

# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 215

**SUBJECT: Sacrament — July 10th, 2022**

## **Sacrament: Oneness**

The Eucharist is spiritual communion with God, At-one-ment, Oneness. The bread “which cometh down from heaven” is the Truth of Immortal Life; and “the word” is the revelation of that in Soul. The cup is the cross carried while overcoming all error and all personal sense. The wine is the inspiration of Divine Love, which to human sense is harmony, peace, joy, and purity. (*Science and Health*, p. 35: 25-29)

Jesus of Nazareth demonstrated, as a living exemplar of the Principle of Oneness, his actions, words and thought-ideas were entirely guided by Deity, without the least remnant of personal sense or any motive of error in Him.

Sacrament is taken as an “experience” of complete Oneness with Spirit. An “ordained” Man or Woman embody “the signs and seals” of the Covenant of Grace, the Christ. (see John 1:17)

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Grace**

Sacrament is a blessing and grace which elevates the understanding and harmony of being. “Jesus took bread [truth], and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.” Matthew 26:26

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Renew a Right Spirit Within Me**

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)

“I am a little girl eight years old, and I want to tell you what I have done for God. ... One day my brother Stuart and I were playing, and he took

something of mine to look at and I began to whine, and mamma heard me and asked me not to do it—to try to demonstrate over it. She had asked me two or three times before, and I didn’t seem to do it, but I did this time, because I thought it wasn’t nice to fret and bother mamma, and I began treating myself. I said, ‘Error, you don’t exist, and you can’t make me whine and fret, for God governs me.’ And mamma says that she hasn’t heard me whine and fret since. I am so glad that our dear Mother, Mrs. Eddy, is so good and kind to give us this beautiful Truth, that helps us to manifest God—Good.”

(Testimony from *The Christian Science Sentinel*, Dec. 1, 1898, by Adelaide Chase, Boston, Mass)

I thought the little girl’s testimony fit so well with the assigned reading from the Roundtable, “No Big Power Veto – 1948 Association Address” by Herbert E. Rieke, in which is the following excerpt:

“... so our Maker has given us an accurate gauge to measure our oil of gladness. This gauge is your countenance. If you want to know exactly how much oil you have in consciousness just take a look at yourself in a mirror. Do you find a radiant, happy smile? Then you can be sure your oil is O.K. But if you find a frown of disappointment, some sadness or self-pity, if there is resentment or anger expressed, you had better do something about it, and immediately.”

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Sacrifices of God Are a Broken Spirit**

One definition of sacrifice in the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary is “To devote with loss.” Devotion in part is defined as “to direct the attention wholly or chiefly.”

Golden Text, Proverbs 15:8 reads, “The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight.”

It seems the “sacrifice of the wicked” would be devotion to the human mind and its desires, and the loss would be our understanding of, and connection with, God.

“For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” Responsive Reading (Psalm 51:16, 17)

The preamble to Psalm 51 is “To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.” This was written after David directed his attention wholly on Bathsheba, committing adultery and murder in the process, and seemingly lost his ability to think or see rightly until Nathan’s inspired intervening broke through the mesmerism holding David.

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit” brings to mind a wild horse that has been tamed — which I’ve also heard called “being broken” — so that it can be useful. God made all things good and useful, and to whatever degree anyone resists their God-given usefulness, that is the degree their “spirit,” or more appropriately, “will,” needs to be broken.

Being here in Plainfield, and learning to live Christian Science, has certainly brought on that process of having my ego / pride / will broken. No part of that is hidden to newcomers, and there should be no doubt it will happen, just as there is no doubt that every bit we are free of wrong thinking and human will is that much closer we are to God and our true self.

Later in Proverbs 15:31-33, it says “The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding. The fear of the LORD *is* the instruction of wisdom; and before honour *is* humility.”

I am so grateful for all I am learning here in Plainfield. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

Oneness develops and unfolds.

Jesus of Nazareth says, “Leave your nets and follow me,” the Spirit, ME. Leave your nets? An enormous call!

