

November 12, 2007 - Subject: Mortals and Immortals

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 first selection is from Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy.

“It is only by acknowledging the supremacy of Spirit, which annuls the claims of matter, that mortals can lay off mortality and find the indissoluble link which establishes man forever in the divine likeness, inseparable from his creator” (S & H pg 491:12-16).

Our second selection this week consists of three testimonies from a book by Lillian De Waters titled THE FINISHED KINGDOM

Recently, I read a Bible quotation and its inner meaning from the pen of a noted writer, and it opened up wonderful truth to me. The Bible quotation was this: “Then shall two be in the field; one shall be taken and the other left”. Previously, I had never given this saying of the Master any special attention, but now it rings with a wealth of meaning. We have heard about the “mortal and the immortal”, the “real and the unreal”, the “outer and the inner”, the “old and the new man”, – these are the “two”. The Christ-self, the God-self, the Real Self is the inner self – the Self that is immaculate, peerless, imperishable. This Christ-self ever waits our recognition.

I am reminded of an incident that occurred during the past summer. While standing one day near a tree, I noticed a bug clinging to it. Looking more closely it appeared to be just a brown beetle with nothing especially peculiar about it, but, as I watched it, and behold, it came apart! And there in front of my very eyes, the bug that I saw became two bugs. From out the dark brown shell emerged a beautiful green locust.

With attention riveted to this transformation, I took in every detail. The two bugs were now before me attached by a tiny white cord or thread, and for the space of an instant both bugs were alive. The eyes in the brown shell

were open, and there also stood the live sparkling-eyed, green beetle – then, the thread snapped, the eyes of the brown bug closed. I picked it up, it was nothing but a dead, empty shell. And there stood the live, green creature in all its new beautiful garment!

From this I learned a deep lesson – the lesson of “two in the field, one is taken and the other left”. The question is, which of the “two” are we claiming to be? Which are we taking and which are we leaving? Are we taking the sick, sinning, unhappy self around with us, leaving entirely out of sight the real Christ self, flawlessly perfect and free, but unknown to us? Or, are we leaving the “I can’t” self and taking the Christ self as the only self? It was the Way-shower himself who said, “There shall be two in the field, one shall be taken and the other left.” We cannot serve two masters. Which self are we recognizing? Which self are we acknowledging? Which self are we expressing?

“There are two selves; the higher and lower self. The lower self is an illusion, and will pass away; the higher self is God in man, and will not pass away. The higher self is the embodiment of truth; the lower self is truth reversed and so is falsehood manifested. The higher self is justice, mercy, love and right; the lower self is what the higher self is not.

“He who knows his lower self knows the illusions of the world; knows the things that pass away; he who knows his higher self knows God; knows well the things that cannot pass away”.* Aquarian Gospel

Since God is too pure to behold iniquity, then, how do we account for these pairs of opposites, right and wrong, sickness and health, good and evil, these “two in the field”? These pairs have appearance in the lower planes, but are unknown in the finished Kingdom. There is no law of judgment in the Science of Reality: There is no law to fit thoughts or to fit deeds. “I know the law to fit the deed” hath no terrors for him who is shaping his course above the “law”. The law of punishment does not exist in the High Plane –for there is nothing to hurt and nothing to be harmed, no one to sin and no one to sin against. Jesus was speaking from this high plane when he asked: “Which one of you convinceth me of sin?”

Here in is the mystery unveiled. To the consciousness beholding the perfect, there is no sin.

One of my earliest demonstrations of reality gave me an experience of Cosmic consciousness. I had accepted a position as teacher in a public school. A few days later the principal stepped into my room and asked me when I would be ready to take charge of the music. What was my amazement to discover, upon further conversation, that I was expected to play the piano each day for the morning assembly of all the children in the school. This meant marches and songs, – and I knew not how to play.

It seemed that I had signed the contract without noticing this requirement. I did not divulge my inability to play, but asked a few days' grace, which was granted me, and I was scheduled to begin the work on the following Monday morning. That night, I thought it all over, and concluded that since the position had come to me because of my application of Truth, then there was a way in which I would be able to fulfill all requirements. What kind of Truth would it be that would bring a right and desired thing to one and not make it possible for that one to perform his duties?

