

July 2, 2007 – Subject: God.

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.

TALK ONE

Bring Ye All the Tithes into the Storehouse

I am certain that the greatest and the loveliest activity taking place in the world today is our coming together like this. In the Bible, the one book that has stood the test of centuries, we read, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Mrs. Eddy says in her textbook, “Shall we plead for more at the open fount, which is pouring forth more than we accept?” (S. & H. 2:26-28), and that pouring forth is forever taking place in Science. The Bible also says, “The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”

When I was thinking this morning about our coming together, I saw so clearly that everyone present is bringing something to this wonderful feast, and so I need you and you need me. Our meeting together in that spirit to find out more of “the deep things of God” will certainly bring us the “blessing of the Lord,” which “maketh rich,” because all that we have to do is to accept what Science is forever pouring forth.

The Need to Understand God as Principle

Some months ago, while I was studying without any thought of these talks, two quotations from “Science and Health” kept coming into my consciousness, in such a way that it was obvious to me that here was something which God was telling me, and so at last I began to dwell on those two references. Through the study of those references and the ideas which God revealed to me in connection with them, the subject for these talks began to unfold in a very definite and certain way.

The first reference was from “Miscellany”: “We know Principle only

through Science” (My. 149:5). As I began to think about that, I saw very clearly that there is a great need for everyone of us, as well as for the whole world, to understand God as Principle: I feel that the great need today is to understand God as Principle. As I began to ponder this reference, and to turn up many more references in conjunction with this one, I saw so clearly that it is impossible to understand Principle except through Science, Science that is spiritual, Science that is divine, the only real Science. Principle is that which is unailing, that which never lets you down, and how could anything be unailing unless it worked according to a Science that was exact? Then I realized how wonderful it is that any man, woman, or child can understand this Principle, this Science, through its divine system, and there is no other way to the understanding of Principle except through learning that system. You may find yourself saying, “Why do I need to know about Principle? Why do I need to learn its system? Why do I need to study?” The answer is plain. There is no other way to heaven, harmony, except through a systematic understanding of the divine Principle of that harmony.

Just think that if there were men and women all over the world who understood this wonderful divine Principle, they would understand true government, and the world would be a very different place from what it seems to be at the moment. And so it is vitally important that we begin to think in a deeper way than ever before about God as Principle. I know that it isn’t easy, because this understanding of God as Principle is so far removed from the world’s concept of God, and false theology has always talked about God as some kind of a person.

I remember Mr. Doorly saying at an Association meeting many years ago that if we would only begin to think of God as Principle we would achieve far more than we were doing. I’m just beginning to see how true that is.

Living Apart from Personal Sense

Let us look for one moment at the opposite of Principle, which is personal sense. For instance, personal sense is what makes us feel that we’re in heaven if we’re praised, and that we’re in hell if we’re criticized. How often we are swayed by personality, instead of being governed by Principle! So much suffering is caused through personal sense. In the practice I have time and time again had to help someone who has been suffering and it’s all because someone else has hurt them and they have let that hurt register and register until it has

manifested itself as some physical hurt. Therefore it is so important, as we shall see as we go on this week, to understand the divine Principle which enables us to live apart from personal sense. We can't overcome personal sense through willpower or a blind sense of things; we can overcome it only through understanding and loving Principle.

When someone understands the principle of music, he is able to bring out the rhythm and harmony of music in his individual way, and so as we understand God as Principle We shall bring out the harmony and loveliness of health, happiness, and heaven in our individual lives. I am certain, through this study of Science which God has shown me, that we do need to begin by thinking much more basically about God as Principle.

The Realm of Science

At previous talks we have considered the nature of God as Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, and we have seen that that sevenfold nature of God operates through a fourfold activity termed by Mrs. Eddy the Word, the Christ, Christianity, and Science (S. & H. 575:16-21:1 577:12-19). For the benefit of those who haven't been to any talks like these before, let me say that we have seen that the Word comes to us as the dawning of the light, or the impulse to seek the light, that the Christ is that wonderful experience of ideas coming from God to man, and that Christianity is the demonstration of those spiritual ideas; but we have never really studied Science, the greatest story of all

We are going to look at some aspects of divine Science, and then we are going to see how the understanding of those aspects operates in human experience to heal, to save, and to bless. So we are going to look first at the glorious picture of divine Science, and then we are going to look at the glorious way in which that operates as Christian Science. Mrs. Eddy writes, "the term. Christian Science relates especially to Science as applied to humanity" (S. & H. 127:15-16).

