

July 24, 2006 – Subject: Love.

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

LOVE IN DIVINE SCIENCE

God is One, Infinite, and Triune

Before we go on to consider Love in divine Science, there is one reference, which I would like to take with you, because I feel that it's very important for us to understand today. Here it is: "God is the author of Science – neither man nor matter can be. The Science of God must be, is, divine, predicated of Principle and demonstrated as divine Love; and Christianity is divine Science, else there is no Science and no Christianity. We understand that God is personal in a scientific sense, but is not corporeal nor anthropomorphic. We understand that God is not finite; He is the infinite Person, but not three persons in one person. Christian Scientists are theists and monotheists. Those who misjudge us because we understand that God is the infinite One instead of three, should be able to explain God's personality rationally. Christian Scientists consistently conceive of God as One because He is infinite; and as triune, because He is Life, Truth, Love, and these three are one in essence and in office" (Mess. 01,4:12-27). Two points stand out in that reference. First of all, Mrs. Eddy is speaking as if every Christian Scientist understands the infinite One, and yet when I analyze my own thinking I realize that I am only just beginning to understand this one infinite Being. And so again, as I read that, I saw the importance of every one of us learning about divine Science, – learning about it, loving it, and living with it, – because Mrs. Eddy obviously expected Christian Scientists to understand the oneness of the infinite.

Then I thought about the teaching of false theology; in all Christian churches they talk and write about the three-in-one, and yet so few can give you an intelligent answer if you ask what that three-in-one really is. Only Science reveals it, as Mrs. Eddy brings out in this

passage, because Science reveals the essential nature of God as Life, Truth, and Love. Today I feel certain that there is such a longing and such an urge in the world for spirituality that these things are not only going to be much more real to us, but also much more real to humanity as a whole. There is no doubt but that the answer to everything lies in spirituality, and let us never forget that “God is the author of Science.” I mention that tonight because during these few months in which I have been studying this wonderful divine Science, I have seen a fact which I have never seen before, – that it is impossible for us to grasp this Science or to prove it in any way unless we are spiritually-minded. I am certain that during recent months some of the cases which I have seen healed – and which sometimes seemed very difficult cases to bring through – were healed because I saw the need to bathe the patient’s thought as well as my own in spirituality. I feel that with each of us there is a great demand to be spiritually-minded and more spiritually-minded, so that we enjoy giving more and more time to think about the spiritual, to read about the spiritual, and to talk about the spiritual when we meet. If we put other things aside and we give time to think about the spiritual, I am sure that we shall all progress much faster than we have done in the past, and that we shall have a lovelier sense of what Science really is.

Meeting the Need of Modern Thought

You know, the teaching of false theology that man is a miserable sinner, that he’s got to be saved, and that there’s a mysterious trinity or three persons in one Godhead which is going to save him, isn’t being accepted by the modern thought of today, and thank God it isn’t. I am certain that when we lift up the Christ in our own thought and we really know what divine Science is, through loving it, living it, and proving it, then every individual who is reaching out for something better will find the answer and will be attracted to Science.

...I am convinced that if we will love this aspect of Science, – study it, live with it, and prove it, – the modern thought of today will feel attracted to this Science. The answer to all the difficulties in the world today lies in the spiritual, and thinking men and women everywhere are seeing this fact. Nothing can give that answer but Science, and the responsibility on us is to show that answer.

Prayer and Study

Someone may ask, “How am I going to stay in this wonderful atmosphere of divine Science? How am I going to live in it?” Well, suppose that you cultivate the habit of sitting down quietly and thinking along lines such as these: “There is only one Being. That one Being is infinite Principle, and that infinite Principle is the one Life, the infinite I AM forever expressing Himself to Himself as infinite individuality, infinite exaltation, infinite inspiration, infinite immortality, infinite multiplication; that infinite Principle is also the one Truth, forever reflecting upon its own wholeness and operating as the infinite divine consciousness; and that infinite Principle is also the one Love, forever resting in its own manifestation of loveliness, fulfillment, perfection, and glory.” As you begin to think in that kind of way, what will be the result? The limits will be ripped right off, – right off your thinking, and consequently right off everything to do with you.