The problem did not seem too hard or too difficult, certainly I could conceive of nothing impossible! Thus it was, that the first thought out of the difficulty was this: Buy a march and practice it. That night, after all in the house had retired, I crept quietly into the living room, placed my newly acquired march before me, and seated myself at the piano. It meant nothing to me. The notes were like so many Greek figures, and my fingers were the same as little sticks. It was absolutely impossible; the mental plane, or the method of thinking I could do it, was not sufficient for this problem.

I sat still at the piano for several minutes until a ray of light came to me from within. It was this: There is only one way in which this difficulty can be surmounted. It is the way of faith. Have faith. Have faith in the Almighty Power, Itself, and It will fulfill itself in you. Unhesitatingly, I answered: "I will".

The following day was Sunday. I never looked at the march; never gave it a thought, nor went to the piano. I spent the day in reading the Bible and books of spiritual nature. I read that nothing is impossible to him who believes. There was not an individual with whom I might speak of this task before me; I was in a strange city, with strange people, but all day I companioned with Universal God. When Monday morning arrived, I was in a peaceful and uplifted state. Picking up the Bible to read one last verse to carry with me in my trial, this

was the verse that met my eager eyes:

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed. I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.” - (Joshua.)

I walked on the very air over to the school building, my march held tightly in my hand, – my gaze fixed high.

It was the custom for all the teachers to be seated in the assembly hall, and the sounding of the gong was the signal for the music to begin. The gong sounded. Then, the wonderful thing happened to me! All thought completely left me; I arose and walked toward the piano, while children, teachers, myself, all seemed blotted out of my vision.

As in a dream, I placed the march before me and lifted my hands to the keys. At once, my fingers found the right notes as though they were hands other than mine; the music came; the children marched. In the same way, I played several songs that were announced, and again replayed the march as the children returned to their respective rooms. As I struck the last note, I emerged from the state of Cosmic consciousness and became the self of this plane again.

Little did I then understand that I had reached a plane of consciousness where mind is governed by heavenly law and need not be taught. I had touched the all-knowing plane; here knowledge is ever-present. Jesus did not attend schools and colleges, he knew without this. He knew more than all his teachers. The Christ of God is ever all-knowing.

“Two are ever in the field.” This experience took the Christ of me and left the other. I took charge of the music for two years in that school. Many have asked: “Did not the thought come, ‘Suppose I fail? Suppose I cannot play after I take my place at the piano?’” I can truthfully say such suggestions never came into my mind. I was not looking to myself to do the playing, because I knew I could not. I had clear vision, – the vision of the One able to do all things; I had absolute faith, and, behold-the miracle.

Now, faith in ever-present Omnipotence above us, as within us, is not blind faith. Faith in a power outside the individual self, as individual power, is not blind faith. It makes no difference whether we vision power as within us, – the Christ, – or, as above us, – the Universal; it is all the same Power.

“Act as though I were and thou shalt know I am.” This was what I did. I not only believed, but I ACTED. Standing before hundreds of faces, fearless and victorious, facing up to One who ever says: “Fear not I, I will not fail thee nor forsake thee. Be thou strong and very courageous, for thy Self is Myself, I in thee, and thou in Me.”

...We think nothing at all of commanding the child to “Run upstairs”, or “Come to me”, or “Close the door”. We know the child can do it; hence the command. A woman attended services at a church one night, taking with her a son, about twelve years of age, who was subject to what is called epilepsy. During the service, the boy was overcome by an attack of illness and was carried into another room. The mother was asked if she would like to have her boy “treated”, and, not knowing of what this consisted, but with the idea that it would be helpful, she replied: “Yes.” When the boy recovered, the practitioner said to him: “Repeat, after me, I am God’s perfect child.” The boy made no reply. The practitioner repeated his request, but still the boy made no attempt to obey. The practitioner then put his hand upon the boy’s shoulder and commanded the boy: “Say, after me, I am God’s perfect child.” The boy then spoke as directed.