In divine Science we see that there is one Life, one Truth, one Love, and one divine Principle, Love, and during the week we are going to see how they operate in human experience. It's a wonderful story, and let us remember that as the highest mountain peak catches the first sunlight, so anyone who exalts his thought to love the spiritual more than anything will hear what God is revealing.

Divine Science Reveals the One Being

This is a lovely reference which I want to take with you: “Divine Science alone can compass the heights and depths of being and reveal the infinite” (S. & H. 292:4-6). Let us see what it is about divine Science which “alone can compass the heights and depths of being and reveal the infinite.” In divine Science there is one Being. In Science we do not have any sense of God and man, – of God and man as separate. The Bible says, “The Lord our God is one Lord.” So Science says that there is one Being, and that that Being is infinite; it is of the nature of Life, or eternity, of the nature of Truth, or consciousness, and of the nature of Love, or perfection. If we hold our thought to this standard of divine Science, we shall find that without effort it will begin to “compass the heights and depths of being” for us; we shall be inspired to great heights of revelation and we shall also have the power of penetrating the great depths of all thought-processes and proving the nothingness of every phase of error. As we study some of the facts of divine Science during this week, we shall understand why Mrs. Eddy made that statement, and realize how true it is.

Principle Expresses Perfection

If there is only God, or Principle, going on, and Principle is that which expresses perfection and which knows only perfection, then surely the fact is that the only reality is perfection. Nothing but perfection exists in Science. Now, what does that mean? It means that in Science there is no beginning, no end, no process; no sin, no disease, no death; no fear, no hate, no worry, no condemnation, no penalty; no mortal mind, no material body; no false systems, no material science, no false theology, no materia medica; no “Lo here! or Lo there!,” no age, no time, no problem, no imperfection.

Let us ask ourselves: do we really accept that that is the fact? Well, if we are honest, we have to admit that most of the time not one of us does. We all think about the material as reality, – even those of us who have loved Science for many years and who have seen proof after proof of it. I feel that our sense of things has got to change; healing must be instantaneous, demonstrations quicker and bigger. We must be able to help the universal problems much more than we do. We must be able to analyze a situation in the world and really help it. We’ve got to be more dynamic, more certain, more spiritually-minded.

So let us remember that in Science there’s nothing to heal, there’s nothing to change, because there’s nothing going on but Principle forever

expressing perfection. If we see that, our whole outlook will be different, and what we shall be able to do for mankind will be marvellous beyond words.

“Before They Call, I Will Answer”

I want to tell you here of a very beautiful thing which happened recently, because it showed me something of the loveliness of Science. Someone wrote to ask me to help her about a physical problem; in her letter she said that she had endeavored to solve this problem herself, but had failed. Now, I had not seen nor heard of that individual for quite a long time, but several days before that letter arrived she had often come into my thought, and I had felt a great compassion for her; not only did I feel how much I loved her, but also I felt grateful for her life. I knew how wonderfully she had been demonstrating Christian Science, and I was full of love and gratitude for her, without knowing why. Well, after she had posted that letter to me, and before I had received it, she was instantly and completely healed. Two days later she wrote and told me of this, and she asked me how I accounted for it. As I read her letter I saw so clearly that because there is no time in Science, its operation must be quite apart and therefore free from the belief of time. I remembered that passage in Isaiah: “before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear,” and that statement was proved in this incident.

Now, what actually happened? That individual had reached out to divine Principle, which is Love, where there is always perfection going on; because her thought was receptive, probably at that moment her fear completely went, and I had been loving her, loving her with a great compassion, and so an instantaneous healing resulted before I got the letter. That was such a proof to me of what happens when we really begin to touch Science. So I feel that if we understand Principle, – understand divine Science, which teaches us what Principle is, – then we shall begin to be able to heal and demonstrate as the great master Metaphysician did, and as Mrs. Eddy did. I feel that if this is Science, we must be able to do these things and that we’ve got to go forward to greater achievements than ever before. So we must think more about Principle and all that it stands for.

