

December 3rd and December 10th, 2007. Subjects: God the Only Cause and Creator and God the Preserver of Man.

Dear Friends: Mary Baker Eddy gave her students 26 subjects for weekly Bible Lessons, to be covered twice yearly. Flowing through the year in her order of the subjects, we hereby present fresh views of each one by outstanding Christian Scientists. In this way, we hope to partake with you of new unfoldments of her infinite revelation.

Our selections for both weeks are from: MARY BAKER EDDY – GOD’S GREAT SCIENTIST Vol. 1 – by Helen M. Wright.

WHAT IT’S ALL ABOUT: TRANSLATION OF MATTER

Kathleen: Through the past ages we have been wrongly taught that every idea must be given a materially substantial form if it is not to remain in the realm of wishful thinking. Through this misconception we inadvertently put the crystallized idea beyond our mental control. We must see that we live in a spiritually mental universe, and therefore this translating of Mind’s ideas into matter is pure illusion; it is the very thing that has enslaved humanity, so that man has become “the most absolutely weak and inharmonious creature in the universe.”

On the other hand, “ ‘The new tongue’ is the spiritual meaning as opposed to the material. It is the language of Soul instead of the senses; it translates matter into its original language, which is Mind, and gives the spiritual instead of the material signification” (Hea. 7:5).

Mrs. Eddy says that with understanding “mortal mind disappears, and man as God’s image appears. Science so reverses the evidence before the corporeal human senses ... that God and His idea [become] to us what divinity really is and must of necessity be,— all-inclusive” (1910 ed. 116:4).

In connection with reflection, remember we are learning about our right and true Mind and what it reflects. It is good to recall at this point that:

In the order of Science, in which the Principle is above what it reflects, all is one grand concord. (1910 ed. 240:10).

LEARNING TO RECKON OURSELVES SOUL

Bessie: Could we once more briefly review what it is that does the reflecting, the contemplating?

Danny: It is God, the Mind of man (1910 ed. 319:20; 470:17), your true and real Mind, whereby “you possess sovereign power.” Mortal mind is not in

harmony with reality; it is pure illusion, nothingness. Physical conditions are nothing other than images in mortal mind that show forth the unreal concepts of this false sense of Mind. Divine Mind produces Mind only, scientifically spiritual concepts, not material objects.

Moderator: Rocky, I see you have a question.

Rocky: Mrs. Eddy says on page 41 that Jesus “reckoned himself...Soul...understanding himself Soul instead of body, and that Soul was God...” I understand she used Soul as a term for God more than 580 times in this first edition. It is not clear to me why Soul is such a favorite synonym in her first Science and Health.

Abraham: Soul is that great factor in being that bestows unchanging identity on everything Mind creates, and which Spirit understands to be the only reality. Mrs. Eddy had discovered humanity’s true identity and in this first edition she makes it unmistakably plain what that identity is, what reality is.

Soul watches to see that nothing Mind creates can ever lose its nature of perfection. Soul is infinite withinness, the divine Ego. It is spiritual understanding. Soul is characterized by “the seed within itself” that is never without its representative. Again, Soul is that great factor in Life that makes everything definite. Soul has infinite capacity to keep everything intact, untouched by illusions; it has infinite resources with which to bless mankind. Soul is characterized by joy, safety, serenity, freedom. We also learn that Soul rebukes, reverses error, reforms, resurrects, and restores, leading from sense to Soul.

Moderator: Thank you, Abraham.

GOD, OUR MIND, THE PRODUCER OF MAN

In the next reference note how consistently Science teaches like produces like. The one Mind, the only Mind cannot produce its opposite, matter; therefore matter, per se, is an illusion.

P. 13:7: Mind, the basis of all things, cannot cross its species, and produce matter. But in order to classify mind that is real, from belief or the unreal, we name one mind, and the other matter...which is not mind but illusion.

