

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Soul — February 13th, 2022

Two Viewpoints

Soul

Guiding Text: “Soul ... signifies Deity and nothing else. There is no finite soul ... Soul means only ONE Mind, and cannot be rendered in the plural.” (*Science and Health*, p. 466:8-23) (emphasis added).

I discover, in every respect, the Scientific Statement of Being is of high priority when considering Soul, since it declares, “All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation”. “All” is God, divine Mind, Spirit, Soul (*Science and Health*, pp. 307:25; 468:8; 446:11-18).

I contemplate “Soul” often and the depth of it always surprises me, its plenitude and impartiality. Put simply, Soul is never limited! Consequently, Soul is not confined in a matter-body.

What a relief it is to understand Soul (Me) is untouched by the belief of life in matter, the belief of birth, suffering, sin, disease, decay, and death and so on. Beliefs coexist and manifest to personal sense as ‘appearances’, even as personalities!! (*Science and Health* 1875, ch:4).

Life beyond belief, personal sense and matter? *Science and Health* is teaching me that in the realm of Soul, I Am “the image and likeness” of Spirit, hence cannot lose My oneness with eternal Life, divine Love, and the Truth of at-one-ment (*Science and Health* 1875:261).

So, what joy to know the Science of Life! It is teaching me: The Soul of man sees through ‘the mirage’ of life in matter once man understands that every belief and its so-called ‘appearance’ is an error of perception (*Science and Health*, p. 223:2-6; Ch: 8,9).

“The Indians caught some glimpses of the underlying reality, when they called a certain beautiful lake ‘the smile of the Great Spirit.’” (*Science and Health*, p. 477)

“What an abuse of natural beauty to say that a rose, the smile of God, can produce suffering! The joy of its presence, its beauty and fragrance, should uplift the thought, and dissuade any sense of fear or fever. It is profane to fancy that the perfume of clover and the breath of new-mown hay can cause glandular inflammation, sneezing, and nasal pangs.” (Ibid, p. 175)

Viewed objectively (from the standpoint of sense), a rose is merely a rose and nothing more. Viewed subjectively (from the standpoint of Soul), is a rose “the smile of God.” Thus, the man of sense (the first Adam) sees not the same rose that the man of Soul (the last Adam) sees.

Where 3rd-dimensional sense sees and smells a rose, 4th-dimensional sense recognizes the infinite and eternal “smile of God” — something far more real, more vivid than the limited, unreliable cognitive capacities of the physical senses can comprehend.

The Deity sent the angel of Christian Science to earth so that you, I, and all of us might acclimate ourselves to 4th-dimensional sight, not 3rd-dimensional blindness.

Trust in Him!

“The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.” (Psalm 34: 22)

“Desolate: Neglected; destroyed; solitary; without a companion; afflicted; deserted of God; deprived of comfort.”

“Trust: Care; management; confidence; a reliance or resting of the mind on...” Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

What more could we ask for than our God telling us that if we “trust in Him” we will not be desolate. Not trust in our human plans, human effort, human thinking, human love, human rules, but trust just in God. “It is our ignorance of God, the divine Principle, which produces apparent discord, and the right understanding of Him restores harmony. Truth will at length compel us all to exchange the pleasures and pains of sense for the joys of Soul.” (from *Science and Health*, p. 390)

Matthew 16 — Protecting Our Divine Destiny From Human Interference

In *Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts*, in the commentary on Mrs. Eddy’s letter from January 1, 1895, Gilbert Carpenter writes the following which uses Matthew 16 (from this week’s lesson) as an example:

“If a caterpillar had a husband, and he should see her preparing to enter alone into the silence and stillness of the cocoon, in order to be transformed into a beautiful butterfly, he might try to prevent her from fulfilling that destiny. ... The desire for his own comfort and happiness would selfishly cause the caterpillar’s husband to try to keep his wife in the caterpillar stage, when it was her destiny soon to become a butterfly.