The moment we start to think divinely, the limitations of materiality begin to disappear. For instance, when glimpsing something of the one Life, we see that that Life is our Life, and so we experience exaltation, inspiration, and multiplication. As we understand this Life always in and of Spirit, we see that man has always been immortal and that he forever expresses Life in his individual way. When we consider the one Truth forever operating as infinite divine consciousness, within which is the fact of all reality, we behold the form of Truth, the form of the Son of God, and we then experience wholeness, or health, in everything. As we understand the one Love, which is forever glorified in its own loveliness and forever holds in its own perfect plan the complete fulfillment of every idea, we experience fulfillment and peace in our human lives. Now, Principle is infinite, and the only place in which it operates is in spiritual consciousness, and so if we will keep looking at this picture of divine Science until it becomes us and we become it, the results will be wonderful.

Then there’s the question of the way in which we can develop our understanding. We can take the Concordances to “Science and Health” and Mrs. Eddy’s other writings and use them to study the meanings of terms such as “newness,” “now,” “eternity,” “individuality,” and we shall find that the study of these words will lead to a very certain and definite understanding of Life. The study of “consciousness,” “health,” and “manhood” will result in a lovely

sense of Truth. And the study of “fulfills,” “loveliness,” “rest,” “glory,” and “universal” will lead thought to a grand realization of Love. If we study these words and really see what they mean, we shall have a wonderful wealth of spiritual ideas....

...Handling Error as Nothing

If we are going to love this divine Science, we’ve got to take these facts and we’ve got to sit down quietly alone with God, or sometimes with our friend, and talk about them and live in them and see how wonderful they are. Someone may ask, “But if I do that, how am I going to handle error as we’ve been taught to do so thoroughly by John Doorly?” Well, if we once touch divine Science, we handle error from the very “throne of grace,” and when we handle error because we know its nothingness through our recognition of the All-in-all of the one Being, it’s a very different proposition from handling it because we’re afraid of it, as we have most of us done up to now. We’ve handled error because we’ve thought that if we do, we shall escape something dreadful! I meet many patients who say, “I can’t think why this trouble has come on me, because I’ve handled error most faithfully,” but they haven’t handled it as nothing! They have handled it as something. How can you make nothing of error unless your thought is just filled with a sense of reality? For instance, how could you make nothing of hate unless you were conscious of the allness and loveliness of Love?

Someone may ask, “Why do you talk about animal magnetism when in divine Science there is no error, no sin, no disease, no death, no matter?” We have been learning this week that the facts of divine Science must be applied to every human condition until there is nothing left that can sin, suffer, be punished, or destroyed. As we understand this Life that knows no death, this Truth that knows no error, and this Love that knows no fear, no hate, and no imperfection, we shall be able to deal with the claims of materiality much better and more quickly. Let us always remember that the understanding of Principle, forever operating as the one Love, is that which makes certain the annihilation of error, because it demonstrates that Love is All....

...”Unseen, Silent Arguments”

I feel that it’s very important for us to look at the question of animal magnetism, and so we’ll take this reference from “Miscellany”: “All

that error asks is to be let alone; even as in Jesus' time the unclean spirits cried out, 'Let us alone; what have we to do with thee?' Animal magnetism, in its ascending steps of evil, entices its victim by unseen, silent arguments. Reversing the modes of good, in their silent allurements to health and holiness, it impels mortal mind into error of thought, and tempts into the committal of acts foreign to the natural inclinations. The victims lose their individuality, and lend themselves as willing tools to carry out the designs of their worst enemies, even those who would induce their self-destruction. Animal magnetism fosters suspicious distrust where honor is due, fear where courage should be strongest reliance where there should be avoidance, a belief in safety where there is most danger; and these miserable lies, poured constantly into his mind, fret and confuse it, spoiling that individual's disposition, undermining his health, and sealing his doom, unless the cause of the mischief is found out and destroyed" (My. 211:9-28).