A *Journal* article pointed out that:

Mrs. Eddy as God’s interpreter, has heralded the power of omnipotent Mind. She has listened to the voice of Spirit that leads into all Truth, that introduces into the sanctuary of Soul. Let us...face the claims of

carnal sense, which Truth uncovers as the serpent, Satan—the lie which has deceived the whole world, with its testimony of Life, Substance and Intelligence in matter—and, knowing its illusion, destroy its seeming (CSJ Vol. VIII, No. 4).

Francy: In the *Science and Health* reference just read she is teaching us that mind is primal.

In this first edition Mrs. Eddy did not capitalize mind as a term for God, as she later did. This is most significant. It is clear that what she is talking about here is the true mind—not its opposite, the carnal or mortal mind, which is “nothing, claiming to be something.”

Elsie: Is she talking about our Mind?

Abraham: Certainly. There is only one Mind, so it has to be our Mind. There is only one “I” or “Us.” Mind, being one, “including noumenon and phenomena,” is “its own great cause and effect” (Mis. 173:12), and contains no mortal opinions. When the structure of our consciousness, our mind, is one with reality, then we will find it to be “the first and only cause of all that really is.”

Remember her statements: “man has no Mind but God” and “God, the Mind of man, never sins” (1910 ed. 319:28; 470:17). This means the absurd and illegitimate argument that man is flesh, blood and bones, organized matter, that can become sinful, sick, and die, must be met and vanquished.

Florence: When we remember the Mind that never sins is our Mind, we realize why she could command: “Christian Scientists, be a law unto yourselves. . . .” (1910 ed. 442:30), a command which also appears in the first edition.

Tommy: Yes, exactly. With these statements she is teaching us the radical truth that the one Mind is the Mind we now have. It is the only “I”, or “Us.” But “*opinions and beliefs regarding God and man ... are the foundation of all error.*”

It is crucial for us to accept that this Mind is “*individual Mind,*” as Mrs. Eddy writes:

This one Mind and His individuality comprise the elements of all forms and individualities, and prophesy the nature and stature of Christ, the ideal man. (Mis. 101:31).

Anna: At this point consider her teaching: “Human beings are physically mortal, but spiritually immortal” (Un. 37:17).

Bill: In our 1910 edition she tells us, “Science shows ... matter is but the subjective state of... mortal mind.” (p. 114:29). Mrs. Eddy had learned that all real being is in God, the divine Mind, and that the opposite of this great Truth which is called error, sin, sickness, inharmony, death, is but “the false testimony of false material sense, of mind in matter; that this false sense evolves, in belief, a subjective state of mortal mind which this same so-called mind names matter, thereby shutting out the true sense of Spirit” (1910 ed. 108:25).

Isn't she here saying the true sense of Spirit is one with Mind which is the only cause, and that we have only to deal with the mental element, and never with mind and matter? Every effect can be traced to a mental cause. “From first to last,” she explains, the material body is nothing more than “a sensuous human concept” (1910 ed. 177:13). It is a construction of the carnal mind “which is enmity against God.” This false concept must be exchanged for bodiless bliss, i.e., it must be seen as idea, as “an image in Mind.” In arithmetic $2 \times 2 = 5$ is, with understanding, exchanged for $2 \times 2 = 4$. The error was never a reality

Margie: Knowledge coming from the five physical senses would convince humanity that cause and effect exist in matter. This seems true only from a false, a material, point of view. What we are looking at is always the divine, God's expression, which becomes evident when we look from the right spiritually scientific standpoint. Jesus and Mary Baker Eddy “beheld in Science the perfect man who appeared to [them] where sinning mortal man appears to mortals” (ibid. 476:32). The objects of sense, when correctly understood, are really ideas of Soul. “There are not two groups of creation,” Mrs. Eddy told Martha Wilcox (DCC p. 200). Jacob proved this when he beheld Esau, his supposed enemy, and could say: “I have seen thy face (thy identity) as though I had seen the face of God.” This correct seeing healed the breach.