It is thus that mortals hold one another. Even the suggestion of any transformation or change in their established relation one with another seems like an error. Yet it is malpractice for one to take a stand either outwardly or mentally against the destiny of another.

The disciples had to be severely rebuked when they took a stand against the Master’s destiny. When he told them, in Matt. 16, that he was to be killed, Peter said, “This shall not be unto thee.” Jesus’ rebuke was, “Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” He recognized the action of the human mind trying to interfere with the destiny that God had for him.”

I am grateful here in Plainfield to learn we have a divine destiny, and also to learn not to hold myself or others as we were, but to always be open to the advancement of our individual spiritual growth in God’s good time. Thank you!

Hope and Quietly Wait on the LORD

(Lamentations 3:26): “*It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.*”

“To labor and to wait...” (Mrs. Eddy, p. 230 Misc). I have found that waiting is an active quality that is not stagnant or slothful. Work and then wait with anticipation to see what God has in store.

“Let us then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.”

Thank you for this post! Along these lines, Mrs. Eddy wrote, on the subject of waiting on God, to “J.L.” in the *Blue Book*, p. 116, the following: “When you are in perplexity or doubt about some important question that must be decided, keep your mind still; cease thinking and wait, that the still, small voice may speak. No words may come to you; nevertheless you will have asked your question. Wait – when the moment arrives, the decision you will have.”

A Low Sweet Prelude

Earlier this week, while thinking on some things I thought as problems, came the thought “harsh noises of our day.” Looking up this message, it is part of Hymn 239:

“Through the harsh noises of our day,
A low sweet prelude finds its way;
Through clouds of doubt and creeds of fear
A light is breaking, calm and clear.”

This week’s lesson Citation 5 from *Science and Health*, p. 390: 4-11, says in part:

“...we should never deny the everlasting harmony of Soul, simply because, to the mortal senses, there is seeming discord.”

Underneath all the noise of mortal sense is this prelude of peace and harmony, playing at all times. I am grateful for this message to remind me to turn to listen for this harmony.

Repairer of the Breach

Isaiah 58:12 states that "... thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

Our church and its activities are doing this. After Mrs. Eddy moved on, a breach or break in clear understanding and practice of Christian science developed. Through the ages, God must have raised up workers to repair any breach. It is most satisfying to be among them.

SUBJECT: Mind — February 20th, 2022

Human Intellect / Intellectualism vs. Wisdom

Wisdom – Greek – Sophia (Strong's 4678): skill (human or divine), wisdom, insight, intelligence; clarity; the root of the English terms, "sophistication" and "philosophy" – literally, "the art of using wisdom," "affection for wisdom."

Human Intellect / Intellectualism leads to arguments; Wisdom leads to settlements.

Human Intellect / Intellectualism is power of will; Wisdom is power over will.

Human Intellect / Intellectualism is hate, it burns; Wisdom is warmth, it comforts.

Human Intellect / Intellectualism is always in pursuit of knowledge – it tires the seeker; Wisdom is the pursuit of truth – it inspires the seeker.

Human Intellect / Intellectualism is holding on; Wisdom is letting go.

Human Intellect / Intellectualism leads you; Wisdom guides you.

An "intellectual" man thinks he knows everything — A wise man knows that there's still something to learn.

An "intellectual" man always tries to prove his point — A wise man knows most often there is no point.

An "intellectual" man freely gives unsolicited advice — A wise man keeps his counsel until all options have been considered.

An "intellectual" man understands what is being said — A wise man understands what is being left unsaid.

An "intellectual" man speaks when he has to say something — A wise man speaks when he has something to say.

An "intellectual" man sees everything as relative — A wise man sees everything as related.

An "intellectual" man tries to control the mass flow — A wise man navigates the mass flow.

An "intellectual" man preaches — A wise man reaches. — original author unknown

"Intelligence" is found in the Bible just one time; "Wisdom" is found in the Bible 222 times.

"Intelligent" is found in the Bible ZERO times; "Wise" is found in the Bible 237 times.

