a phase of nothingness [non-being, non-life, illusion]” (p.102). Further, Mrs. Eddy states that understanding “Christian Science despoils [destroys, annihilates] the kingdom of evil [wrong, bad, sin, ignorance]” (*Ibid*).

Mrs. Eddy reveals the material five-sense world, ‘the kingdom of evil’, is cut off completely from Christ Understanding, thus is not under the law of God, neither can be (see *Unity of Good*, p.41).

In ignorance, humankind are enslaved by a universal belief, and have faith, reliance, and confidence in that belief which categorically claims that birth, disease, suffering, decay and death are reality; moreover, that evil and sin exist as powerful forces of that reality (see *S&H*, ch.5). Furthermore, humankind believe they have separate minds of their own; private minds jam-packed with knowledge, opinions, concepts, experiences, all of which stem from a belief in birth and death (see *S&H*, ch.2; *Misc. Writings*, p. 55).

To expand upon evil as an error of perception, reliance is put upon biblical Adam. Adam’s entire existence is based upon a wrong belief held in Mind. This belief imprisons Adam into accepting that matter, time, gravity, age, sin, evil, sickness,

decay and death are real (see *S&H*, p. 21:25; Unity of Good, pp. 15,27,41,54).

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## Our Leader Has Provided

I love the lesson this week! It shows us once again that Mrs. Eddy is our perpetual Leader, for all time and in all ways! Mary Baker Eddy is Absolutely, Sublimely and Divinely inspired to have written these words that apply to our era: “The mild forms of animal magnetism are disappearing, and its aggressive features are coming to the front.” AND “So secret are the present methods of animal magnetism that they ensnare the age into indolence and produce the very apathy on the subject which the criminal desires.” AND “When the final physical and moral effects of Christian Science are fully apprehended, the conflict between truth and error, understanding and belief, Science and material sense, foreshadowed by the prophets and inaugurated by Jesus, will cease, and spiritual harmony reign.”

Mrs. Eddy’s prophetic Truth for this age also includes the cure to all the so-called problems in the world today and forever. Our textbook is an instructional manual that, when studied and applied, contains the answer to all and every question relating to God, Health, Life, Truth, and Love. It is an absolute honour to be amongst the ranks of Christian Science as we witness God’s Allness in this era. We are continuing in the way our Leader has shown. We must be wakeful, watchful, and ACTIVE in Christian Science. We must apply the Christ Science to every single thing that comes into our experience, no matter how small or how large it may seem to be. To each day make our promise to the Father and to Jesus. To each day perform our “duty to God, to our Leader, and to mankind”. Following the Christly instructions that our Leader has provided, we will indeed see “spiritual harmony reign”.

Thank you to all the dear, loving, and wonderful members of Plainfield Independent! Christian Science is preserved at Plainfield .... and so the whole world is saved through this sacred and holy work!

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## SUBJECT: God the only Cause and Creator — December 5th, 2021

### Immortal Reality

The Allness of God, Immortal Life, Spirit, recognizes NO other power. Concisely, there is no other mind outside of God, the Principle of Immortality. So, Mind is the fundamental basis of everyone, of the universe and of everything besides. Therefore, I AM Spirit, Eternal Life governed by Mind in Reality. But, at present, there is personal sense believing that life is in matter, and controlled by it! (see *S&H* 1875, Ch. 1-3). God is All. God is absolute. Mind is All. Mrs. Eddy’s legacy to the world is her understanding and demonstration of these truths (*Ibid*).

I discover, at the time Saint John was writing the gospel, the term ‘Word’ (Memra) was used to describe God’s activity and action in the world. And the term ‘In the beginning...’ referenced Eternal Spirit as Creative Intelligence without beginning or end.

That said, Spirit, Mind, without beginning or end, has naught but itself with which to create. Immortality is in Soul, not in matter! As all creation is Eternal Spirit, reasoning from a matter-basis is necessarily error, since the human mind, so called, has no genuine existence in Soul (see *S&H*, pp. 468-471).

In Truth, God, the divine Principle of All, has dominion; IT sustains and maintains All, including Christ-woman, who is the idea, image and likeness of Principle, viz God, Immortal Life, Soul (see *S&H* 1875, pp. 23-26).

Mrs. Eddy states, as absolute, that Mind and its manifestation is one. Mind is the only cause and creator! (see *S&H*, p. 468).

This post is certainly reminding me that I AM in God’s Mind and reflect Immortal Reality, omnipresent Good; and I have the ability to unmake what mind has made erroneously. My thanks be to Spirit for the Plainfield CS community!

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## Thou Art Worthy, O Lord

Such a beautiful lesson this week! The scripture from Revelation “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things,” is profound to me. So often it is easy to think that our life, our circumstances, our physicality belong to us, to we ourselves; yet we read in 1 Corinthians: “know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which* is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” This is an amazing concept to me – we are perfect because we literally ARE His – we belong to Him! We are “bought with a price” – we have a debt to be paid; a debt to God, to Jesus, to Mrs. Eddy, and to all who have ever worked and prayed and glorified God on our behalf; throughout all time and all circumstances. We must do our part.

