

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 202

**SUBJECT: God the Preserver of Man —
December 12th, 2021**

“Mother, I’ve Been Knowing That”

[From CS Sentinel, February 1920, by Carmeline Ledoux]

One morning I was called to the telephone in the office where I work, to hear that I must go home as my little boy had been run over by an automobile. My daughter had telephoned to a Christian Science practitioner, asking for treatment for the child. As I left the office this beautiful passage from page 582 of our textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mrs. Eddy, came to me: “Children. The spiritual thoughts and representatives of Life, Truth, and Love.” I knew that if the child was the spiritual representative of Life, he could not be the material representative of its opposite.

Before reaching home I was able to say: “Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always.” When I entered the room where my little boy lay, and bent over his bed, he whispered, “Mother, I’ve been knowing that,” and pointed to a motto on the wall which read: “This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” The chauffeur of the car which ran over the boy made a report for the highway commissioners of Boston, in which he stated that one wheel passed directly over the child’s stomach and a spring hit him on the hip. There was material evidence to corroborate this statement. We acknowledged no material laws, however, but considered this only one more opportunity to prove God’s allness. We knew that matter, being unreal, could be neither crushed, bruised, nor broken. The accident occurred at half past eight in the morning. At eleven of the same forenoon the child was sitting up in bed, reading; at noon he had lunch at the table; in the afternoon he was up, dressed, and

playing with some little boys who came to inquire about their schoolmate. The next morning he went to school as usual.

I am inexpressibly grateful to God for this beautiful healing. I am grateful for the practitioner’s help and for the Lesson-Sermon that week, the subject of which was “God the Preserver of Man.” Words are wholly inadequate to express my gratitude to our beloved Leader, who has taught us to know a God who is Life, and a Life that is God.
(Mrs.) Carmeline Ledoux, Roslindale, Mass.

Right Apprehension

God is the preserver and protector of Christ-woman and Christ-man, but not of “man whose breath is in his nostrils”, since the human mind, with its limited beliefs of life in matter, is cut off from infinite wisdom, and cannot comprehend Mind expanded into Oneness.

As Mrs. Eddy so aptly states in ‘Unity of Good’ (p.30), “Soul is Life, and being spiritual Life, never sins [or suffers]. Material sense is the so-called material life. Hence this lower sense sins and suffers, according to material belief, till divine understanding takes away this belief and restores Soul, or spiritual Life”. Through divine Science, the right apprehension of the terms “God is All” and “Christ Understanding”, will, as Mrs. Eddy assures me in *Science and Health*, restore my true identity as the perfect image of God.

What ought I to remember always? The Allness of God.

The Righteous Shall Flourish (and Thrive)

“The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be

planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;" (Psalm 92:12-14)

Planted - set, fixed, established.

Flourish – Thrive; to grow luxuriantly; To be prosperous. To grow in grace and in good works.

Thrive - To prosper by industry, economy and good management of property;

Diligence and humility is the way to thrive in the riches of the understanding, as well as in gold. To prosper in any business; to have increase or success. To grow; to advance; to increase or advance in anything valuable. (Webster's 1828)

"The righteous (he who is holy in heart, and observant of the divine commands in practice) shall flourish (thrive, prosper and increase or advance in anything valuable)."

"Those that be planted (set, fixed, established) in the house of the LORD (conscious oneness with God) shall flourish (thrive and be prosperous in all things) in the courts of our God."

"They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing (thriving, prosperous and growing in grace and good works)."

Human Weakness = God's Strength

"God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect" (II Sam. 22:33 – Lesson citation #5). The phrase "Agree with thine adversary quickly..." (Matt 5:25 and S&H: 390:18) confused me for a long time. During the Bible Study this morning, something was said that suddenly made it much more clear. It was stated that whenever mortal mind tries to tell you that "you can't do this – it's too hard for you," you can quickly "agree with thine adversary" (mortal mind) and immediately turn the erroneous suggestion around by declaring, "You're right. I can't do it. But God can!" Then, getting self out of the way, giving it up to God, and letting God use you, the answer comes. Thus, we can use weakness to our favor – i.e. make strength out of weakness.

