

**July 17, 2006 – Subject: Truth.**

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 selection this week is from: REVELATION AND DEMONSTRATION FOR YOU by Clifford and Daisy Stamp

### **TRUTH IN DIVINE SCIENCE**

Let us remember that there is one Being, and that this One is infinite. This One is Life, infinite Life, “the Being who was and is and shall be, whom nothing can erase” (S. & H. 290:1-2). This One is Truth, forever beholding its own wholeness and forever operating as infinite consciousness. This One is Love, with its infinite plan and infinite fulfillment, and that is the highest aspect of God. Doesn’t that bring a lovely sense of oneness, which is the fact of divine Science? The city foursquare, as depicted in Revelation, illustrates this sense of oneness as the operation in divine Science of the Word as one Life, of Christ as one Truth, of Christianity as one Love, and of divine Science as one divine Principle, Love.

As we progress in Science, our experience is very much like that of Jacob, when “he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it” (Gen. 28:12). Thus we find that as we grasp the facts of Christian Science, thought rises naturally to some understanding of absolute Christian Science, and then even higher to the realm of divine Science. Through this glorious revelation of divine Science, the student gains a subjective sense, and finds in his own experience that healing takes place more quickly and more spontaneously. So thought must ascend, must be lifted up to the realm of divine Science, where we think as Principle and from Principle, and then we must translate this down to every human situation.

### **“The Divine Understanding Reigns”**

Early this morning the loveliest sense came to me of how God is telling the story this week, because I hadn’t made a note of this statement which came to me; I hadn’t read it recently, nor had I

thought of it in connection with what we are doing today, and yet it fits perfectly. This is what flooded my thought as I woke up: "The divine understanding reigns is all, and there is no other consciousness" (S. & H. 536:8-9). Now, that is a wonderful picture of Truth in divine Science. The only consciousness there is, is Truth conscious of its own wholeness, conscious of the whole truth about everything.

When this came to me so clearly, it inspired my thought, because for many months, when I had thought about Truth in divine Science, I had had a very clear sense that to Truth there is no error. So here again, expressed in a different way, is the same story of the onliness of Truth. Because of the affirmation in the realm of arithmetic that 2 plus 2 is 4, no suggestion of 2 plus 2 making 5 enters into that realm. Just so, in Science there is no error; there is only the one infinite divine consciousness, aware only of the truth. Can you imagine anything more positive than that?

As I said earlier this week, you find as you study "Science and Health" and Mrs. Eddy's other writings that she states the facts of divine Science in a brief way, but of course the reason for that is that when we really glimpse the facts of divine Science, we have "arrived," and when we arrive anywhere we don't bother about the details of how we got there - we just know that we have arrived.

To illustrate, let us consider how in learning a subject such as music, we are at first very conscious of our mistakes, but as we progress towards perfection in music, which has always been, we find that our errors grow less until they completely disappear. From the point of view of music itself, there is no error, and in Science there is no imperfection. This is the great fact expressed by Mrs. Eddy in her words: "To Truth there is no error, - all is Truth" (S. & H. 475:2).

What we are seeing is that there is only one consciousness, and that the only activity taking place here and now is Truth forever reflecting on itself. Truth is all that God knows, and God has infinite ideas of Himself. When we see that the only thing going on is divine, infinite consciousness, we are beholding the form of Truth.

Let us think for a moment of the story in the third chapter of Daniel of the three Hebrew young men in the burning fiery furnace, when it was said, "the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." Science teaches that the Son of God is Truth, and those three young men were delivered from that experience because they were conscious

only of Truth. Truth forever declares that man is wholly spiritual, perfect, and indestructible, never in nor of matter. It was their state of consciousness, and that alone, which saved those three young men.

### **The Way to Divine Science**

Let us look for a moment at the way by which we arrive at divine Science. Divine Science is the story of God Himself, and the only way we shall arrive at this wonderful story of God is by starting at the beginning of the Bible. You know when I listen to anyone talking about the Science of the Bible I feel so grateful that we are beginning to understand the spiritual interpretation of the Scriptures, because Mrs. Eddy' revelation came to her through her study of the Bible, and it is only through our study of the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" that we shall be able to glimpse this glorious revelation of divine Science. It comes through the spiritual sense of the Scriptures.