Now, the mother of the boy, who was listening as though spellbound, fainted. When recovered, she exclaimed: “Those are the first words George ever spoke. He was born dumb!” The practitioner did not know that the boy was dumb when he told him to speak; he believed the boy could speak, and, acting upon the healer’s command, the Christ of the boy responded. Believe that ye have and ye shall MANIFEST.

Within and above the cocoon is the butterfly; within and above the boy is the man; within and above the acorn is the oak; within and above the three dimensional world is the “city that lieth four-square,” the city “New Jerusalem”—that needs neither the light of the sun nor stars; that holds no sorrow nor tears. Herein is no lack nor loss; herein is no evil, no power that can harm; herein the lion and the lamb lie down together and love divine rules over all.

“And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth; the length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.” (Rev.) That which IS, forever is the same. The “City” signifies Truth, always and forever the same from every side we view it. The changeless, the static, the immovable. The Truth that IS. THE CITY THAT LIETH FOUR-SQUARE IS THE FINISHED

KINGDOM. “This sacred city, described in the Apocalypse as one that “lieth four-square and cometh “down from God out of heaven”, represents the light and glory of DIVINE Science. This heavenly city, lighted by the Sun of Righteousness, – this new Jerusalem, this infinite All, which to us seems hidden in the mist of remoteness, – reached St. John’s vision while yet he tabernacled with mortals.

“The builder and maker of this New Jerusalem is God. This city is wholly spiritual, as its four sides indicate. It is, indeed, a city of the Spirit, fair, royal, and square. This city of our God has no need of sun or satellite, for Love is the light of it, and divine Mind is its own interpreter. All who are saved must walk in this light.”*

Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy.

Our next selection this week is from the Preface of – GOD’S GREAT SCIENTIST Vol III by Helen Wright.

PREFACE

“Spirit and Matter,” Chapter III of the first edition of Science and Health, leads us out of the error of thinking we are mortal persons. It leads us into the understanding that we are divine and spiritual beings here and now. Christian Science has come from God, Spirit, to resurrect mankind buried above-ground in matter beliefs. It is lifting humanity back into oneness with God, Spirit, which it never left in reality.

Mrs. Eddy consistently uses the term Spirit to mean understanding, and while in the final edition she several times refers to the “ ‘I’ is Spirit,” as on page 249:21, in the first edition, and especially in Chapter III, “Spirit and Matter,” she reveals with extraordinary clarity that the “I” of you is Spirit, God, and not matter.

We constantly hear: “Recollect that ‘I’ [your ‘I’] signifies God and not man.” This chapter “destroys the belief in matter and finds man in God [Spirit] – since “you, the Intelligence [Mind], embrace the body in comprehension and completeness.”

“The kingdom of heaven is at hand,” Jesus told us. “It is within you.” In

the great revelation that came to Mary Baker Eddy in 1866 she saw what constitutes this kingdom within our consciousness. The kingdom of God becomes visible to the consciousness that understands the Science Mary Baker Eddy brought from God to humanity. “Christian Science brings to light Truth and its supremacy, universal harmony, the entireness of God, good, and the nothingness of evil” (1910 ed. 293:29). This Science, this kingdom, is always “at hand,” always within, always universal, intelligent, available, and demonstrable – what we discover in Mrs. Eddy’s writings has to be founded in life by living it. As we grasp the real meaning of this Science, we realize God (the Principle, the “I” within our consciousness) is manifesting itself as the activity of God. It is Love’s holy purpose that each individual gains an understanding of his divine identity, his spiritual status as one with God here and now.

That we are spiritual beings must be learned. Therefore on the first page of her Preface to Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, the Christian Science textbook, Mrs. Eddy says, “A book introduces new thoughts but it cannot make them speedily understood. Future ages must declare what the pioneer has accomplished” (1910 ed. vii:25). She further admonished: We err in thinking the object of vital Christianity is only the bequeathing of itself to the coming centuries. The successive utterances of reformers are essential to its propagation. (Mess. ’01. 30:4)

In Mrs. Eddy’s day scarcely any books were based on Science and Health. But she says, “a student can write voluminous works on Science.” Since her time “voluminous works” and “successive utterances of reformers [enlightened students]” have come forth to help mankind gain the understanding of her great revelation and discovery. Through this discovery humanity is learning that discord of every kind is merely illusion; that we are not mortals but divine beings; and that “man” is the name for the manifestation of Spirit, Soul, Principle, God.