INTELLIGENCE – from my notes:

Mary Baker Eddy (MBE): "Life is intelligence, the Principle that is Soul or Spirit, and there is but one Spirit or Soul of the universe and man." (*Science and Health* 1875: 31)

MBE: "Intelligence is the only Life and Principle of all, man." (Ibid, 241).

MBE: "Intelligence in matter would negative the omnipotence of Spirit." (Ibid, 150).

MBE: "The less we admit matter intelligent, and cease to call the body "I," the more we gather ourselves in the good... and man will be found the image and likeness of God." (Ibid, 152).

HISTORY: 2300 BCE, Aristotle first referenced something like intelligence by the word 'reason'. Intelligence n. (Latin 'intelligere') was recorded in old French in 12th Century and became an English word in late 14th Century. Academically (intellectually), intelligence was first studied as an aspect of the human mind in the 1800s by Darwin's cousin, Sir Francis Galton.

Science and Health: Glossary (p. 588)

"INTELLIGENCE. Substance; self-existent and eternal Mind; that which is never unconscious nor limited."

Science and Health: Recapitulation (p. 469)

"Intelligence is omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. It is the primal and eternal quality of

infinite Mind, of the triune Principle, – Life, Truth, and Love, – named God.”

NOTE: Wisdom, as a concept, has been acknowledged with ancient history since the time of the Sumerians (2,500 BCE).

Yes, thank you. Intelligence is from God. Mrs. Eddy gives a beautiful definition of “intelligence” in the Glossary so comparing “intelligence” to “wisdom” is not a good example. It would be better to use the words “human intellect” or “intellectualism.” We were taught here that “intellectualism” is the “bane of Christian Science.”

[This was written before the initial post was edited. The original title was “Intelligence vs. Wisdom”]

Clarifying Mind

This lesson is a great help in explaining the seeming contradiction that mortal mind can attain Mind’s truths. Wonderful work in progress!

(*Science and Health*, p. 128:11-19)

“The human mind, imbued with this spiritual understanding, becomes more elastic, is capable of greater endurance, escapes somewhat from itself, and requires less repose. A knowledge of the Science of being develops the latent abilities and possibilities of man. It extends the atmosphere of thought, giving mortals access to broader and higher realms. It raises the thinker into his native air of insight and perspicacity.”

A Very Present Help

It helps to understand Philippians 2:5 as “Let this [*mood*] be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

“[Y]ou are a free moral agent, to reject or to accept . . . error; hence, you are the arbiter of your own fate.” (Mrs. Eddy, “Questions Answered,” *CSJ*, October, 1887)

“This is an age in which the mood decides the fortunes of people rather than the fortunes decide the mood.” (Sir Winston Churchill)

Sir Winston was a master in the art of self-encouragement, activating the law of cause and effect in the most constructive ways possible, virtually at all times.

Churchill regarded Hitler just as David regarded Goliath.

David’s mood of victory *preceded* his confrontation with Goliath. Before setting foot on the field of battle, David had dwelt only on the desired result, as stated in Mark 11:24 – “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.”

Likewise, Churchill’s sustained mood of victory over Hitler precipitated an unstoppable progression of events that led to Hitler’s ultimate downfall. It was Churchill’s insistence on maintaining the mood of the solution to the problem of Hitler that led to Hitler’s permanent absence.

Giveth To All Men Liberally

“So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding... Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;” (Proverbs 2). It was mentioned last night that we are to seek and focus on God for cures to problems, not focus on the solution, and reminded us that Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God.”

This wonderful lesson on wisdom brought home how when I become focused on the solution or problem then I try to solve things with my own understanding or search for wisdom from other sources. This is breaking the first commandment and fails since God is not in it. What a tremendous promise we have from the Golden Text, James 1:5: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” This speaks to me more of the full surrender and trust taught continually at this church. My part is to cultivate my spiritual sense so I can hear God. To know God better, and desiring with all my heart a relationship with God.