Jesus, during three years, showed the disciples the Christ Way (Science). He did not break up families; he did not condemn unsavoury people; he did not prescribe medical treatments. Jesus showed humanity how to live as the Christ, how to live with complete reliance upon the two commandments.

Sacrifice is a spiritual process. The sacrifice of leaving all nets is a necessary spiritual step that opens the door to the activity or action of the Soul.

The Sermon on the Mount offers a practical way to overcome personal sense, without self - condemnation, guilt, self-loathing, or personal responsibility. Seen from the standpoint of the Sermon, “this world” of appearance fades out as an illusion. Divine Love is the Spirit of the Sermon and has no personal sense in it.

The act of sacrificing the personal sense of life for the Divine Life is sheer Joy to the awakened man and woman because he or she has touched the Invisible Presence and glimpsed the spiritual universe of God’s creating. “Come, I (not you) will make you fishers of men.” That is the life by Grace, the Christ.

By Grace, personal responsibility, personal glory, personal sense, and personality drop away since to Christ Awareness mortal sense is not a reality, not a law, not an evil, not wicked. Grace reveals as ACTUAL that ALL so-called erring mortal men and women – “the just and the unjust” – are in reality the Christ, the “image” of God.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Romans 12 is Christian Science**

In one of Mrs. Eddy’s Bibles, she wrote beside Romans 12: “Romans 12 is Christian Science.”

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT: Life— July 17th, 2022**

### **Immortal Life: Christ Science**

Eden represents Immortality and our place in it has to be “discovered” in our awareness.

Eternal Life, as an actual uninterrupted state of awareness, is an attitude and altitude beyond human understanding. Immortal Life has a foundational substance: Spiritual Wisdom, Truth.

A caterpillar, protected inside a chrysalis, waits, in silence, to be “reborn” as a butterfly. All caterpillars rise out of the worm stage of existence into butterfly reality.

Christ Science asks us to relinquish “this world” and all things and people in it as we now experience them – the just and the unjust, the good and the evil – and be “reborn” of the Spirit. Where now is the caterpillar that struggled to survive in a good and evil worm world? What happened to its life? The source of all Life is Spirit and its indispensable quality is Divine Love. The caterpillar, the pupa and the butterfly always remain connected with Spirit, Deity. They never met death, only are “reborn” of the Spirit and appear in a different form or image.

God, Spirit, is the Source and the Substance of Immortal Life. Spirit is Immortal Life! God, Soul, Spirit, is invisible to human sight; it is beyond the confines of matter-body, time, space, and relativity, thus beyond human comprehension.

Still, once the wonder, the joy, and the passion to know God aright take hold, we are led, sometimes quickly, most often slowly, to the Great Revelation of Soul. “I AM Spirit and I AM Immortal.” In Soul Awareness or Christ Consciousness all of the afflictions of “this

world” of birth, decay, disease and death in any form vanish, forever.

This post’s substance is from “*Science and Health* 1875,” Ch 1: Natural Science.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **This Week’s Lesson – LIFE**

The great Melchisedec is mentioned in this week’s inspiring Lesson Sermon. You may have asked, ‘who is Melchisedec’? May I point you to what Martha Wilcox wrote on Melchizedek in her book ‘Addresses by Martha Wilcox’, on p. 345.

(Note: in the KJV, Old Testament his name is spelled Melchizedek and in the New Testament it is spelled Melchisedec).

Thank you, to the Lesson Writer

\*\*\*\*\*

Melchizedek is historically connected with Immortal Life in Scripture. Who Melchizedek was is not made clear yet, symbolically and biblically, he personifies Soul Consciousness, today spoken of as Christ Consciousness or Christian Science.

Melchizedek symbolizes man’s True Identity or Divine Self. Abraham is connected in Spirit with Melchizedek through his consecration to Truth; he is referred to as a high priest of the Order of Melchizedek; he pays homage and surrenders to Melchizedek, the Spirit of God within.

History espouses that the High Ideal of Divine Perfection is first mentioned in the spiritual encounter of Melchizedek and Abraham. Later, the Divine Ideal came to fruition in the awareness of a woman, Mary, as the Christ child, Jesus of Nazareth.