When you have an experience like the one I have described, it certainly is very holy to you, and it makes you realize how wonderful Science is and how warm it is. Before I began to understand Principle, I sometimes found myself saying, “I don’t like thinking about God as Principle; it seems cold,” but as I go on and as I feel the touch of Principle, I see

that it is Love, deeper than anything the world has ever known, because the Love of Principle never changes; it is “the same yesterday, and today, and for ever,” and it is the Love which sees everything as perfect now.

The Need for Scientific Spiritual Thinking

Now we will take another reference: “God is the Principle of divine metaphysics. As there is but one God, there can be but one divine Principle of all Science; and there must be fixed rules for the demonstration of this divine Principle” (S. & H. 112:32-3). If we want to understand and demonstrate Principle, we must learn to think scientifically, to think in an exact way. You know, sometimes I go to see someone who is wanting help and who loves this Science, but I find that he or she is saying something like this, “Well, I wonder what all this is about. I study, but I don’t get anywhere. Why has this happened to me?” There is so much that is negative in thought that that is why the answer doesn’t come. If we are going to be at-one with Principle, we must learn to think positively, scientifically, and spiritually. Science is the most exact thing in all the world. In arithmetic, if you say that 2 and 2 is 4 and a bit, you have chaos; only when you say that 2 plus 2 makes 4 do you have harmony. And it’s the same with Science; you can’t be vague or half-hearted.

As we go on this week, we shall see how important it is for all mankind to learn how to think in the realm of Science, to think exactly and scientifically and in a positive way. Thank God that through the divine system we are learning what Principle is, how it works, and what it does. There isn’t anything in Science that need be a mystery or a closed book to us if we open our thought to learn the facts of Science and to hear Principle interpreting itself.

Principle and idea is One

Let us begin today to think in the realm of Science, and we must first of all make the effort to think about Principle. The loveliest thing that we can think about is this: “Principle and its idea is one.” There isn’t a Principle a long way off and Principle’s idea some way away from that Principle, struggling to think correctly! The fact is: “Principle and its idea is one, and this one is God, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent’ Being, and His reflection is man and the universe” (S. & H. 465:17-1).

Now we will read from “Miscellaneous Writings”: “In divine Science,

God is One and All; and, governing Himself, He governs the universe. ...God's interpretation of Himself furnishes man with the only suitable or true idea of Him; and the divine definition of Deity differs essentially from the human" (Mis. 258: 13-15, 27-29). I want you to note these statements very carefully, because I am sure that if we analyze thought we shall come to the conclusion that instead of thinking of our oneness with God we think of God, or Principle, as "up there," and then we think of His reflection as being something apart from that Principle. I was talking to someone the other day and I said, "You know, to hear you talking about reflection, you would think that God had created an idea and put it out on a plate!" It seemed something so entirely different from what Science is showing us of the fact that Principle and its idea is one.

What does Science show us about this one Principle? Science shows that there is only one thing going on, and that is God knowing Himself; – Principle forever interpreting itself. Many of us keep very busy thinking, "God is looking after me," or some such thing, and that is quite right, but if we analyze that, we find very often that we are thinking of a mortal who needs some healing, or some comfort, or who needs something, and that isn't the highest way to think. God is forever knowing Himself, Principle is forever interpreting itself, and everything is in and of that Principle; therefore the only conclusion we can come to in Science is this: God is forever expressing Himself as ideas, forever interpreting Himself as ideas, and those ideas are man and the universe. Those ideas that God has of Himself are you and me and every individual; therefore as God's ideas we must express His divine nature and must always be spiritual, perfect, and immortal. As we see that, we give up thinking of ourselves as little, limited mortals struggling to be perfect, and we have the glorious experience of letting Principle express itself through us.

The Lens of Sense Distorts Perfection

Some individual may say, "But if I see someone sick or someone hating, is that God's idea?" Well, let us consider that for a moment. There's only one Being forever expressing Himself; in that realm of divine Science there is never a sick mortal nor a hating mortal. Therefore if we see a sick person or a hating person, it is because we are looking through the lens of sense, and consequently the truth is distorted and reversed so far as we're concerned....