This statement by Mrs. Eddy in the *Blue Book* (p. 218), summarizes this process exactly: "When we

realize our own helplessness as mortals, then 'His strength is made perfect in weakness'; we look up to divine Love and Love meets the need."

REST

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you REST. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find REST unto your souls." (Matt. 11:28-29, citation #8) (emphasis added).

". . . when we realize that immortal Mind is ever active, and that spiritual energies can neither wear out nor can so-called material law trespass upon God-given powers and resources, we are able to REST in truth, refreshed. . ." (S&H, p. 387:8-12, citation #11) (emphasis added).

As always, this week's watching point perfectly complements the Lesson: "When we have done our part to put divine power into operation in this human dream, we must quickly withdraw, leaving God to care for the situation, as He will. . . we must trust God to do His [part], and not continue to grind out arguments through fear." (Watch #268)

Mrs. Eddy once said, "We must feel and know that God is what we live in - like the atmosphere and sunlight. We must REST more in God." (the *Blue Book*, p.277) (emphasis added).

REST: Cessation of motion or action of any kind; *rest* from mental exertion; *rest* of body or mind; the mind is at *rest*, when it ceases to be disturbed or agitated; Quiet; repose; a state free from motion or disturbance; a state of reconciliation to God; Peace; (1828 Webster's Dictionary).

I am reminded of what a Plainfield practitioner shared with me not too long ago (a continuation of the above, on page 277 in the *Blue Book*): "When treating a patient do as well as you can and let God do the healing. If your children need treatment, don't sit up all night, but treat yourself and go to bed, and go to sleep. Give up more to God."

Mrs. Eddy: "True REST is refuge from the elements of earth" (p. 208, the *Blue Book*) (emphasis added).

When we enter the closet, shut the door, and dwell in the consciousness of the one Mind, taking refuge from the material world and mortal mind's daily barrage of error, REST and healing are the natural results of entertaining, declaring, and holding to the all-good, only good thoughts that come to us from our ever-present and all-loving Father-Mother, God. We are thus freed from disturbance and agitation, and calm and quiet ensue, allowing us to "feel and know" that ". . . in him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:29). I am so grateful for continued growth in learning how to pray more effectively, leave the field to God, REST more in Him, give more up to Him – all a result of the teachings of Christian Science, and the ideas shared through the Plainfield Church weekly and monthly discussions and testimony meetings.

Along the same line of RESTING more in God, Mrs. Eddy instructs us: "Study to be quiet. In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." (*Blue Book*, p. 95)

Hearken!

"And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying," (see Matthew 5).

In Mark Chapter 4, Jesus instructs us to hear his words, repeated in different ways at least 15 times. I asked myself, "Am I really listening to all the teaching going on through Mary Baker Eddy's writings, the Bible, and the many resources at Plainfield church? Taking it into my heart, working to demonstrate it, obeying, giving full attention, drinking it in as my life depends on it?

"Hear: To attend; to obey; learn; listen; embrace." Webster's 1828 Dictionary.

SUBJECT: Is the Universe, Including Man, Evolved by Atomic Force? — December 19th, 2021

First Cause vs. Nothingness

This week's lesson basically asks, "Was the

universe created by atomic force?" Believing this means rejecting the first great commandment and supplanting it with belief in a second cause, which is serving creature rather than Creator, effect rather than Cause; this mentality is symbolized in the allegory of the Prodigal Son, who forsook the Father's house — the house of first and only Cause or origin — in an attempt to find fulfillment in secondary things.