Francy: Love is basic to the healing work. If there is only one Mind, then our neighbor is ourself, and this is what Jesus was bringing out when he said, “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” Thy neighbor is thyself, since “the Christian Scientist is alone with his own being and with the reality of things” ('01. 20:8).

Rocky: From daily experience we know that mind or consciousness always comes first. Without consciousness, mind, nothing exists. Matter and evil only seem to exist through the activity of supposititious mortal mind.

Moderator: Kathleen, you have a question?

PHILOSOPHERS OMIT DEMONSTRATION

Kathleen: Yes, what was the difference between the Science Mrs. Eddy taught and the popular philosophy of the day?

Anna: The world-renowned philosophers were content principally with ivory-tower abstractions and academic theories; content to deny evil intellectually without dissolving it; content to simply talk about a higher realm; content “to accept dead truisms that can be buried at will ... [but] the trenchant truth that cuts its way through iron and sod” (My. 160:11-15) they resisted, and were not concerned with demonstration and proof. Mrs. Eddy, on the other hand, demanded proof and gave proof; she taught and demanded the acceptance of reality itself. Spirit and Soul were not just ghostly ambiguous words, but were the actual substance and the changeless identity of what was real and constant in our experience. Mrs. Eddy, like Jesus, was able to demonstrate what she taught.

Bessie: In Science Mind is the whole thing, isn't it?

Sally: Yes, to Mrs. Eddy, consciousness, mind, was primary; matter was simply an illusion, alias animal magnetism, which mortal mind sees when it looks from a material standpoint. Mrs. Eddy saw the human body as merely a construction of mortal mind, “a sensuous human concept,” a myth, nothing more.

INFINITE GOD INCLUDES INFINITE MAN

Moderator: Yes, Bessie, “In Science, Mind is one including noumenon and phenomena, God and His thoughts” (1910 ed. 114:10).

Anna: Noumenon (cause, Mind, Principle) and phenomena (its expression) are both a question of spiritualized consciousness. Noumenon is not something up in the sky that we pray to. Speaking from the high level of divine Science, Mrs. Eddy closed a class with the following counsel:

If you remember nothing else I have told you, I want you to remember this: There is one infinite God, and one infinite man expressing that God. (Fragments, p. 178)

Rookie: Could you explain that?

Abraham: Yes. It was another way of saying that in Science Mind is one, including noumenon and phenomena. If you stand before the mirror there is one whole expression seen in the mirror. You do not see just a part of yourself. In the 7th edition of Science and Health, Mrs. Eddy says:

P. 2:2: When we become Spirit we shall have but one mind, for there is no room for more if that one is infinite.

Then in the 14th edition, Vol. 1, she states:

P. 22:22: The body of Soul is man, the ideas of this Principle, and his conscious Life and intelligence is Soul and not body.

Moses: It would also be apropos to here recall her 1886 statement that:

The term “Mind and body” literally means God and man, for man is the expression of Mind and the manifestation of Mind is the embodiment of Mind. Therefore, man is God’s body and there is but one God. Body is therefore the aggregation of spiritual ideas forever controlled and governed by the law of Life, harmonious and eternal. The understanding of perfect body is the savior of the belief of body, and is the law of recovery to any and every claim of error.

As the truth in Mrs. Eddy’s writings is assimilated this totally new spiritual proposition will be understood.

“Understanding is God,” Mrs. Eddy taught (*Science of Man*, EOF. p. 215). Our mentality—the “I or Ego,” the consciousness that is Mind, is Soul. The body, the reflection or contemplation that Mind engages in, is what is called man. Therefore the scientific government of the body must be maintained through Mind, Soul, Spirit, the Principle of our God-being. Body is a mental proposition. A flesh and bones matter body is a myth. But God is omnipotent in the so-called physical as well as in the mental realm.