The Divine Outpouring

The study of this fact of oneness in divine Science has given me such a sense that the only thing operating through me, through you, through every idea, is Life, Truth, and Love; you know, if we can see clearly that the only thing that is going on is God expressing Himself, knowing His own perfection and loveliness, and that all ideas are flowing out from God, it will do so much for us. Mrs. Brook was once speaking about the gates of the city foursquare, and she said, "There isn't much chance for error, because if you imagine Truth pouring out of those gates all the time, and you imagine any little error trying to come in, you can see that it wouldn't stand any chance at all!" A few days after I had read that in the verbatim report of her talk, I was held up with a great many other cars when a crowd was pouring out from a football match, and as I looked at it I thought of what she had said, because no little fellow could have got in through that crowd! That experience brought her words home to me and made them very real.

Let us remember the one great fact that all ideas are pouring out from God, that all good is pouring out from God. Then we are looking not up to God, but out from God, and that is the standpoint of divine Science.

Principle Brings Certainty

Let us see for a moment how that applies in human experience. We all know that the finest and most intelligent man on earth today can make dreadful mistakes at times. No matter how much one has of it, human wisdom often lets one down, and so the grandest man on earth today can make mistakes, – mistakes that bring chaos in the home, or in business, or in the world. But if we understand Principle, we are guided rightly under all circumstances. Mrs. Eddy speaks of "man's divine Principle, which is equal to every emergency" (S. & H. 406: 4-5) just think of it: right where we are, at any time, and under any condition there is always the right answer, because there is always Principle, which is equal to every emergency.

So when we learn to think from Principle, and as Principle, we shall always find the answer to every human problem. For instance, to the business man today that understanding of Principle, – the Principle which never makes a mistake, the Principle which is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and omni-active, – is just invaluable. How privileged and how blessed is anyone who begins to learn this fact of Principle in divine Science! Let us remember, then, that Science is the story of God, and that all good is pouring out from God. If there is anything that is needed in the world today, it's a flood of spiritual

understanding, spiritual inspiration and a scientific certainty that all is well.

The Love of the Spiritual

In taking this story of one Life, one Truth, one Love, and one divine Principle, Love, let us remember that we are going to think in the realm of divine Science, right up in the highest realm that we can possibly think in, and that it can only be done through spirituality. Mrs. Eddy said on one occasion, "It is their materiality that logs the progress of students" (Mis.156:19-20). And so if we love the spiritual, – If we can say day in and day out, "I love the spiritual, and I want to know the spiritual more than anything else on earth, and I want to live what I learn," – then we shall make real progress. But if we are just going to give a little time to study and then put Science aside as an intellectual subject, and not really love it and live it, then we're not going to get very far.

I believe that everyone present is here because he or she wants to understand the spiritual facts of being, – because deep down in his or her own heart there is a longing to be at peace, a longing to know the facts of true being, – and it's impossible to get that understanding outside of Science. In materiality what do we find? In the material world, in the material concept of God, in dense materiality, we find, confusion, fear, hate, jealousy, war, lack, sin, disease, death, mesmerism, hypnotism, – all those things which have unloosed so much sorrow and suffering. And yet here is this one great story, the story of Principle, the story of divine Science, and in this Science anyone can find complete freedom from the mesmerism of materiality. I believe that at this moment there are millions longing to know how to think spiritually, how to approach the Spiritual facts of being, and if you and I individually grasp these facts of Principle, we are going to help the whole world in a way we have never dreamed of."

Our great Master said, "If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me," and when we are lifted up from materiality and we love the spiritual more than anything else on earth, we find people coming into our experience, people from all parts of the world, because they too are loving the spiritual. If during this week we have that great sense that nothing matters but the spiritual, nothing matters but knowing Science, nothing matters but understanding Principle, that spirituality will bless us in every way and we shall see new vistas opening up for ourselves and for all mankind. We shall begin to experience that lovely prophecy of Mrs. Eddy's: "The mariner will have dominion over the atmosphere and the great deep, over the fish of the sea and the fowls of the air.

The astronomer will no longer look up to the stars, – he will look out from them upon the universe; and the florist will find his flower before its seed” (S. & H. 125:25-30).