For years I struggled with the concept of “trials”. I tried to understand from a merely “human justice” perspective why trials were given to us, why did some “suffer” and some not? The quote written by Mrs. Eddy “trials are proof of God’s care” was at the time an enigma to me; outside my grasp of understanding. I (wrongly) reasoned that a trial could not be a good thing because it didn’t feel enjoyable to go through at the time. Had I known then, what I know today, I would have joyed in my trials and so bound myself to the Father as to not be distracted by what material belief would try to present. I thank dear Mrs. Eddy for her discovery! Christian Science has taught me what Mrs. Eddy meant about trials. It is to proclaim total fealty to God; to cling to God, to claim His might in times of seeming trial. This not only serves to lessen and shorten the trial itself, but so purifies our thought that we ascend in Grace. The trial ceases to exist when we learn this Truth. We go upward towards the “great heart of Christ” as Mrs. Eddy wrote. Isn’t this worth being faithful, no matter what the so-called “trial” appears to be? Mrs. Eddy tells us that we each must understand God “either here or hereafter”, and that “Father-Mother is the name for Deity, which indicates His tender relationship to His spiritual creation”. How precious it is to have our Heavenly Parent!

Christian Science is a sublime Joy because by it, we have clear instructions to follow in order to build our relationship with God – an eternal relationship that is forever ours, and that shows us who we really are. Living according to God’s Law in Christian Science does bring about infinite blessings. Our blessings just drop down from heaven from “the Father of lights”, right into the middle of what appears to be a trial – transforming the “bitter herbs” to the sunlight of Heaven! We have such great joy in Christian Science because we are learning that “nothing can separate us from the Love of our God”, as the apostle wrote. So, no matter what the trial may appear to be, we are so incredibly blessed by learning one of the most important lessons of Life – that we are not our own.

This week’s lesson plainly lays it out that God is our creator, our cause, our reason, our health, our Life, Truth, and Love. He is eternally worthy and abundantly due our devoted love, our adoring worship, our total obedience and fealty! Thank you, Plainfield Independent, just beautiful!

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## “Whereby Shall I Know This?”

(Luke 1:13,18,19,20) “But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John... And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.”

When reading about Zacharias this morning, it occurred to me that fear is a sign of doubting God’s power and our oneness with Him. It seems every case of doubt could be answered with Christ Jesus’ words “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.” (Matthew 22:29) Zacharias, being in the position he was, knew the scriptures — he certainly knew of Abraham and Sarah having

Isaac when they did — yet that story must have been mere words to him and holding no proof of God's power in his life at that moment.

In line with this week's Daily Watch, Zacharias' question "Whereby shall I know this?" is focused on effect. Yet, every moment divine inspiration and revelation is showing us what we must obediently do as the expression of the one Cause, God. For us to allow the human mind to introduce questions of "Whereby shall I know this?" or whether we are worthy to hear His voice or be His expression, or to have us doubt God's power to unfold only good in our lives — is to make what we know of Christian Science be only words to us.

I am so grateful for all I am learning here, and for how all this is showing me how to prove God's power in my life, and to trust it. What a blessing Plainfield is! Thank you!

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## The Records of Truth

"In the Science of Genesis we read that He saw everything which He had made, 'and, behold, it was very good.' The corporeal senses declare otherwise; and if we give the same heed to the history of error as to the records of truth, the Scriptural record of sin and death favors the false conclusion of the material senses. Sin, sickness, and death must be deemed as devoid of reality as they are of good, God." (*Science and Health*, page 525: 22-29).

"Record: To imprint deeply on the mind or memory; as, to record the sayings of another in the heart. To cause to be remembered. To call to mind." from Webster's 1828 Dictionary

What gratitude we owe Mary Baker Eddy for *Science and Health* which gives "the records of truth" for us to heed. I am grateful for the beautiful lesson also full of "the records of truth", and learning how to live it here at Plainfield Independent Christian Science church.

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## Christmas Resolution

This Christmas season, let me be filled with expectancy of the Allness-of-Good as exemplified by the Virgin Mary, who held tightly to the angel-thought given to her and said, in essence, "So be it! Let the weak say, I am strong! So may the Christ be manifest in me that it may be manifest upon the earth as never before, by a new and living way! My soul doth magnify the Lord!" Not as Zacharias who magnified the puniness of his own miniscule human dimensions in response to the angel-thought given him concerning the birth of John the Baptist.

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## Hymn 153

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,  
1932 edition*

In Thee, my God and Saviour,  
Forevermore the same,  
My spirit hath rejoicing,  
For holy is Thy name.  
My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
Sing all in glad accord!  
Praise Him who lifts the lowly,  
For faithful is His word.  
I magnify and bless Thee,  
For faithful is Thy word.

Thou who alone art mighty  
Hast done to me great things,  
Remembrance of Thy mercy  
Sure help to Israel brings.  
Thy power, O Lord, will I extol,  
Who hast redeemed my soul;  
I praise Thee, Lord, with gladness,  
For Thou hast made me whole.  
I magnify and bless Thee,  
For Thou hast made me whole.