

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 210

SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? — April 10th, 2022

Lo, A Mirage Has No Power

Guiding Text: “The humble Nazarene overthrew the supposition that sin, sickness, and death have power. He proved them powerless.”

Science and Health,” p. 228

Science and Health reveals to me that God, Spirit, is forever untouched by the human senses; that Spirit unfolds as immortality, externality, and infinity; and, that immortal Man is not subject to the universal belief of birth, sin, disease, decay, and death. (*S&H*, p.288; ch.10)

Why does Truth state that Spirit can not manifest as matter or in matter? Moreover, why are the material conditions of sin, sickness, suffering, decay, and death never considered to be more than appearance, supposition, or erroneous belief? It is easy to get tripped up on the answer to these questions because it is opposed to everything universal belief accepts as real.

Initially, then, the answer to the questions is hard to believe and seems too absolute. Catch the vision of the answer: So-called mortal mind and the human sense of things is a mirage, an illusion. This supreme vision, however, is brought to light only to the degree a disciple understands that the Principle of Life is God, the All-in-all sustaining Spirit. (*S&H*, ch.10)

That said, a mirage is but a hypnotic suggestion; it seems real but it is not. There isn't any truth to be found in a mirage since it is an illusion, a mesmeric suggestion. An illusion is not in the 'outer world' at all; it is a belief accepted in the mind (ibid).

Jesus of Nazareth demonstrated that the activity of the Christ Mind is unhindered by mortal belief and matter; he proved that sin, disease, and death were only imaginary pictures in thought. Jesus proved

that human existence is an error of perception in the mind by demonstrating that the ONE infinite Mind (the Christ Mind, His Mind) was conscious only of PERFECTION and IMMORTALITY. (Ibid)

Science and Health is teaching me that in Spiritual Reality the mirage state of awareness, plus every claim of disease or discord in it, cannot exist and cannot be believed to exist, since the claim is not real, is actually not there, definitely is not personal, and certainly is not a thing; it belongs, if I can catch the vision, to nobody, to nothing. A mirage has NO POWER and every seeming claim of sin, discord, disease, decay, and death in it, likewise is powerless. (Ibid; p.288)

Thy Kingdom is Come

What a powerful and clear lesson this week! Thank you Plainfield Independent! God's power is saving the world as we continue to work in our watches, study, and application of Christian Science. This week's lesson is a perfect instructional and affirmation of the absolute TRUTH of our existence; as Mrs. Eddy wrote: “The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God, — a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love.” Our “absolute faith that all things are possible to God”, is what has remedied all situations in our world today. God has already done it; He has already healed every living thing right at this moment. There is no disease, no war, no hatred, no division, no human mind arguing with itself. The “Throne of Grace” rules all with Love, Truth, and grandeur; and this is the reality of what is happening in our world today. Thank you to my beautiful Plainfield Practitioner for reminding me to “stay in the Kingdom because it is a beautiful place to be.” It is a beautiful place to be!

We do not need to even step our toe out of the Kingdom because God is already adjusting ALL in our world and bringing every prodigal home so that all may know Him and Love Him rightly, purely, and sublimely. Christian Science is the most powerful tonic to rectify all, “thy Kingdom is come” and not one hair on the head will be harmed of any innocent one who turns in Loving trust to our Father Mother God. “Peace be still”, all is God -Truth, Life, Love. Material existence is but a facsimile of Truth, Life, Love; even an inverted facsimile; a flimsy copy (or “mist”) without one fragment of the Truth; which is our Life in God. Error of every single kind is powerless and nothingness and it IS falling “at the feet of Divine Love.” (Mrs. Eddy)

We are not impressed, we are not bewitched, we are not even interested in arguing with error; we only proclaim “get thee hence, lie and liar, for God is in His throne and THY KINGDOM IS COME!”

Courage

I was feeling a sense of discouragement and began to work with Mrs. Eddy’s instruction in *Science and Health*, p. 417: “Never tell the sick that they have more courage than strength. Tell them rather, that their strength is in proportion to their courage.”

I decided to research the words: Courage, Encourage, and Discourage.

Encourage: to inspire with courage, to invite it in. “make strong, hearten,”

Courage: c. 1300, corage, “heart (as the seat of emotions),” hence “spirit, temperament, state or frame of mind,” “heart, innermost feelings;” Words for “heart” also commonly are metaphors for inner strength.

Discourage: to deprive or extinguish courage; to dishearten; deprive of confidence.

This study is helping me to find confidence and strength in that which comes from inviting in thoughts of Reality, Truth. And also to be mindful of animal magnetism (unreality), thoughts that work against the innermost heart in the attempt to extinguish it.

As I become more mindful of these ideas, I can feel the embrace of divine Love, and also the strength to discipline my thoughts accordingly.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us.” (I John 5:14)

Redemption

In this week’s lesson, there are two healings, one of sin Matthew 4:24 and one of disease Matthew 9:2. By reading *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy, she reveals how these healings are to be manifested. I feel, from my understanding, this statement would be appropriate: THE COMPLETE ABANDONMENT OF THE UNREAL SELF!