Principle Expresses Itself as Life, Truth, and Love

...In Science is the answer to all our difficulties and to all the world's difficulties. In Science is revealed the only way to true health, true happiness, true heaven, perfect peace, and a dominion that is wonderful beyond words; and it is for each and all of us and for all mankind to enjoy if we understand God as Principle. Mrs. Eddy says, “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). And so it may mean giving up time, – time for study, time for thinking about Principle, – but what a good time we have as a result! The sense of certainty, the peace, the health, the happiness, the loveliness that follows spiritual understanding is precious beyond words. What is life going to be for each and all of us when we really know Principle, – when we are conscious that the only thing operating through me, through you, through everyone, is infinite Life, infinite Truth, infinite Love!

The story of Principle is this: Principle is forever expressing itself as Life, as Truth, as Love. Life, Truth, and Love is the threefold essential, nature of Principle, and as we go on and we see what that one Life is, what that one Truth is, and what that one Love is, we shall touch Principle in a fuller way than ever before.

On one occasion as I was driving quite a distance to see a patient, I began to fill my thought with ideas which God had been showing me for these talks, and I was filled with this sense: “If there is only one Principle and that Principle is Life, then there's only one I AM, and that I AM is Life that knows no death; that I AM is Truth that knows no error; and that I AM is Love that knows no fear, no hate, no imperfection.” As I went along, that sense so flooded my consciousness that very soon after I had arrived at the patient's house and while I was talking to her, her colour completely changed and she had a very quick healing. Of course, she was a wonderful individual to help, but she did have a remarkable healing.

The sense that flooded my thought was this: There is only one Being, one I AM. The I AM which is Life knows no death; the I AM which is Truth knows no error; the I AM which is Love knows no fear, no hate, no imperfection. Now, in Science we are learning that knowing is being,

and so what we know is us and operates in our individual experience. So don't you see that when we begin to touch these facts of Science and they flood our consciousness, how spontaneously and naturally thought is lifted up and inspired, and so our experience becomes identified with the wonder of being?

No Warfare in Science

So let us begin to realize that there is only one I AM, – not God and me as two separate entities, but Principle and its Idea as one. Think of the peace that brings. Last Whitsun we talked about that statement of Mrs. Eddy's in which she speaks of striving to cease her warfare (Mis. 179: 31-3), and during these last few months I have begun to realize what that means. In Science there is no warfare, no struggle, no failure, no getting, no difficulty, no problem. It is only our ignorance of Science that produces struggle and failure. When we arrive at Science, which is the realization of perfection, there is no warfare.

Oh, if you and I will only love the spiritual enough to see what divine Science teaches, we shall have a very different sense of Science from any that we have known up to now. Just think of it: no struggle, no warfare, no lack, no time element, no "Lo here!" nor "Lo there!" but everything here, – health, happiness, harmony, Principle here. The great Master Metaphysician said, "the kingdom of God is within you." I am certain that it was because Jesus taught the multitude the facts of Science, and because Mrs. Eddy talked about them in her classes and in her lectures, that people were healed instantaneously, and I am convinced that we shall have the same experience in proportion as our thought dwells in the realm of divine Science.

Error hasn't any place in divine Science. All of us at present have times when there is a struggle; and we come out of those times, but not without a struggle. Just think of the inspiration that will come to us when we are always conscious that Principle is! If we live in divine Science, we are going to be conscious of Life that knows no death, Truth that knows no error, and Love that knows no fear, no hate, no imperfection.

The One Presence and Power

Let us stop thinking about our problems and the limitations of sense and turn thought away from the material to the spiritual. Let us keep our thought on the fact of Science that Principle is forever interpreting itself as Life, Truth, and Love. All reality is the expression of Principle; in other words, God is forever knowing His own perfection and there is

nothing else going on anywhere. The One Presence and Power. Oh, we do need to accept this fact and to dwell with it! How often do you and I think that somebody is sick, or afraid, or poor, or that somebody has died, or something of the kind, and perhaps we tell everybody we meet about it. If we would only turn away from all that sense is saying and see how wonderful it is when we live in the wonderful world of reality – in the realm of Life, Truth, and Love! We have to remember that talking about error is just being hypnotized by it, so let us wake up and keep awake.

Let us say in our hearts the last thing tonight and the first thing in the morning, “The only thing that is present, the only thing that has power, the only thing that is going on is Principle, and that Principle is Life that knows no death, Truth that knows no error, and Love that knows no fear, no hate, no imperfection.” Oh, the peace, the joy, and the power that is ours as the result of this grand realization!

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