Moderator: Yes, Mrs. Eddy makes it clear in this first edition that: “We are Soul,” which is a synonym for God, and that “man is the phenomenon of Soul, of Intelligence”; but Soul “would not be omnipotent if there were in reality another mind creating or governing man and the universe” (Mis. 37:1).

Commenting on Mrs. Eddy’s writings, an 1897 author wrote:

The truly human Jesus has been recovered. The divine Christ far from being merely a make weight in a scheme of divine government fancied to be like that of earthly rulers, has been rediscovered as permanently dwelling in the life of both God and man.

To this Mrs. Eddy replied:

This is a description only of my meaning in the term that I use for the Christ—namely, the spiritual idea. (Early Collectanea).

In the first edition Mrs. Eddy further states:

P. 77:3: The belief that God has a separate being leads to multitudinous errors, in which phenomena are ascribed to supernatural and personal causes.

Tommy: The Science Mrs. Eddy discovered dissolves the veil that hides Truth. The awakening from the Adam dream comes as we see the dream and the dreamer are one. Thus the false opinions and beliefs which are the basis of all evil and error fall away.

Our next reference shows how we learn we are Spirit:

P. 11:19: Spirit is Truth, matter its opposite; viz., error; and these two forces control man and the universe and are the tares and wheat that never mingle, but grow side by side until the harvest, until matter is self-destroyed; for not until then do we learn ourselves Spirit, and yield up the ghost of error that would make substance, Life, and Intelligence, matter. God and His idea are all that is real primitively; all is mind, and mind produces mind only; nature, reason, and revelation decide that like produces like; matter does not produce mind, nor *vice versa*.

Moderator: First, how does she, in this statement, say “we learn ourselves Spirit”?

Marie: By learning the truth; and as we learn the truth about ourselves, matter, error, is self-destroyed.

Moderator: What else is important about this statement as she wrote it?

Moses: Here, again, mind is not capitalized, which helps the reader understand it is his true mind—the mind he now has—that she is referring to, as when she urges: “Know, then, that you possess sovereign power.” Sometimes when the reader sees a capitalized Mind he tends to think it is something “up in the sky,” rather than his own right mind that Mrs. Eddy is writing about.

Sally: What about mortal mind, the carnal mind, that seems more real than the one and only Mind?

Abraham: Yes, this is the big point. We have to distinguish between the true and false impulses of thought, so that we are not handled by animal magnetism, the false impulses, and think those are our thought. We must learn to detect and not obey these false impulses. This is the whole secret of overcoming error with Truth.

Anna: I read that once while the Mother Church was being built Mrs. Eddy put her hat and coat on with the thought of going to see its progress, but

suddenly she said: “That was Mary talking. Now, God, what do you say?” She immediately went back to her work. We too should constantly ask for God’s prompting and guidance.

Moderator: Moses, would you like to add something?

Moses: In the statement we just read, she says “mind produces mind only,” or God produces God only, namely, that which is Godlike. Mind, being All, there is nothing else that can produce or unfold. Matter and material man are illusions; “mortal existence is a dream of pain and pleasure in matter” (1910 ed. 188:11).

When the Christian Scientist is “lost in the eminence of Mind,” realizing what God is, that is the activity of divine idea; but that which is doing the realizing is Mind itself whose expression is Mind’s idea. There is no matter involved since “mind produces mind only” In this Mind-activity, “the encumbering mortal molecules, called man, vanish as a dream” (Mis. 205:28).

Rocky: I see better now why mortal man is purely illusion, a mortal dream. It is because only Spirit is real, and “Spirit diversifies, classifies, and individualizes all thoughts which are as eternal as the Mind conceiving them” (1910 ed. 513:17).

Moses: Yes, and Mrs. Eddy continues, “but the intelligence, existence and continuity of all thoughts remain in God”; that is why the expression is mental and spiritual, and is alive. To start with the supposition of something else which has to try to accomplish something or that has to make connections with a Principle, is useless; it is the Adam-dream. The divine Principle is omni-active as its own consciousness, its own idea.

