

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Substance — March 13th, 2022

SUBSTANCE is Allness

Golden Text: “Riches and honour *are* with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.” (Proverbs 8:18)

Mrs. Eddy’s Guiding Text: “It is a false supposition, the notion that there is real substance-matter, the opposite of Spirit.” (*Science and Health* p. 278)

To human sense “substance” signifies dense matter, a solid presence, the physical matter of which a person or thing is made up of. That said, mental impressions of “i, me, mine,” of good and of evil, plus acceptance of self-preservation and the power of the carnal mind, blend together, and make up the substance of personal sense, mortality, matter (*S&H* 1875, Ch. 3,4,7).

Science and Health (p. 468) states, “Substance is that which is eternal and incapable of discord and decay”. And, Mary Baker Eddy warns, always be alert to the nature of personal sense, it hypnotizes materially-minded man into accepting as real, that which is not real: birth, sin, decay, disease, death (*Ibid*).

Initially, it was hard going to advance against my own beliefs struggling with Mrs. Eddy’s declaration that Spirit is the only substance! Now, though, I accept as my rock of truth that All substance, All intelligence, All consciousness is Spirit. Moreover, I rejoice, not only am I included in the ALLNESS of God, I am made of the very SUBSTANCE of God, like unto it. Yet “Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit” do I live this Grace, amid the greatest temptation in the world, personal glory (Zechariah 4:6; *Ibid*). Allness cannot entertain less than itself, ALL. Spirit cannot entertain less than Spirit. I Am That

ALL, once personal sense, the belief in matter, is overcome. Coming into awareness of the Principle of Allness is the joy of discipleship, since “the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God” within himself. God is the only substance! God’s substance is spiritual, not material (*S&H*, pp.110-114).

Warring No More Over the Corporeality

I found it interesting that the lesson mentions “warring” two times in *Science and Health*.

“The admission that there can be material substance requires another admission, – namely, that Spirit is not infinite and that matter is self-creative, self-existent, and eternal. From this it would follow that there are two eternal causes, warring forever with each other; and yet we say that Spirit is supreme and all-presence.” (p. 278) and also –

“We shall obey and adore in proportion as we apprehend the divine nature and love Him understandingly, warring no more over the corporeality, but rejoicing in the affluence of our God.” (p. 140)

Let us remember this is always the only “warring” going on – false beliefs destroying themselves. In this way we can effectively handle the belief of warring nations. “Spirit is supreme and all-presence” and we can now know this understandingly, and “rejoice in the affluence of our God.” This eternal Truth will wipe out the belief of a power apart from God, which is the definition of animal magnetism and always at the root of any of our so-called problems.

Religion Will Then Be of the Heart and Not of the Head

I am thankful for the writing about “warring no more over the corporeality.” In that same citation 11, *S&H*, p. 140:7-15, which has been staying with me all week, I felt the need to bring out the last two sentences as well:

“Religion will then be of the heart and not of the head.”

I am so grateful for being taught that Christian Science is about Love, not intellectualism. My practitioner worked with me a lot when I first came here to avoid being “intellectual,” which is not something I ever thought of myself, but it is clear that error will do everything it can to make a shipwreck of our faith. To be learning how to reflect God’s love for mankind, and to be able to separate error from person, is showing me that only disobedience to God would have me writing off any of His children as beyond help.

“Mankind will no longer be tyrannical and proscriptive from lack of love, — straining out gnats and swallowing camels.”

Proscriptive is defined as “dooming to death or exile.” It is so clear, from all I have learned here, that divine Love would never doom anyone to death or exile, nor would it make us do it. I am grateful to know that Christian Science is for all mankind, and all will come to feel the love that is in Christ’s Christianity, just as I have. Thank you!

Take NO Thought

“. . . Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what he shall put on.” (Luke 12:22 – Citation #3) The importance of the word “let” was mentioned in a couple of recent Plainfield Roundtable discussions, which led me to re-read an Association address entitled “Let God Do It,” by Wentworth Byron Winslow (from “The Bookmark”). And, during the Roundtables for the Lessons entitled “Mind” and “Sacrament,” it was stated that the human mind needs to be completely denied and “put off,” as it is against the law of God – “The human mind is opposed to God...” (*S&H*, p. 151).

And, in the *Blue Book*, p. xv, Mrs. Eddy states that the so-called human mind must be “ruled out” (eliminated, excluded by decision).