Melchizedek symbolizes the indwelling Divine Consciousness latent in every Soul. In this sense, Melchizedek, first mentioned in Genesis, without birth or death, genealogy or a matter-body, glorifies the human race’s heredity and destiny, the Divine or the Christ State of Being.

Jesus repeatedly tells his disciples that he is the Christ Consciousness, not a physical body.

Note: “The term CHRISTIAN SCIENCE was introduced by the author [Mary Baker Eddy] to designate the scientific system of divine healing.” *Science and Health*, p.123:16-18

\*\*\*\*\*

## Life in God

“In the way of righteousness *is* life; and *in* the pathway *thereof there is* no death.” Prov. 12:28  
“O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.” Psalm 36:10

“The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.”  
Psalm 92:12

Righteousness: Purity of heart and rectitude of life; conformity of heart and life to the divine law. righteousness as used in Scripture and theology, in which it is chiefly used, is nearly equivalent to holiness, comprehending holy principles and affections of heart, and conformity of life to the divine law. It includes all we call justice, honesty and virtue, with holy affections; in short, it is true religion.  
1828 Webster’s Dictionary

It is wonderful to contemplate our Life in God through Christ Jesus when we live in righteousness.

\*\*\*\*\*

## “Your Life is Hid with Christ in God.”

I had wondered about this statement for a while, but when I read it this week, I thought of my practitioner saying that certain books — such as “Mary Baker Eddy, Her Spiritual Precepts”, by Gilbert Carpenter — mean nothing unless you are actively using your Science.

It has me thinking about all that was hidden to me before coming here. Much (most?) of the beauty of God’s creation was lost on me, bringing to thought “Having eyes, see ye not?” (Mark 8:18)

Finding I can trust God always, and knowing now that His inspiration and abundance are coming to me, and all, constantly, and the sense of place and purpose I now have, were what I longed for in the first decades of my life.

I now feel at least one way to read the Golden Text is: If you feel lost, or feel like you are waiting for something, or feel like you are living someone else’s life — “Your life is hid with Christ in God.” This also brings me a new understanding of “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33) Our true life is literally in God and cannot be seen, lived, or experienced without Christ destroying that “incarnate error” which is hiding it.

“CHRIST. The divine manifestation of God, which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error.” *Science and Health*, p.583

Thank you very much for this lesson, and all that is being taught here.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Thou Shalt Forget Thy Misery

“Because thou shalt forget *thy* misery, and remember *it* as waters *that* pass away.” Job 11:16

The following citations came to mind today when I was thinking about the above quote from our Bible lesson this week. Nothing can feel more life “draining” than focusing on bad memories. I love the promise, that as we work to live and understand this Science, this practical Truth will wash away any haunting memories and we will “remember it as waters that pass away.”

“Quiet the material senses one after another, and withdraw to the ‘secret place of the Most High,’ and after you have shut out the material clamoring, you can hear the still, small voice. The Bible tells you, ‘The battle is not yours, but the Lord’s.’ Meet every problem that comes up as its master, knowing that ‘that which hath been is now, and that which is to be hath already been, and God requireth that which is past.’ This

implies that nothing which is not good can remain permanently in consciousness.”

*Watches, Prayers, and Arguments* by Gilbert Carpenter, page 83

“RIVER. Channel of thought.

When smooth and unobstructed, it typifies the course of Truth; but muddy, foaming, and dashing, it is a type of error.” (*S&H*, p. 593)

“The way to extract error from mortal mind is to pour in truth through flood-tides of Love. Christian perfection is won on no other basis.” (*S&H*, p. 201)

Yes, as one grows...older? when one acquires more human experience, past memories can flow into one’s consciousness, and many of them tend to be disturbing in a lesser or greater way. Especially when you try to sleep, or in early morning. I try to realize that all the negatives and horrors of personal and collective history are not part of the infinitude of Mind. They may have had their place in the evolution of the human, mortal mind out of itself. The sinless joy, the perfect harmony and immortality of Life, Truth, of the divine Mind, and Soul, constitutes the only veritable man, whose being is spiritual. Those flood-tides of Love only can do it, and will. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Solar Year or Soul-Filled Years?**

“The measurement of life by solar years robs youth and gives ugliness to age. The radiant sun of virtue and truth coexists with being. Manhood is its eternal noon, undimmed by a declining sun. As the physical and material, the transient sense of beauty fades, the radiance of Spirit should dawn upon the enraptured sense with bright and imperishable glories.

