

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 209

**SUBJECT: Reality — March 27th, 2022**

## **That Mighty Word: Repent**

Golden Text: Matthew 4:17, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

What is the Christ meaning of repent? Does the Christian Science interpretation prevail? There are choices! Jesus’ awareness of repentance as divine insight had the capacity to reveal a great measure of spiritual understanding to individuals that resulted in healings, spiritual epiphanies and miracles. (Ibid)

I am overjoyed to discover that repentance was a positive and highly regarded SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Still today, having this attitude is essential to discern the Reality of “the kingdom.” Mary Baker Eddy carefully explains in *Science and Health* that disciples must repent and give-up the FALSE BELIEF that matter can be actual, since Infinite Mind – Spirit – is the True Principle of Life, infinitely greater than human sense can fathom. (*S&H*, pp.18, 278, 286, 468)

Today, gratefully armed with a deeper appreciation of “the kingdom of heaven at hand” and of what repentance can do and why, I ask myself, “Why shouldn’t a man or a woman be able to fully realise the Infinite Mind while in ‘this world’ of hypnotism?”

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## **Except It Be Given Him From Heaven**

“A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.” (John 3:27)

“Receive: To come into possession of; to act as a receptacle or container for; to assimilate through the mind or senses; to permit to enter; to accept as authoritative, true, or accurate.”

Webster’s Online Dictionary

This line made me appreciate the constant teaching here at Plainfield to “stand porter at the door of thought” (Mary Baker Eddy), and to filter thoughts with the question, “Is this from a God who loves me?” This statement is telling us, we can “receive nothing” except it be “from heaven.” Also taught and lived here at Plainfield, Jesus’ saying from John 19:11, “Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above.” I am so grateful my practitioner pointed this out to me this week – and reminded me that no disease, no personality, no negative thoughts can come! Only that which is sent from heaven!

Thank you, lesson writers!

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Thank you for this post!

In *Science and Health*, it says, “The inter-communication is always from God to His idea, man.” (284:31-32)

And in the March 12, 2022 Bible Study, it says regarding Divinity School, God teaches each one individually.

And Mary Baker Eddy counsels in her article entitled “Day”: “I tell you truth when I say there is only one source of all good — God. The conscious recognition and acceptance of this fact acknowledged by every activity of the mind, not two or three times a day — but every few moments all day long — no matter what the outer self is doing, and this maintained, will enable anyone to express his perfect freedom and dominion over all things human.”

Thank you for these Lessons, and the light that everyone shines on them!

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Three mighty quotes from Mrs. Eddy in *Science and Health* are added to this insightful conversation. Page 14 was kindly brought to my attention just now. Thank you!

Oneness:

“To be ‘with the Lord’ is to be in obedience to the law of God, to be absolutely governed by divine Love, – by Spirit, not by matter.” (14: 9)

At-one-ment:

“Entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine, revealing spiritual understanding and the consciousness of man’s dominion over the whole earth.” (14: 25)

Omnipresence:

“We cannot ‘serve two masters.’” (14: 5)

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## **All that God Has For Us Is Already at Hand**

“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”  
(Matthew 4:17)

The Golden Text this week brought to mind the article by Martha Wilcox entitled “Scientific Thinking”:

“Scientific thinking enables us to know that the divine idea, or the thing that is in heaven is the same thing at hand on earth. That is, our perfection, our harmony, health, sight, hearing and supply that are realities in the unseen or in heaven, is the same harmony, health, sight, hearing, supply, that we experience in our earthly existence. These realities that exist in Mind or heaven are continued out into expression as our human experiences on earth. If these realities are present in heaven, they do not have to be brought into human existence or brought to earth by means of thinking. Earth is the expression of heaven, therefore the good in human existence is the expression of reality. They are one and the same thing.”

I love this reassurance that right where something seems not to be or what appears to be lacking is actually at hand (readily accessible when needed, nearby).

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## **What Is Real?**

I love *Science and Health*, p. 335:27-31, where Mrs. Eddy reminds us once again about Reality. She says, “Reality is spiritual, harmonious, immutable, immortal, divine, eternal. Nothing unspiritual can be real, harmonious, or eternal. Sin, sickness, and mortality are the

suppositional antipodes of Spirit, and must be contradictions of reality.”

This makes me pray, “Oh Father-Mother open my eyes that I may see and my ears that I may hear what is true by Thee. Then let me bear the message of Truth to Your children everywhere.”

This Methodist hymn by Clara Scott (first brought to my attention by a patient) comes to thought and the lyrics are humbling and prayerful!

Open my eyes that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my ears that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear,  
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
ev’rything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth ev’rywhere.  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my mouth, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

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## **SUBJECT: Unreality — April 3rd, 2022**

### **Truth vs. Hypnotism**

This week’s lesson on “Unreality” has given me food for thought. Every time I read, or think of Genesis 1:26, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”, it always makes me turn to the word ‘us’ and our meaning of it; the 7 synonyms for God, of which we are the embodiment. Alas! the mist

(hypnotism) which according to the Cambridge English Dictionary means “the act of putting someone into a mental state like sleep, in which their thought can be easily influenced by someone else” centers my thinking the Truth of God’s creation “And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good.” (Genesis 1:31)

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## Unreality and Illusion

Golden Text: “Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?” (Gal. 3:3)

Mrs. Eddy resolutely counsels: “Nothing we can say or believe regarding matter is immortal, for matter is temporal and is therefore a mortal phenomenon, a human concept, sometimes beautiful, always erroneous.” (*Science and Health*, pp. 277; 399:13-20)

Divine Science rests upon the Principle of God as the ONLY cause.