The following citations from the Winslow address have been helpful to me on this subject, and came to mind when reading Jesus’ instruction from Luke 12:22:

“In any system of right thinking, the person tries to do some right thinking in order to counteract some wrong thinking or its results. This is not Christian Science. In the Science of Mind, or Mind healing, instead of the person trying to do some right thinking, he tries to get himself out of the way, eliminate self, or as the Master said, ‘deny himself.’ He endeavors as Jesus also said to ‘Take no thought’ – not take right thought, but to ‘Take NO thought’; he tries to stop his own thinking, to still the human mind, or ‘silence the material senses’ (*S&H*, p. 15). . . . and so let the Christ, the actual presence of God, the one Mind, arise in him, Your thinking with the human mind is nought but a lot of suggestions, fruits of the ‘tree of knowledge of good and evil,’ or of right thinking and wrong thinking, and this tree must be cut down root and branch. This is done when and as you still the human mind, or stop your own thinking, whereupon does this Christ-Mind arise in you or the Spirit rests upon you, and guides you into harmony; ‘...surely, it is high time that we cease our thinking and let God do the thinking for us!’”

God Prepares a Table

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:” (Psalm 23)

The commentary written on the [23rd Psalm by Charles Spurgeon](#) (click on title to read complete commentary) made me appreciate this beautiful psalm/prayer found in our lesson twice this week. Mr. Spurgeon writes regarding the above citation, “Yet see the quietude of the godly man in spite of and in the sight of his enemies. How refreshing is his calm bravery! “Thou preparest a table before me.” When a soldier is in the presence of his enemies, if he eats at all, he snatches a hasty meal, and away he hastens to the fight. But observe: “Thou preparest a table,” just as a servant does

when she unfolds the damask cloth and displays the ornaments of the feast on an ordinary peaceful occasion. Nothing is hurried; there is no confusion, no disturbance. The enemy is at the door, and yet God prepares a table, and the Christian sits down and eats as if everything were in perfect peace. Oh! the peace which Jehovah gives to his people, even in the midst of the most trying circumstances! 'Let earth be all in arms abroad, They dwell in perfect peace.'"

I Will Make the Wilderness a Pool of Water

From 'A Century of Christian Science Healing' page 122 –

"At Munda, on New Georgia, during more than 2 weeks of incessant fighting, I was cared for and saved from fear. We had been fighting for a number of days and were out of water. Many were being wounded, and many others were going off the front carrying the wounded. Few men were left to hold ground. Our nearest source of drinking water was nearly 5 miles behind us, from which we had been cut off. The jungles were steaming hot; we had been without water for hours and faced going without it all night.

This was a human need and all realised it. Each turned to God in his own way. Indeed, all men pray under circumstances like this. I stepped off the trail and sat down to pray. It was up to God, and I just let it be up to Him. Soon afterward, an artillery shell of our own, intended to blast the enemy ahead of us, fell short and hit on the trail, hurting no one. Water gushed out of the hole! Our need was met. We were all grateful and praised God, one to another. We didn't feel that any miracle had occurred; this was just natural.

As I left the front a day or so later, I found a small Bible on the trail. Having lost my own, I picked it up eagerly. The water incident had been continually in my thought since it occurred. I opened the Bible at random and my eyes fell on the 35th verse of Psalm 107, 'He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings.'"

SUBJECT: Matter — March 20th, 2022

Matter Is Not Reality: How About That

Mary Baker Eddy declares as absolute that "Matter is neither self-existent nor a product of Spirit." Also, she explains that "Matter cannot see, feel, hear, taste, nor smell." What's more, Mrs. Eddy says, you "Take away so-called mortal mind, which constitutes matter's supposed selfhood, and matter can take no cognizance of matter" (*Science and Health*, pp. 479, 591).

If only I could vision existence without matter. Historically, though ignored by the throng of the human family, holy men and women have demonstrated that Spirit is the True Vision of Life, not matter. These Christ Conscious men and women proved to their disciples that God's grace was their sufficiency, their holy substance. To human sense, the rich fruit of the Christ Mind is witnessed as healings, physical manifestations, miracles, wisdom, reviving the dead, non-identification with bodies trapped in time-space, and complete renunciation of belief in human existence (see *S&H* 1875, Ch.1-3; Saint John, KJV Bible). The Christ Mind, then, is conscious of Life outside of matter, so not conscious of the belief in birth, death, time, and gravity. How can matter be! And now to the life work of Mrs. Eddy, for she calls the human family to attention. She states: Because of the false belief in matter and the lack of understanding of Christ Science, human-beings are forever being confronted with the changing face of disease, war, sin, lack, limitation, climate and man's cruelty to man. The belief in matter expressing itself as good matter-forms and as sinful, diseased, decaying and dead matter-forms is an horrendous universal ERROR. On top of this Mrs. Eddy declares: God is not related in any way to matter! (*S&H* 1875, pp. 267-277).