“And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.” (Matt. 9:2) In healing “dis-ease” of any kind, Jesus is healing the sinfulness of the belief of a self apart from God. Whether animal magnetism is presenting as a physicality or in another form, what is being healed is the sinfulness of a self other than God. He told the adulterous woman too to “go, and sin no more”. The image and likeness of God, the reflection of that God being, is the only real selfhood, the individuality we must know ourselves and all to be.

“...And My Prayer Unto the God of My Life”

Psalm 42: “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. ...and my prayer unto the God of my life.”

Mrs. Eddy writes on page 16 of *Science and Health*, “Our Master taught his disciples one brief prayer, which we name after him the Lord’s Prayer. Our Master said, ‘After this manner therefore pray ye,’ and then he gave that prayer which covers all human needs.” and on page 31, “It is the living Christ, the practical Truth, which makes Jesus ‘the

resurrection and the life' to all who follow him in deed."

What a tremendous blessing to have Mary Baker Eddy's teachings and writings, giving us the Science of the Christ, that we may also go into the closet in "prayer unto the God of my life" and see the manifold blessings in daily life, not only for ourselves, but for the world. Am I really grateful to the God of "my life", who is the source of all good, and desire Him above all else?

This lesson was full of many good reminders to keep our hearts burning for Our Father-Mother!

"...If We Ask Any Thing According to His Will, He Heareth Us"

This quote makes me think, right now, how many times I have prayed for something. While inside of me, I keep admitting that the error is real, that it is there. What I am praying about, I keep thinking it is "something," a thing. I keep granting it entity, well, not "me", but the animal magnetism through me. That is not "ask anything according to His Will," rather it is asking for something according to "my" mortal will, not God's. Consequently, it seems that He does not hear me, but in fact it is me who does not hear Him. Praying in this way lacks spiritual understanding, and of course it stops the power of prayer and the "false effect" remains visibly untouched in its cause. It is like a self-sabotage of prayer. Now, I see that this is particularly applicable to so-called chronic ills, which persist, falsely evidencing themselves in my consciousness. Now, when I pray about something, especially that which has not "yielded" to prayer, I ask myself, AM I REALLY CONVINCED that this is not real, that it is mental, and that all Cause is in God and therefore all effect, as well? Am I asking something truly according to His Will?

Thanks to the Christ for this understanding. And thanks to the writer for this inspired lesson and to Plainfield church. You are amazing! And I am very grateful for the beloved practitioners!

SUBJECT: Doctrine of Atonement — April 17th, 2022

In My Father's House

Golden Text: "I and *my* Father are one." (John 10:30)

I understand the Scientific Principle of Oneness is essentially this. The Christ State of Consciousness is the full realization of God as All-in-all: I Am Spirit and abide in ONENESS with Divine Love, Immortality, and Infinity.

I found that the quotations of this week's lesson, read together, illuminate this supreme point. Jesus of Nazareth never criticized, blamed, condemned or judged people who were living in ignorance of "I and *my* Father are one." (S&H, p. 26:12)

The Christ Man does not fault-find, see "evil" or battle discords since he is conscious of the Truth that I AM, you are, and everyone besides, is in reality "the image and likeness of God." What is more, He mirrors the Truth of "in Him [God] we live, and move, and have our being." (Acts 17:28)

Christ-ian Science, in full bloom, "sees" personal sense as a universal error. An error is not true! To the degree I have attained My Oneness with Spirit and Immortal Life, to that degree am I free of error and personal sense, free of feeling apart from God.

The Christ of Immortality and Infinity is an impersonal life, a life from which matter has been eliminated. God is Spirit, and Spirit is Immortal Life. That said, the Christ state of awareness is in At-one-ment with Spirit in the sense of "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine." (Luke 15:31)

The Principle of Oneness is already established within Me as Spirit and as My Substance, nevertheless it is foolish to assume my human personality subject to the belief in birth and death can be spiritual and immortal. Jesus the Christ tells me, I likewise can do as He does because I am the Christ too, BUT only once "I have overcome the world" of matter.

The wisdom of Divine Humility and Forgiveness, the chief characteristics of the Christ, require I

surrender the ever-present temptation to believe I am a woman of earth dominated by self-preservation and fear. I realize no one can live truly in At-one-ment with God and fear anything, since God is Good and the only Cause.

Jesus proved, in all ways, it was His Oneness with “the Father” that unfolded as Illimitable Good. All there was and still is of Jesus the Christ, after the resurrection, was Spirit: Intelligence, Love and Light, Immortality. The Christ Vision is purely spiritual. Mrs. Eddy informs me God is my spiritual substance even now. The extent to which I no longer “see,” hate, or fear personal sense and error is the measure of my At-one-ment with “the Father.”