So if we want to gain some understanding of divine Science we must start with the beginning of the Bible, which is the story of the seven days of creation. As we study that story this leads to some understanding of the seven synonymous terms for God. It is impossible to have a certain sense of health or happiness or heaven without an understanding of those seven synonymous terms. As we study these seven terms, – Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, – we begin to understand the nature of God, and through this understanding we find the answer to every human problem. Let us remember that it is "our ignorance of God, the divine Principle, which produces apparent discord, and the right understanding of Him restores harmony" (S. & H. 390:7-9).

So many people have been asking what is the best way to begin the study of Science, but of course that approach is always individual. If anyone really wants to understand the system of Science, which is the most wonderful thing on earth today, the best way is to start with the first of the verbatim reports of Mr. Doorly's talks on the Science of the Bible. If you study these reports, digesting just as much as you can at a time, you will begin little by little to arrive at some understanding of divine Science. Of course, if anyone is starting at the very beginning, it may be helpful to talk to someone who already understands something of the system, so that an orderly way of study is gained which will enable them to go on to those verbatim reports.

You can't understand music or bring forth lovely compositions in music unless you understand the notes, which are the basis of all

music. You have to become familiar with those seven notes and how they blend and blend and blend, and it is through that study that the most beautiful musical compositions are produced. With every science one has to begin by learning the fundamentals. But the comforting thing is that if we begin the study of Science in our individual way, we shall eventually arrive at divine Science.

That statement which came to me this morning, “The divine understanding reigns, is all, and there is no other consciousness,” gave me a lovely sense of the one Truth that knows no opposite, – no error. Let us always remember that in Christian Science we learn how to deal with material beliefs, how to cast out error, whereas in divine Science there is no materiality and no error. The higher we let thought dwell in the realm of Science, the quicker will be our demonstrations, the greater our sense of individuality, and the more wonderful our sense of fulfillment.

### **Truth Includes the Truth about Everything**

If we begin to think about Truth, we see that it includes the truth about every idea, because God is forever conscious of His own wholeness, and therefore He is conscious of every one of His ideas; and so Truth includes the fact about me, about you, about the animals, about the flowers, and about every living thing, – about every idea.

Because Truth includes the truth about everything, it follows that the more we understand of Truth; the more spontaneously the truth about every situation will appear to us, and the more dynamically we shall see the error uncovered and annihilated.

We can never know the whole of God, and we can never know the whole of ourselves, but Truth knows its own wholeness. I was saying to Clifford yesterday that it’s a wonderful thing to begin to understand Truth, and I said, “I feel that I know very little about Truth;” he quickly said, “Well, the thing that matters is what God knows about us,” and that’s a fact.

### **True Health**

When we begin to see that the only thing operating here or anywhere is the one infinite consciousness, and that nothing else exists and that nothing else has power, then instead of thinking that we’ve got a little consciousness which we’ve got to get right, we shall keep our

eyes on the facts of Truth in divine Science. Truth in Science is wholeness, and when Truth operates in the human, it brings wholeness in everything. The health that is so dear to everyone comes to us abundantly when we stop thinking about our little personal self which we believe has to get better, and instead we let our thought dwell on the facts of Truth. Health is nothing to do with matter or material conditions; it is conscious wholeness. We have true health, abiding health, in proportion as we become conscious of man as perfect. How can you expect to have health so long as you look at the material picture of man, or let yourself be mesmerized by what material sense says about you? So let us hold thought perpetually to the perfection of God's creation, and then we shall bring it out in our lives. A consciousness full of perfection has true health.

I am going to ask you during this day to live in that one statement which came to me this morning: "The divine understanding reigns, is all, and there is no other consciousness. "Nothing to heal, nothing to change, but everything perfect now! If we really grasp that, we shall be so lifted up that we shall see how wonderful this Truth is in Science, and we shall experience health in everything. And oh, how wonderful it is when we stand for Truth in spite of all error's suggestions! Surely this is true manhood. I always feel inspired when I think that Truth is forever reflecting on its own manhood, its own health, its own ideal. If we see someone standing for an ideal, sometimes in spite of much opposition, we say, "What a man!" When we express true manhood and accept Truth in spite of all that mortal mind says, we become strong in every sense of the word.