Truth and Love, as one, means that everything is already accomplished. Truth is the fact, and Love is that which perfectly meets the need, or it wouldn’t be Love. The words Truth and Love used in combination indicate divine system and Science.

Margie: Later in this first edition she states: “Man originated in God [Mind]; he is the product of Spirit.” Spirit, she says, is pure spiritual consciousness, which is Mind. And as we just read, “like produces like.” Further, she never says “we are man”; rather she reveals man as the outgrowth, the emanation of what we are as Soul, as Spirit, as Mind.

Danny: Mrs. Eddy makes it clear that “mind produces mind only.” Nevertheless, this is the point the human tends to overlook, and finds difficulty comprehending.

Her teaching that the one divine Mind is our Mind, constituted an irrevocable shift away from mankind's most basic belief that each has a mind of his own, each has a separate independent being.

"Mine and thine are obsolete terms in absolute Christian Science, wherein the universal brotherhood is stated and demands to be demonstrated" (Mis. 318:2). She saw that one infinite Mind could express itself only in one unfragmented whole. The principle of mathematics is not to be found in fragmentary ideas, neither is the Principle of man's being. Mrs. Eddy told her students that "when we work together as one, it will be seen as the Son of God."

The supremacy of human reason is utter illusion. "Individual happiness and public welfare are far more dependent upon the heart than upon the intellect." Mrs. Eddy counseled: "Have a cell less in the brain and a fiber more in the heart." The curtain must fall on those ancient bastions of self-love and self-will. The mortal ego with all its desires, knowledge, power, impurities must be cut away with God's sharp blades. It is the mortal ego that keeps us from seeing our true identity as God-beings.

This brings us right back to the fact that Mind is the life, substance, and intelligence of every expression, of every phenomenon. "God is individual Mind" (Mis. p. 101:31), and "man" is the name for the "product of Spirit," the product of Mind. In other words, "man" is the name for the image, the reflection, of the one divine Mind which she discovered and revealed as our Mind. This image is an infinite, unfragmented image.

WRONG AND AUDACIOUS USE OF "I"

Moderator: This brings us back once more to the all important question: What are *we*? What is the only "I" or "Us"?

Anna: "We are Spirit"; "we are Soul"; "Jesus regarded himself Principle" and she insists we must do the same. Again, "We shall be found Love, Life, and Truth when we understand them."

Bessie: But who believes that?

Francy: Christian Scientists can read these statements in the first edition and other early editions. They can see for themselves that Mrs. Eddy is making these statements; they are not just any old thing we in this class are making up.

Abraham: Well said, Francy. Furthermore she insists, in her final edition, that she never changed anything written in these early editions, but only clarified them so they wouldn't be misunderstood.

Rookie: The materially-minded students in Mrs. Eddy’s time didn’t comprehend her teaching. They thought she was referring to their mortal personality.

Kathleen: Yes, that’s true. It caused Mrs. Eddy to make the sorrowful complaint:

P. 155:30: That we are Spirit, and Spirit is God, is undeniably true...but the shocking audacity that calls itself God, and yet demonstrates only erring mortality, surprises us!

For the mortal—starting from personal sense, from minds many—to claim his own divinity is, of course, “shocking audacity.” A mere change of words will never solve the stupendous life problem. This misunderstanding again gives us a hint why 431 editions had to follow the first edition in order for Mrs. Eddy to clarify her meaning by incorporating a system that all could learn, and so make Science and Health the textbook for all states and stages of thought.

Moderator: Returning to her statement that “mind produces mind only,” what is the one thing all humanity knows even though it is invisible? What is it that creates cognizable ideas without visible form, and is then able to transmute these invisible ideas into visible form?