Never record ages. Chronological data are no part of the vast forever. Time-tables of birth and death are so many conspiracies against manhood and womanhood. Except for the error of measuring and limiting all that is good and beautiful, man would enjoy more than threescore years and ten

and still maintain his vigor, freshness, and promise. Man, governed by immortal Mind, is always beautiful and grand. Each succeeding year unfolds wisdom, beauty, and holiness.” (*Science and Health*, p. 246)

In thinking about this passage in the lesson this week, the term “solar year” stood out to me. So just what is a “solar year”? The time it takes for a rock we name earth to make one full trip around a ball of gas we have named the sun, and this is supposedly what determines how much of life we have and to what degree we have it? It determines, supposedly, the degree of beauty, strength, promise and longevity, our opportunities for success or our failures. Then, I became so grateful that because of Christian Science we can turn this whole incorrect measurement of life on its head and realize that our life, the one Life, is not measured by solar years.

In *S&H*, p. 598, Mrs. Eddy gives a definition of year...“YEAR. ...One day is with the Lord as a thousand years.” (II Peter iii. 8.)

One moment of divine consciousness, or the spiritual understanding of Life and Love, is a foretaste of eternity. This exalted view, obtained and retained when the Science of being is understood, would bridge over with life discerned spiritually the interval of death, and man would be in the full consciousness of his immortality and eternal harmony, where sin, sickness, and death are unknown. Time is a mortal thought, the divisor of which is the solar year. Eternity is God’s measurement of Soul-filled years.”

Thank you, Lesson Writer, for this beautiful lesson on Life.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SUBJECT: Truth —July 24th, 2022**

### **Veracity**

The definition of truth in 1828 Webster’s Dictionary is purity from falsehood.

Mrs. Eddy says “The spirit of Truth leads into all



truth, and enables man to discern between the real and the unreal.” *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 49

\*\*\*\*\*

## Be Awake in Spirit, in Truth

“The hour cometh, and NOW is,” for in Truth there is no past, present and future, no birth and death, no seeming mortal mind paying lip service to error, sin and evil. What is more, there is no personality “me,” the cause of human life. Now is the hour to “put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” (Ephesians 4:24)

“It is only when the so-called pleasures and pains of sense [that is, personal sense “me,” “I”] pass away in our lives, that we find unquestionable signs of the burial of error and the resurrection to spiritual life.” (*S&H*, p. 232: 27-31).

The “me” who is living in mortal mind lives in bondage to it, since Spirit has no bondage or freedom. There can be no renunciation of mortal mind, as long as human reasoning accepts it to be true.

Jesus explained his Soul Self as Spirit. He never discussed his body, only the omnipresent Spirit within. The Father or Spirit is the primary substance and essence of the Christ, “the truth and the life.”

The Scientific Statement of Being reveals TWO significant facts: “Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error.” (*S&H*, p. 468:8-15)

By taking a long, sustained, thorough and meditative look at the Statement of Being, over many months, even years, the notion of mortal mind as a real thing disappears, and when mortal mind goes, there remains only Spirit.

While mortal men and women are asleep and dreaming of worldly things, the Saints are awake in Spirit, and are able to look at “this world” smiling as if it were a motion picture.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Proper Way To seek The Truth

In the last paragraph in Rev. Kratzer’s article “Hindrances to Healing” from the book *Dominion Within*, he reminds us about the true motive in seeking truth, “So if we seek the truth, not because we are looking for what it will bestow, but because we really love it for its own sake and are anxious to spend time and money in acquiring it and serving it, then its riches speedily become our possession. The proper way to seek the truth may be expressed in the following paraphrase: I take thee for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; in prosperity and adversity; to love and to cherish, to have and to hold forever; and upon thee I bestow all my worldly goods. Truth, thus sought, will not long withhold her blessings.”