### **"To Truth There is No Error"**

When I was looking at references to Truth in divine Science, I was very struck by that statement which we have already quoted: "To Truth there is no error, – all is Truth" (S. & H. 475:2). Do you and I believe this, or do we think of it only as something that will take place at some future time? We have seen that 2 plus 2 always makes 4, and that in the realm of arithmetic there is never a mistake, never an error. How much more, then, in the realm of Science is this a fact, – that there is never a mistake, never an error. Mrs. Eddy also writes, "Truth has no consciousness of error" (S. & H. 243:25). Truth is always fully conscious of its truth, and so isn't it logical to see that the way to lose the sense of error is to be more and more conscious of Truth?

I feel that there's a great need at this moment for us to learn to make error nothing. It doesn't matter how it talks to us; it may say that we don't know very much, or it may say that we are just beginners in Science, or it may say all sorts of other things, but why not accept what Truth is saying, and so learn how to think as Truth in divine Science?

### **Working and Watching**

Now, what does that really mean to you and to me? It means that every minute we have to be mentally awake. We all have to cultivate the habit of loving the spiritual above everything, of loving to be alone with God, of loving to live with the things that are real and true. Anything which tries to come in and stop us from doing that is nothing but the mesmerism of animal magnetism, and so let us be awake to it. Don't let's be mesmerized; let us see the way, and let us go that way. It's such a grand thing when we do, and I am sure that there is no greater joy for anyone. Individuality is so important in this understanding of Truth, because it's our own individual realization of Truth, which is vital to every one of us. We can't afford to be troubled by what anyone else is doing. Everything must be between God and us, and when we are conscious of God then we can only be conscious of the truth about every one of God's ideas. What a satisfying thing it is to be conscious of the truth, and as we dwell on the facts of Truth in divine Science this enables us to see perfection in ourselves and in all men.

Through the understanding of Truth, God becomes nearer than hands and feet, closer than breathing. This infinite divine consciousness is the only consciousness, and the moment we realize that, we shall never condemn ourselves or anyone else. If we glimpse this fact of Truth in Science, wherever we go we shall see manhood; wherever we go we shall see health; wherever we go we shall see the one consciousness in operation.

### **The One Infinite Consciousness Knows Only Perfection**

I want to take a reference with you which came to me and which gives a wonderful sense of this. Mrs. Eddy writes, "When I have most clearly seen and most sensibly felt that the infinite recognizes no disease, this has not separated me from God, but has so bound me to Him as to enable me instantaneously to heal a cancer which had, eaten its way to the jugular vein. In the same spiritual condition I have been able to replace dislocated joints and raise the dying to

instantaneous health. People are now living who can bear witness to these cures. Herein is my evidence, from on high, that the views here promulgated on this subject are correct. Certain self-proved propositions pour into my waiting thought in connection with these experiences; and here is one such conviction: that an acknowledgment of the perfection of the infinite Unseen confers a power nothing else can. An incontestable point in divine Science is, that because God is All, a realization of this fact dispels even the sense or consciousness of sin, and brings us nearer to God, bringing out the highest phenomena of the All-Mind” (Un. 7:8-26). It seems to me that Mrs. Eddy paints there a picture of Truth such as we’re trying to see. It was because she saw so clearly that God is All and because her consciousness was filled with Truth, that she was able to heal cancer instantaneously, and we shall do exactly the same when we understand God as she did.

I love that sentence, “An incontestable point in divine Science is, that because God is All, a realization of this fact dispels even the sense or consciousness of sin.” If we really think as Truth in divine Science, we can’t for one moment think of ourselves or of anyone else as a sinner, as imperfect, or as having any faults of character, because Truth is conscious only of perfection. I am convinced that there are many people who love Science but who are not making their demonstrations because they don’t lift thought right up to the very throne of Science. If you and I really accept the fact that there is only one consciousness, – one infinite divine consciousness, – then we shall see that there is nothing anywhere in consciousness but perfection. In divine Science there is no sin, no disease, no suffering, no matter, no carnal mind, no evil. There is no error, because all is Truth. Through studying this fact of the one Truth in divine Science, I can’t tell you how my eyes have been opened, and how many things I have seen that need changing. I have seen that we must live in the fact morning, noon, and night that the only thing going on is Truth, the one infinite consciousness. If you and I really grasp that, we shall have a sense of dominion and a sense of health such as we have not experienced before.

Here is another wonderful statement from “Unity of Good”: “Truth is God, and in God’s law. This law declares that Truth is All, and there is no error. This law of Truth destroys every phase of error. To gain a temporary consciousness of God’s law is to feel, in a certain finite human sense, that God comes to us and pities us; but the attainment of the understanding of His presence, through the Science of God,

destroys our sense of imperfection, or of His absence, through a diviner sense that God is all true consciousness; and this convinces us that, as we get still nearer Him, we must forever lose our own consciousness of error" (4:5-15). Here Mrs. Eddy makes it very plain that we must gain "a diviner sense that God is all true consciousness.