Mrs. Eddy knew these “voluminous works,” these “successive utterances,” would be essential for the propagation of the Science which God revealed through her.

As blessed time moves us inexorably forward and material history draws to a close; as Truth, which forever unfolds and cannot be stereotyped, continues to reveal itself to human consciousness; as Truth’s Word has free course and is

glorified; as the uncovering of evil as illusion goes on; as the spiritual status urges its highest demands on mortals and they catch gleams of their true spiritual identity, what is truly happening?

There is a stirring in the cradle of infancy in which the world has been asleep. There is a clamor to leave swaddling clothes, and touch the hem of Christ's robe. (See No. 45:24.) Our divinity is crying out, yearning for recognition.

In the pages that follow, a further glimpse of the great revelation that came to Mrs. Eddy is offered. We will learn that we ourselves are the revelation. As we think out from Mind, we think as Science, and cease to think as persons. Mind – the kingdom of God within you – cannot be aware of anything except its own idea or reflection, its own spiritual phenomena. That is why when understanding reigns; we experience harmony, since the all-harmonious Mind is our Mind. Nothing exists apart from divine Mind. A material sense of things has its realm in dreamland, in illusion.

Mrs. Eddy published 432 editions of Science and Health. The focus of this volume is on Chapter III of the first edition which she called "The Precious Volume," saying: "The first edition of my most important work, Science and Health, containing the complete statement of Christian Science, . . . was published in 1875" (Ret. 37:1).

The mountain-top statements in this first edition proved too high, too absolute for the human mind at the period of its writing; Mrs. Eddy therefore changed their form. She realized that as the textbook evolved to its final statement, and as students, with time – "the wise man's treasure, the corrector of our erring judgment" – grew spiritually, they would discern the original meaning. This series, Mary Baker Eddy: God's Great Scientist, has a twofold purpose: (1) to call attention to the sublime truths which had been hidden in sacred secrecy from the foundation of the world until Mrs. Eddy so uninhibitedly set them forth in the first edition of Science and Health; (2) to identify the source of so much that is being seen and voiced today.

Volumes I and II of this series focused on Chapter I and II of the first edition of Science and Health.

"Principle is not to be found in fragmentary ideas" (1910 ed. 302:1). It is

essential that these ideas be seen in their Science because if they are detached from their source, they will have no lasting effect.

Mary Baker Eddy discovered the “divine laws of Life, Truth, and Love,” (1910 ed. 107:2) which raised her from her deathbed. These laws of Life, Truth, and Love are destined to raise from death the entire mortal body of mankind; to raise from death the entire human consciousness. These laws are destined to free the human consciousness from the universal hypnotic suggestion that man is a mortal, subject to sin, sickness, death, and to reveal to humanity its divinity, its oneness with divine reality, infinite good.

The writer feels that an acquaintance with the lofty spiritual truths spontaneously set forth in the first edition of Science and Health will hasten the needed universal appreciation, the needed true sense, of Mary Baker Eddy as the “scribe” of the divine Mind. With every passing century a deeper sense of love and gratitude the homage of the heart – will be felt for this woman who, alone on earth, had become aware of man’s true identity, and through whose pure spiritual consciousness could be poured the divine revelation of man’s divinity, man’s oneness with divine Principle, Love.

Indeed, “without a correct sense of [Principle’s] highest visible idea [Mary Baker Eddy whose holy history has fulfilled scriptural prophecy] we can never understand the divine Principle” (1910 ed. 560: 18). Mrs. Eddy realized that a true sense of her, as the Founder, was the only thing necessary in order for the people to love and adopt Christian Science – the Science which “operates unspent” to present the omnipresence of present perfection, and demonstrate “heaven here, – the struggle over” (’02.6:24).

Helen Wright
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Lastly from S&H pg 497 – Where Mrs. Eddy gives the, “Tenets of Christian Science” line 24 “And we solemnly promise to watch and pray for that Mind to be in us which was also in Christ Jesus”