Whenever I feel a need to remind myself that I am not seeking the truth for the purpose of healing some physical problem but for truth’s sake, I find this paragraph helpful.

What wonderful instruction we gain from our beautiful and inspired weekly Sunday lessons. Thank you so much lesson writers for your prayerful dedication to this important job. Mrs. Eddy refers to the Sunday lesson sermons in the Church Manual “a lesson on which the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends.”

\*\*\*\*\*

## Unimproved Opportunities

“To fall away from Truth in times of persecution, shows that we never understood Truth. ... Unimproved opportunities will rebuke us when we attempt to claim the benefits of an experience we have not made our own, try to reap the harvest we have not sown...” (*Science and Health*, p. 238)

One of our recent assignments given at the Roundtable was to read about the parable of the ten virgins in *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 341 in the article titled, “Fidelity.”

I found in a Bible commentary on falling away from God a reminder to have a proper preparation

of the heart, something Mary Baker Eddy also addresses. The writer said, “No one who was dominated with thoughts of the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord would turn their back on the Lord.” He also wrote of the importance of a strong commitment to God so that when temptation came it would give you strength. It has been recommended here at Plainfield to have a covenant with God and check it often.

“Be active, and, however slow, thy success is sure.” *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 340

\*\*\*\*\*

## Adamant

“In patient obedience to a patient God, let us labor to dissolve with the universal solvent of Love the adamant of error, — self-will, self-justification, and self-love, — which wars against spirituality and is the law of sin and death.”  
(*Science and Health*, p. 242:15)

When I was new here, I equated self-love to someone who is narcissistic about their own physical beauty. Since then I have begun to realize it is also about those who admire their own thinking and opinions and desires and feel their way is best.

Adamant: A very hard or impenetrable stone (1828 Webster’s Dictionary)  
Being so set in our own beliefs that we will not even hear the inspired Word, despite any plea to “Come now, and let us reason together” (Isaiah 1:18) reminds me now of Nabal’s refusal to meet David’s need and how “his heart died within him, and he became *as* a stone.” (I Samuel 25:37)

These following verses in Zechariah 7:11, 12, illustrate the warning signs of a hardening heart: “But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts *as* an adamant stone,”

When Truth calls me close, do I refuse? When Love embraces me, do I pull away? When divine Mind speaks, are my thoughts so filled with

mortal mind’s nonsense that I cannot hear? When I experience a Christian Science healing, do I act like it would have happened anyway and thus decide not to give gratitude? When God gives me a task to do or a need to meet, do I fail to be His expression and reflection? If I am getting like this, then I better feel the danger!

I am so grateful to learn here “If you believe in and practise wrong knowingly, you can at once change your course and do right.” (*S&H*, p. 253) I thank God for Christian Science, this Church, and all that is offered here, including each week’s lesson, which progressively gives us all we need to be what God made us to be. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chemicalization/Fermentation: The Leaven of Truth Annihilating Error

“In moral chemicalization, when the symptoms of evil, illusion, are aggravated, we may think in our ignorance that the Lord hath wrought an evil; but we ought to know that God’s law uncovers so-called sin and its effects, only that Truth may annihilate all sense of evil and all power to sin.”  
(*Science and Health*, p. 540: 11-16)  
“Annihilate” – “To reduce to nothing; to destroy the existence of; to destroy the form or peculiar distinctive properties, so that the specific thing no longer exists” (1828 Webster’s Dictionary).

“Chemicalization . . . has a beneficial effect, and in this way good may result from the fermentation which is going on in the world to-day” (“World Fermentation,” George Shaw Cook, *Christian Science Sentinel*, 5/4/1918).

“God is indeed working His purpose out; the very nature of Truth is to uncover and destroy a lie. Many muddy river beds of selfishness, of dominating human will, of belief in and love of materiality, of satisfied human intellectuality, are needing the wholesome stirring and challenge of Truth before a better order in human affairs can be ushered in. The task of the Christian Scientist during this period of chemicalization is to nothingize, and not to balloon, error as it is

brought to the surface” (“God is working His purpose out,” John Randall Dunn, *Christian Science Sentinel*, 4/10/1948).