How can we prove the nothingness of error until we have clearly seen the divine fact of the one Truth, forever reflecting on its own wholeness and knowing no error? As we demonstrate this fact in our human experience, another thing becomes very plain. Just as you quickly see the cobwebs in a room that is flooded with sunshine, so the individual who is full of this understanding of Truth sees quickly the error in thought which is the cause of some problem, quickly reverses it, and so begins to prove in an intelligent way the nothingness of all the ills and limitations "that flesh is heir to."

Truth is that which always was; it isn't a question of something that's going to come in the future, because it always was. The truth about you and me always has been that we are the sons of God, that we are God's image and likeness, that we are God's reflection, and that we have always reflected the divine loveliness. What a comfort! Just think of the men and women who have made a mess of their lives, and wonder what is going to happen in the future. How lovely to think that here and now they can blot out all the error and have no regrets, no penalties, no condemnation, but turn wholeheartedly to Science. The fact is that the only activity going on is Truth forever conscious of its own wholeness. In the realm of arithmetic the schoolboy may through his ignorance say perhaps dozens of times that 2 and 2 make 5, and as a result of this ignorance complete disorder prevails. But the moment the boy knows the truth of arithmetic that 2 and 2 make 4, he corrects his sums and the disorder ceases. So in Science we learn how to correct the errors of sense and experience order and harmony in our affairs.

### **Truth Knows No Condemnation**

I feel that I'm learning such a lot about this fact that Truth knows no condemnation. At one time if patients came to me who were suffering and they told me of something they had done which was wrong or unscientific, I used to say, "Well, if you sin you suffer." I always saw that it was the mental state, which counted, and so I was able to help those people, but now I am beginning to understand why Jesus said, "Thy sins are forgiven thee."

The other day someone rang me up who had a very painful condition in the throat, and the suggestion was that a growth was developing. I saw very quickly that it was because this individual had been very sad, and through certain conditions she had let this sadness just swamp her thought. She said to me on the telephone, "All night I walked the floor, and I don't know what to do I am so afraid." Two years ago I would have said to that woman, "How do you expect Science to succeed if you think about the error all the time?" but now because I'm seeing a little more of the wonderful Christ consciousness, I said to her, "Dear, it never was you. You have never lost your joy. You have always been full of the joy of life, you have always been in heaven." And she said, "Of course that is true about me." As a result that condition was healed. And so I am telling you of facts that I am learning, and it is a lovely experience.

Let our sense always be, "Thy sins are forgiven thee." Suppose that somebody does come who has done the most dreadful thing; suppose that he or she is the most awful mortal. Well, "the reverse of error is true" (S. & H. 442:18), as Mrs. Eddy says. If we can look away from the mortal, it doesn't matter what some individual has done, because the only thing that God knows about that man is that he's sinless, that he's lovely, that he's perfect, that he's spiritual, and that he has never lost his perfection. If we see that, we shall find the healing taking place quickly and spontaneously. I am finding in my own experience that the more I think in the realm of divine Science, the quicker do I see the error in the patient's thought that is causing the trouble; and also the spiritual ideas needed to heal those conditions come more quickly and in a much more dynamic way.

### **Engrounded on the Rock**

This study of divine Science is completely changing our concept of Science in every way, and that illustration which I have just given you shows very clearly what I mean. So don't let us come down from what God is knowing. Let us begin to think about it the moment we wake up, and let it live with us. Let's stop sometimes during the day and say, "What is God knowing?" "The divine understanding reigns, is all, and there is no other consciousness."

There are many more lovely references which we shall not be able to take today, but we shall certainly have achieved something if as a result of what we've seen this morning each one of us looks constantly at Truth in divine Science, – the Truth that knows no error.

Mrs. Eddy wrote,

*“Thus Truth engrounds me on the rock,*

*Upon Life’s shore,*

*‘Gainst which the winds and waves can shock,*

*Oh, nevermore!” (Mis. 397: 9-12).*

From now on we are going to look constantly at the facts of Truth in divine Science,- Truth forever conscious of its own wholeness, – and we are going to realize that “there is no other consciousness.” In that way we shall be established on the rock of Truth.

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