Christ Science teaches I must come to the complete conviction that God, Spirit, is the only cause; that mortality is a lie, an erroneous belief that appears real to human sense; moreover, that only the Truth of Immortality can destroy the lie. (*S&H*, 288-291,487: Ch.10). All I am witnessing is an error in belief, an illusion, a mirage. Do I accept and trust Immortal Life – Spirit, Soul, Infinite Mind – or the illusionary picture of existence? (*S&H*, 272-278)

Overall, unreality – mortality – affects every personality on earth by limiting them to an existence made up of experiences of birth, sin, disease, decay, and death. Mental images in thought, even absurdly distorted images, are only pictures within a mirage. A mirage exists but is not. A mirage is something I believe I see but that isn’t really there. (*S&H*, 30:26-11)

Yet, Christ Consciousness “witnesses” Heaven, Reality, Immortality, not mortality. “When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:4)

To step out of the error of unreality, Job 32:8 presents an invitation and a resolution to me: “...*there is* a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.”

Without spiritual “inspiration” and “understanding”, unreality will continue appearing as a mirage, to some a nightmare. Unreality, I learn, to a Christ Conscious individual is simply a name that identifies NOTHING.

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Thank you very much for this reflection on “mirage”. Very useful for me in these moments. And many thanks also to the lesson writer.

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## Ye Are the Temple of God

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (I Corinthians 3:16)

Temple: “A place in which the divine presence specially resides, a place of worship; a sacred place, God’s gracious presence.” Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

“...walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.” (I Thessalonians 2:12)

Picturing a place of divine presence gave me pause. Am I really behaving as I believe that I belong to God? Therefore, I ask myself, would I fill my physical home with garbage? So why would I allow garbage into my thinking about myself, others, and places. These definitions remind me to approach all I do and all mankind with a greater reverence.

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## The Saviour Here Today

“Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God’s own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick.” (*Science and Health*, p. 476)

This reminds me of a passage from “The Word Made Flesh” by Martha Wilcox: “So every morning, and many times a day, I declare, ‘The I or Ego or Mind, the Saviour that is present here, is aware of Himself, and this awareness of Himself is His idea, or image like Himself, and is His individual child as divine intelligence or myself, Himself, as idea, is myself.’”

This is so comforting to know that the Saviour that raised Simon's wife's mother, and the leper, is the same Saviour that is here today.

Thank you for this powerful lesson, as they always are.

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## The Word of God

"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." (I Thess. 2:13)

Matthew Henry's comment on this verse: "We should receive the word of God as the word of God, with affections suitable to the holiness, wisdom, verity and goodness, thereof. The words of men are frail and perishing, like themselves, and sometimes false, foolish, and fickle: but God's word is holy, wise, just, and faithful; and like its author, lives and abides forever. Let us accordingly receive and regard it."

"We should.... turn our gaze to the spiritual record of creation, to that which should be engraved [impressed deeply] on the understanding and heart 'with the point of a diamond' and the pen of an angel." (*Science and Health*, p. 521) This reminds me that we must have absolute conviction that God's word is the truth and that no suppositional power can stand before it.

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## Let Him Become a Fool

In the responsive reading in the lesson this week, 1 Corinthians 3:18 caught my attention. "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise." At first, this did not make sense. A fool by modern definition is "a silly or stupid person: a person who lacks judgement or sense". How could this lead to wisdom? In Proverbs, a fool is described as one who flaunts his folly: one who is reckless and careless. None of these lead to wisdom.

Looking deeper into the origin of the word "fool", I found that the Latin root, "follis" means "bellows or windbag" as used in a forge. Applied to a person it means "empty headed". This gave a whole new meaning of the word "fool". It brought clarity that those of us who seem "wise in the world" should in fact become fools. We need to empty ourselves of all worldly thoughts, to become "empty headed" so that we may then be filled with Spiritual wisdom. The Bible says in James 3:11 "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet *water* and bitter?" We can no more harbour both Spiritual wisdom and worldly wisdom than can the fountain spout both sweet and bitter water.

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Well said, thank you!

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## Hymn 206

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,  
1932 edition*

O God, our Father-Mother, Love,  
Purge Thou our hearts from sin,  
That in Thy radiancy divine  
We may with eyes undimmed define  
Thy will, reality.

O God, our Father-Mother, Truth,  
Send forth Thy light sublime,  
That in its pure and cleansing rays  
We may, with thought attuned to praise,  
Behold reality.

O God, our Father-Mother, Life,  
Reveal in us Thy might,  
That henceforth we may live to Thee,  
In all our ways reflecting Thee,  
And know reality.