How can one be grateful enough for our Leader’s teachings that make clear the truth about the disruptions that seem to be occurring throughout our world today? Thanks to the truths explained by Mrs. Eddy through Christian Science, we can confidently know that only a wholly good “cleansing upheaval” is going on, as a “better order in human affairs” is being ushered in, towards the true and ultimate freedom of all mankind: “Ages pass, but this leaven of Truth is ever at work. It must destroy the entire mass of error, and so be eternally glorified in man’s spiritual freedom.” (*S&H*, p.118:10-12)

\*\*\*\*\*

## True Worship

John 4:23 “...true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:”

I had a concern that made me ask myself if I was really praying and worshipping in spirit and in truth. This is what I have discerned up to this point: Spirit is God; active present, strong and all power, so being His reflection I can come to Him with these qualities in prayer. I have read somewhere that praying in spirit is praying with all your heart... so I think about my sincerity and love. Praying in truth comes to me as all the Truth being God and all truth is the word of God. What is a truth I know today I ask. God doing all, being all for everyone, calm, patience, the kingdom within... and so I continue to work on worshipping our loving Father/Mother in spirit and in truth.

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Scientific Statement of Being

Fully realizing the Scientific Statement of Being is the goal of spiritual life. The statement is the truth of life and Mrs. Eddy asks seekers to remain faithful to it until it unfolds in soul.

The statement of being is incomprehensible to human reasoning yet its substance is the reality of life. Therein lies the challenge. Through spiritual discrimination, the true inner meaning of the statement of being springs forth in awareness until identity as spirit is experienced as the reality. Living in and with the statement, as a daily practice and discipline, frees the mind of its belief in error. What are the implications of the scientific statement of being? What else is there to think of, day and night? *Science and Health* devotes 700 pages to completely explaining it.

The Scientific Statement of Being:

“There is no life, truth, intelligence, nor substance in matter.

All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation, for God is All-in-all.

Spirit is immortal Truth; matter is mortal error.

Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal.

Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness.

Therefore man is not material; he is spiritual [Spirit].” (*Science and Health*, page 468)

\*\*\*\*\*

## SUBJECT: Love — July 31st, 2022

### The Love of Christ

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

Oh, may I always remember that at all times and under all circumstances “Everpresent Love is the very nearest thing to me at all times. It is the nature of God to bless and care for me. I never reach out for Him in vain.” (Mary Baker Eddy)

Thank you for this beautiful lesson.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Wednesday's Testimony Meetings

I am so thankful to hear people talk about how they use Christian Science in everyday situations and predicaments. I find this so helpful. The testimonies are such a great learning resource. I often have difficulty in discerning God's direction for me as opposed to my own human will. In his testimony, the way Jeremy described his experience listening to God was extremely helpful. He explained how you can tell it's God's voice and God directed by "a peaceful, confident feeling that accompanies it".

I am so grateful for all I am learning!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Affliction Rightly Understood – Better To Love Than To Be Loved

Excerpts from an article entitled "Loving to Live" by Grace Bemis Curtis, C.S.B., under the section "Arguing for Love," that have greatly helped me through a very similar experience recently:

"An acquaintance of mine did something that was very wrong, very unkind, very unjust. I was pretty upset about it. All day long I struggled between my desire to be indignant and resentful, and my honest desire to learn to love. My mental argument went something like this.

- Hate said to me, 'You ought to go to that woman and tell her how wrong she is. She doesn't seem to realize it.'
- Spiritual honesty said, 'You're just as wrong as she.'
- 'Oh no,' said self-righteousness. 'No, I'm not. Look what she did.'
- 'Yes,' said honesty, 'and look what you're thinking. You profess to be a Christian Scientist and, as such, you know it's your duty and privilege to love that woman.'
- 'Well,' said self-will, 'I don't want to love her. I don't like her. She's a trouble-maker.'
- 'Ah,' said honesty, 'but you must get rid of that hateful thought.'
- Then self-pity had a try. 'Why should I have to do it, when she's the one who's wrong?'