Now, Mrs. Eddy says there that animal magnetism "entices its victim by unseen, silent arguments." Before we look into some of those arguments, let us remember what we've been learning this week; we have been learning that when we enter this realm of divine Science, there is never any condemnation, never any regret, never any penalty, never any error. The one infinite Principle is Life that knows no death, Truth that knows no error, and Love that knows no fear, no hate, and no imperfection. But how are we going to deal with all the phases of evil, which we are faced with today? Only by having a much greater understanding than ever before of the facts of divine Science and how they work. It's no good having a sense of God as "up there," and "down here" a great many things, which need healing.

Let's remember that we have been learning about Principle, and that this understanding enables us to impersonalise good and also to impersonalise evil. We can't make evil nothing unless we impersonalise it, by seeing that it's just the mesmerism of the carnal mind and by knowing that the man of God's creating can't be mesmerized by it or made a channel for it. And when we impersonalise good, we give God the entire glory. Mrs. Eddy says, "Love unfolds marvelous good and uncovers hidden evil" (My. 288: 2-3). So I am convinced that through this story of divine Love we are going to be awake to the claims of the carnal mind, deal with them intelligently, and thereby prove the nothingness of every erroneous suggestion....

...Sometimes I love to sit down and to think in this way: "Because I am in the presence of God and there is only God, there is no animal magnetism. It has no tool, no channel, no place, no power, no mind, no intelligence, no power to think, no power to act, no power to be. It's nothing." And then sometimes I think in this way: "Animal magnetism can't operate for one moment to interfere with my study, my progress in Science, my demonstration in Science, my health, my happiness, or my heaven." During these talks I have known that animal magnetism can't operate as sleepiness or apathy or forgetfulness or disturbance, and I believe that that truth has been proved this week. So in everything we do, we need to be awake. From the "throne of grace" we've got to handle the beliefs of animal magnetism and know their nothingness and prove their nothingness. We must impersonalise evil and impersonalise good, and in that way Principle becomes the all and only of our being.

"To Infinite, Ever-Present Love, All is Love"

Now, all I can do during our short time together is to tell you a few of the ideas that come to me as I go on day by day loving this Science. I want to end this evening by telling you of something, which I read the other day when I was looking at a book which records some beautiful healings accomplished by Mrs. Eddy. Just as I love to read of Jesus' healings, because I want to see how he worked, and thus be enabled to help humanity, so I love to take that book about Mrs. Eddy, "Historical and Biographical Papers" by Clifford P. Smith, and read of what she did on some occasions when she healed instantaneously.

I opened the book at a time when this wonderful sense of the one Life, the one Truth, and the one Love was flowing into my consciousness, and it was lovely that I opened this book at the story of how Mrs. Eddy healed a little girl through that same sense. This little girl lived near Mrs. Eddy's home, and one day Mrs. Eddy missed her and so she called at her home to enquire about her. The child's mother opened the door and said that the child had been taken ill and had just died. Eddy asked if she might see the child, and she was left alone with her. She took the child in her arms and became conscious only of infinite Life, Truth, and Love; "she became oblivious of the material situation until the child recalled her to human surroundings by sitting up and asking for her mother." Then when the mother came, the child ran to her, perfectly able to use her limbs.

That child had not only appeared to be dead, but she had also never walked. The child got down from Mrs. Eddy's lap and ran out to meet her mother completely healed. Think what that must have meant!

The great fact is that the same consciousness of Life, Truth, and Love, which came to Mrs. Eddy because of her spirituality, can come to you and to me if we too are spiritually minded and have that universal love which reaches out to help humanity.

Mrs. Eddy makes a wonderful statement when she says, "To infinite, ever-present Love, all is Love, and there is no error, no sin, sickness, nor death" (S. & H. 567:7-8). What a perfect picture that gives of the complete annihilation of error through the one Love, operating at all times and under all circumstances! As we understand and love the things that God has shown us tonight, we shall be able to prove the nothingness of error and we shall be conscious of the loveliness of that one Love.

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