AWARENESS OF ONENESS WITHIN SOUL IS AT-ONE-MENT.

John 14:10

“... the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” This quote from John (ch.14) reminds me that by my own self-will and human work, (it doesn’t matter how hard I work or try to bring about a healing) it is God that does the work. Prior religious teaching promoted the belief that by repeating certain prayers or words, we could gain or obtain whatever was it that we wanted or needed.

To be humbled to admit that we really can’t change or know what God’s Will for us is has been a challenge for me. To admit that God is not a punishing God, but a Good God, has also been a challenge. Particularly during this Easter season, the religious emphasis is on death and punishment, not on Jesus’ final triumph over death. I’m very grateful to Mrs. Eddy for showing us a different way to approach our Father/Mother God, not as sinful sinners but as rightful heirs with Christ. I’m very grateful for this Bible Lesson and for this Church.

Mock Divine Mercy

“Though error hides behind a lie and excuses guilt, error cannot forever be concealed. Truth, through her eternal laws, unveils error. Truth causes sin to betray itself, and sets upon error the mark of the beast. Even the disposition to excuse guilt or to conceal it is punished. The avoidance of justice and the denial of truth tend to perpetuate sin, invoke crime, jeopardize self-control, and mock divine mercy.” *Science and Health*, page 542

At our recent Bible study, the Jezebel thought was addressed. It was stated that it is important to be aware of how evil operates so that it may be detected and destroyed. The Thyatira church was rebuked for “putting up with” Jezebel allowing abominations to infiltrate the church with no earnest effort to rebuke and stop the tide of this evil influence. The members’ inner lives were not addressed and the underlying vice never named.

The above citation from *Science and Health* tells us not to excuse or hide sin which perpetuates it, invokes crime, jeopardizes self-control, and mocks (treats with contempt) God’s mercy. That is not the side I wish to be on. Mrs. Eddy’s God-given rule with her students was, “Excuses intolerable.” Justifying error is very dangerous and is “putting up with” it. True unselfed love for God and man would not excuse error. We should welcome all instruction that keeps us awake as to how evil operates.

“To justify: To defend or maintain.

Excuse: To allow or permit negatively, by not preventing; without restraint, prohibition or hindrance.”

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary

Mary Baker Eddy based Christian Science on the revelation of the Allness of God and the nothingness of disease, sin, and death. Her Scriptural authority is based on two statements of truth.

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1:3
“God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was very good.*” Genesis 1:31

The human creature is not under the Law of Spirit. He or she, unknowingly, is hypnotized by universal world beliefs. Hypnotic beliefs appear to the human creature in forms of good and bad or evil, including people. The great temptation is to give power to these hypnotic suggestions and become embroiled in them or align with them. The root cause of all suffering is the universal belief in human existence.

Thank you for starting this post and for your comments. The Jezebel spirit infiltrating churches can be very corrosive if not detected and confronted, or if it is justified. I attended two Christian Science churches where I could perceive this. One of them finally collapsed as a result of the infiltration of animal magnetism in its members. It affected the organization so much that it had to dissolve. Sins of pride, a very lax sexual morality, mixing the use of material medicine with prayer under the excuse of the need to make concessions to matter (there is a reason why Mrs. Eddy says there is no excuse for error), confusing substance with money and using Christian Science for the pursuit of material welfare as an end in itself, were some of the errors manifested. There is a divine reason why we have the book of Revelation in the Bible and its description of what can happen in the churches in all times. How good that it is being analyzed in the Bible Study. I find it very important that Plainfield is doing it. We must get the devils out of the queue and expose their procedures before we can say that evil is nothing. I thank God for the dedicated and brave work of Plainfield members.

Peace Be Unto You

Peace: Quiet; undisturbed; not agitated with passion, inner tranquility, state of wholeness and completeness.

In the Lesson this week, Jesus greeted his disciples with this phrase after his resurrection, "Peace be unto you." He repeated this three times.

I was struck by this love and compassion he had for his followers who thought he had died and did not understand until he appeared to them while they were hiding with doors shut tight. This is a word to be used carefully and with great thought. It is a very powerful word.

Hymn 263

*From The Christian Science Hymnal,
1932 edition*

Only God can bring us gladness,
Only God can give us peace;
Joys are vain that end in sadness,
Joy divine shall never cease.
Mid the shade of want and sorrow
Undisturbed, our hearts rejoice;
Patient, wait the brighter morrow;
Faithful, heed the Father's voice.

As the stars in order going,
All harmonious, He doth move;
Heavenly calm and comfort showing,
Comes the healing word of Love.
Who the word of wisdom heareth
Feels the Father Love within,
Where as dawn the shadow cleareth,
Love outshines the night of sin.

So we find the true atonement,
Know in God the perfect Friend;
For in Love is our at-one-ment,
Where all hearts in Him may blend.
Here from prisoning pain and sorrow
Have we all a sure release,
Only God can bring us gladness,
Only God can give us peace.