• 'But,' whispered integrity, 'you're the one who is indulging self-righteousness, self-pity, and hatred. You must correct that.'

• So very reluctantly I thought, 'All right, I'll correct my thinking, if I have to, but it's getting late. I'll do it tomorrow.'

• 'Yes,' urged procrastination, 'you may feel more like doing it tomorrow.'

• 'Do it now,' said spiritual wisdom, and finally wisdom won.

... sometimes it takes a lot of mental struggle to be honest with yourself – I sincerely prayed, 'God, show me what divine Love is and teach me to love.' . . . the temptation of hate is always to fight out the problem with the other fellow. The need of love is to fight it out with ourselves and to love, even when we don't want to. This is how we learn the joy of loving, learn how much better it is to love than to be loved."

Mrs. Eddy's explanation found in her article entitled "Love Your Enemies" sheds light on just such experiences – "'Blessed are ye,' insomuch as the consciousness of good, grace, and peace comes through affliction rightly understood, as sanctified by the purification it brings to the flesh, – to pride, self-ignorance, self-will, self-love, self-justification. Sweet, indeed, are these uses of His rod!" (*Misc.*, p. 8:29-5)

Such a huge debt of gratitude is due to our dear Leader, whose teachings give us the tools we need to meet such adversity, overcome the aggressive mental suggestions of mortal mind, learn our lessons, and regain our peace. "Love is the royal way!" (Hymn 179)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Divine Love

"... know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." (Ephesians 3:19)

"As we cease to live in the material sense, we do shut the door upon it." (*Blue Book*, p.180) The approach of shutting the door forever is set out

clearly by Jesus of Galilee.

But, there is a stumbling block. Divine Love is beyond human comprehension and knowledge thus cannot be defined by words or terms conveying five sense feelings or emotions. Divine Love has no sense of good and evil in it. It is devoid of ALL of the human mind's beliefs in material existence, devoid of hypnotism. Still, Divine Love can be known by aligning with the consciousness of the Saints. Freely they give from their Christ Consciousness to those drawn to IT.

Jesus taught Divine Love was the only Principle of Life. The Christ aspirant, then, aspires to live in at-one-ment with the Principle of Divine Love through the Two Commandments.

The Master Teacher's instructions are clear. Align with God by aligning with Divine Love. And, "the way" to do this is to understand and demonstrate the Two Commandments so as to remove all sense of separateness in the mind. This is the Christ Way!

Every disciple at a certain stage in the consecrated practice of the Two Commandments recognizes when thoughts, words and actions are governed by the mind's false beliefs instead of Divine Love. It becomes unmistakable. Loving neighbour is unavoidable while loving Spirit with all thy Heart, since in Soul there is only ever Oneness with All.

The Two Commandments, fully lived, purify the mind until Divine Love or Christ Consciousness flows out from Soul on the wings of humility and benevolence.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Let The Kingdom of Heaven — Reign Within Us**

"Let unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love — the kingdom of heaven — reign within us, and sin, disease, and death will diminish until they finally disappear."  
*Science and Health*, p. 248:29

This citation has been given to me by my practitioner to work with and has been mentioned during Roundtables. I took time to work with it this week and particularly the word justice. Justice: "fair, impartial, right action, conformity to God's law." 1828 Webster's Dictionary

While looking up words I saw an article about holding onto grudges — perceived injustices from the past. It was so clear how this thinking blocks all the qualities in the above citation by choosing to identify with being "a person who was wronged, wounded and stuck in justifying one's anger" which would appear to cut you off from God. There is no such thing as just a little grudge; no place or time for this toxic thinking. The above qualities, "unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love" would fill our time and thoughts with "the kingdom of heaven" thereby casting out and washing away any false sense replacing it with God's universe and creation.

What a blessing to have this practical Science to lift us out of a wrong sense of ourselves and others into purer love, thoughts, and actions.

\*\*\*\*\*