Marie: It would have to be Mind. Mind does it in accordance with its infinitely intelligent laws. “What thou needest to know,” Mrs. Eddy told Calvin Frye, “is that mortal mind [error] has translated the body and its functions into matter, and immortal Mind gives back the original with its functions preserved and harmonious, but not as *not in matter*, but as *and of Mind*.” (Emphases Mrs. Eddy’s.) (EOF. p. viii, Revised, xiii).

Sally: Elsewhere she tells us: “We must realize the ability of mental might to offset human misconceptions.” Since there is only one Mind—the Mind that was also the Mind of Christ Jesus—then that Mind has to be the Mind of each one. This is why Christian Science treatment heals patients in far-away continents; the practitioner heals himself of the belief that there could be error in the one perfect Mind that is Love. He knows this Mind that is Love is the Mind of all, and is the individuality of all its expressions.

FALSE THINKING LABELED “ANIMAL MAGNETISM”

Moderator: What prevents our seeing this truth which would set us free?

Danny: Mrs. Eddy teaches it is “animal magnetism,” her generic term for error of every kind. All forms of belief are illusion and they must be overcome

through spiritual education. We all know the only thing that can be deluded is so-called mortal mind, a false sense of mind.

Mrs. Eddy taught that mortal mind, the carnal mind, is not mind at all, any more than discord is harmony or $2 \times 2 = 5$. She told James Gilman:

Mesmerism sought to make people believe that they hadn't any mind at all, and that therefore they couldn't exercise their mind. (Recollections of Mary Baker Eddy).

Abraham: She wanted us to see there is only one Mind, only one "I" or "Us," that can't be swayed or duped. Her insistence that an understanding of mortal mind or animal magnetism (malpractice) is crucial to the success of Christian Science is fully documented. She instructed her students:

Unless malpractice is exposed by Christian Scientists the world will be little benefited by Christian Science. (Six Days, p. 147).

When the first edition standpoint is reached and understood it will automatically handle animal magnetism, since the first edition goes out from God's allness, from the premise "we are Spirit, Soul, Principle, and that "we shall be Love, Life and Truth when we understand them"; also that there is only one mind (not capitalized in the first edition).

Many students of Christian Science think animal magnetism is whatever seems inharmonious in the human, even though the seeming inharmony may only be the shadow of God's right hand outstretched caressingly, saying, "Child, come up a little higher where you can get a fuller view of God's wondrous plan." We have animal magnetism only when we go out from a personal standpoint and attribute to mortal mind, to nothingness, qualities it doesn't have. The error is always in the wrong standpoint, never in reality, though to the human mind error usually seems more real than Truth.

When the spiritual fact is realized it becomes our consciousness and our being. Then we have a defense against animal magnetism that is impervious. "Consciousness," she said, "constructs a better body when faith in matter has been conquered" (1910 ed. 425:23). Again, "Had Jesus believed that Lazarus had lived or died in his body, the Master would have stood on the same plane of belief as those who buried the body, and could not have resuscitated it" (ibid. 75:16).

Moderator: Yes, when we understand the working of animal magnetism, we'll realize the body we see is only a belief of mortal mind. We'll also understand Mrs. Eddy's discovery that our divinity is intact—that our present perfection is hidden from us only by illusions, aggressive mental suggestions.

We are vanquished every time we fail to make error nothing and keep it nothing.

Rookie: All the time error is saying “I can’t know the Truth,” Truth is knowing itself.

Rocky: The harmony that is called for here doesn’t depend on anything the mortal could do or say; it is already established. We don’t have to build up something; it doesn’t depend on the mortal. We only have to continue to acknowledge God’s (good’s) allness until understanding reigns.

Tommy: To her students Mrs. Eddy explained:

Our work is not to change God’s work, for that is finished and perfect. Neither is it to make error nothing, for it is that already; but to stand (apparently) in the midst of it, unmoved, knowing its nothingness.

Bill: Understanding is necessary. This requires work, consecration, dedication, study.

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