About matter, I now have just one ambition, simple and immense. I hold close to the Truth that the cause of every claim or condition is error. Patiently, I "work" to "Judge not according to THE APPEARANCE" of matter, since Spirit Itself is the only SUBSTANCE. If Spirit did not create "the appearance," it was not created, therefore it can exist only as mythology, as hypnotism or as an

error in mind (*S&H* p. 577; John 7:24) (emphasis added).

Actually, I have been taught incorrectly; too many years wasted. I accept that. Heaven knows, the Truth of the Spiritual Life is fully revealed by Jesus of Nazareth. The demonstration of the loaves and fishes, performed by Him in the presence of others, is the kind of manifestation that occurs naturally when the insignificance of matter in relation to Spirit is truly grasped in consciousness. That Truth is within Me, and everyone besides, but I must take the principles Jesus revealed to his disciples, understand them by divine revelation, and prove them, to be rid of the so-called human mind and matter forever (*S&H* 1875, Ch.4).

Matter is not reality. How about that! That God, Spirit, Soul, Infinite Mind or Immortal Life would become sin, disease, decay and death is absurd, farcical. This Truth is the foundation stone of Jesus Christ's three-year ministry. And Mary Baker Eddy confirms, ultimately, that matter will be seen as impermanent, temporal, mirage-like, and "Under the supremacy of Spirit, it will be seen and acknowledged that matter must disappear," and "there will be no more pain, and all tears will be wiped away" (*S&H*, pp. 572-3, 577). This is the Christ Vision!

The Scientific Statement of Being

Mrs. Eddy said: "I could not at once bring myself to write down the thoughts that surged in upon me that substance was not matter. . . . I would lay down my pen and say, 'I cannot write it.' It seemed so contrary to all my experience and yet there was the heavenly message, 'There is no life, truth, intelligence nor substance in matter.' . . . I saw. . . that the true man was spiritual and that the fleshly body was but the false belief of the false material sense" (*Reminiscences of Irving C. Tomlinson*, p. 125, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, The Mary Baker Eddy Library).

"The works I have written on Christian Science contain absolute Truth, and my necessity was to tell it; therefore I did this even as a surgeon who wounds to heal. I was a scribe under orders; and who can refrain from transcribing what God

indites, and ought not that one to take the cup, drink all of it, and give thanks?" (*Misc.*, p. 311).

"Here comes in the summary of the whole matter, wherewith we started: that God is All, and God is Spirit; therefore there is nothing but Spirit; and consequently there is no matter" (*Unity of Good*, p. 34).

"St. Paul said to the Athenians, 'For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.' This statement is in substance identical with my own: 'There is no life, truth, substance, nor intelligence in matter.' . . . If Christian Science reiterates St. Paul's teaching, we, as Christian Scientists, should give to the world convincing proof of the validity of this scientific statement of being. Having perceived, in advance of others, this scientific fact, we owe to ourselves and to the world a struggle for its demonstration." (*Retrospection and Introspection*, pp. 93-94).

Beautiful, thank you!! What a perfect "goal" we pursue. No wonder this Statement can heal so much. It needs our commitment to ponder what it means in practice to us. I am spiritual, not material!

The Perfect Man

Science and Health, p. 477: 9-17, "Whatever is material is mortal. To the five corporeal senses, man appears to be matter and mind united; but Christian Science reveals man as the idea of God, and declares the corporeal senses to be mortal and erring illusions. Divine Science shows it to be impossible that a material body, though interwoven with matter's highest stratum, misnamed mind, should be man, — the genuine and perfect man, the immortal idea of being, indestructible and eternal." We are not mortal therefore not material! "The genuine and perfect man" gives up the illusion of mortality and realizes his true being, "indestructible and eternal." A friend said this week, "We are just kids in eternity!" I am so grateful to Mrs. Eddy and her writings... teaching us about God and Christ Christianity.