The prodigal's reversal and return:

"If to-day the general thought [that is, 'the people's idea of God'] embraced the science of being, man's longevity would increase ten-fold [that is, from 70 years to 700 years], and immortality be brought to light; the years of man will be extended as the belief of intelligent matter is destroyed, until at length a full recognition of Truth shall destroy all sin, sickness, and death. Error will continue seven thousand years, from the time of Adam, its origin. At the expiration of this period Truth will be generally comprehended, and science roll back the darkness that now hides the eternal sunshine and lift the curtain on Paradise, where earth produces at the command of Intelligence [not by the myth of 'atomic force'], and Soul, instead of sense, governs man". (*S&H*, 1875 edition, p. 281-282)

Also: "There is but one primal cause. Therefore there can be no effect from any other cause, and there can be no reality in aught which does not proceed from this great and only cause. Sin, sickness, disease, and death belong not to the Science of being. They are the errors, which presuppose the absence of Truth, Life, or Love." (*S&H*, 1910 edition p. 207)

1833 – At 12 Years Old – A Culmination – Shooting Stars

Hezekiah asked Isaiah what sign the Lord would give that he would be healed, and he was given two options. Here is the one he chose: "... let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he **brought the shadow ten degrees backward,**..." (Lesson citation #4 – II Kings 20:8-11).

And then, in the Bible story about Joshua and the Lord delivering up the Amorites before the children of Israel, we read: "... And **the sun stood still, and the moon stayed**, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies...

And **there was no day like that before it or after it,...**" (Lesson citation #6 – Joshua 10:12-14) (emphasis added).

These citations immediately brought to mind what I read recently in the Doris Grekel biography of Mrs. Eddy, which records a **celestial phenomenon** that occurred on the day that our Leader, at age 12, was immediately healed of the fever that befell her as a result of the harsh doctrine of her father's church regarding predestination. The biographer notes that this occasion was when young Mary's "religious experience was culminating. To culminate means to reach the highest point of altitude." She continues: "... in 1833, the stars fell from heaven. This phenomenon of shooting stars pointed to Boston, though Mary knew not that her future lay in that city. It was computed that on the morning of November 13, 1833, **no fewer than two hundred forty thousand meteors** were at the same time visible above the horizon of Boston. A professor of astronomy at Yale University wrote: 'The morning of November 13th, 1833, was rendered memorable by an **exhibition of the phenomenon called shooting stars which was probably more extensive and magnificent than any here-to-fore recorded...**'" (pp. 7-8, Vol. 1, *Discovery of the Science of Man*). (emphasis added).

I am so happy to have been guided to the 3-volume Grekel biography that was mentioned recently during a Roundtable discussion. What an eminently important thing it is for us to continue to increase our understanding of the TRUE history of Mrs. Eddy, and her proper place in Bible prophecy, the acknowledgment and understanding upon which the prosperity of the Cause, and the ability to heal successfully, so much depends, as has been stated clearly on multiple occasions, such as:

- Mrs. Eddy: "People seem to understand Christian Science in the exact ratio that they know me and vice-versa. It sometimes astonishes me to see the invariableness of this rule." – (*Mary Baker Eddy – The Prophetic and Historical Perspective*,

by Paul R. Smillie – p. xviii)

- "In proportion as the Movement overcomes its resistance to Mary Baker Eddy, so will the world begin to overcome its resistance to Christian Science." (ibid, p. xix)
- "We have work to do, and this work is to break the mesmerism that keeps Christian Scientists from loving their Leader. It is this love for her that will prosper her Cause." (ibid, p. x)
- "... the time has come for a proper recognition, or 'true sense,' of our beloved Leader." (ibid, p. xx)

Thank you so much for this post! It reminded me to re-read passages in these wonderful books. They are so precious and grounding in our study and practice of Christian Science. They show the authenticity and signs that this Revelation is the Truth; that Mary Baker Eddy is the witness spoken of in the Bible. From all the evidence we find in this trilogy of books by Doris Grekel: The Discovery of the Science of Man; The Founding of Christian Science; and The Forever Leader, we are enabled to go forth to study, proclaim, and live this Science for the benefit of all mankind!

Hymn 195

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,
1932 Edition*

Not what I am, O Lord, but what Thou art;
That, that alone can be my soul's true rest;
Thy love, not mine, bids fear and doubt depart,
And stills the tumult of my troubled breast.

Girt with the love of God, on every side,
I breathe that love as heaven's own healing air;
I work and pray, and follow still my guide,
And fear no foe, escaping every snare.

'Tis what I know of Thee, my Lord and God,
That fills my soul with peace, my lips with song;
Thou art my health, my joy, my staff, my rod;
I lean on Thee, in weakness I am strong.