

April 12 - Subject: Doctrine of Atonement

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.

The selection this week is from TALKS GIVEN BY JOHN DOORLY ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTICE. Biographies on our contributing authors can be found [here](#).

Be at One with God and Malice Cannot Touch You

It is always our own fault if we are not at one with God. All we have to do is to get right with God. Yet we say, "That fellow doesn't like me, he doesn't like the way I operate, he doesn't appreciate me, he doesn't understand me, he's trying to take away my practice, he's trying to do this, that, or the other." Well, it's all just bunkum, it's all our own false concept, our own mediocrity, our own inferiority complex, our own littleness. If we are really putting on the Mind of Christ, then we are knowing God, and we are seeing day by day the glory and the beauty of the divine idea; and if that is coming into our life and filling our life, then we don't make anything of these other things, because we just can't turn aside from the quest of the divine long enough to start hating somebody. We have to hold the high standard of the divine always before us, because the very thing animal magnetism wants is for us to turn aside from the Christ-idea long enough to hate, or to be jealous, or something of the kind. We have to watch, every step of the way, or we get tricked into doing or saying something which is below the standard of the Christ-idea.

Now, it is obvious that we can't escape being criticized and condemned. We can't live in a world with millions and millions of people and expect everybody to like us and understand us—it just isn't possible. And so we are going to meet a lot of criticism and condemnation. Well, what about it? What does it matter? The only question is: is it true? If it isn't true, we don't have to worry about it at all. If day by day we are filling our thought with divine reality, it does not touch us. I have had to prove this, and so I know it's true.

I think one of the clearest proofs I had of this was in my early days. There was a man who came into Christian Science just about the time I came back to England from the States; he was quite a fellow, a man who had succeeded in life, but he was a bit unbalanced, and that proved itself afterwards very clearly. This man became jealous of me and my progress in Christian Science, and I have never seen a fellow hate another as he hated me. It was awful, and he didn't mind what he said about me—nothing was too bad, and he said some horrible things. Well, at first I fought back against it, but of course it didn't make things any better; they just got worse.

Then one day I saw that it was my business to know the truth for that man as well as for myself. So I began to know the truth about him and I also began to emphasize all the good I knew about that man, both in my own thought and in conversation with others. Well, to cut a long story short, because this went on for about a year, it so happened that I was eventually able to do him a good turn.

When he found out that it was I who had done him this good turn, he just didn't know what to make of it. He came into my office and said to me, "John, I've been an awful cad, but I'm through with it; I'll never do it again." But here was the extraordinary thing: the moment that man stopped hating me, he started hating somebody else. It afterwards developed that he was slightly deranged, but as far as I was concerned, he never said anything but good about me from that moment on, and he was always as decent as could be. And so we don't have to suffer persecution. We can protect ourselves from anything, if we have a humble desire to do the right thing.

You don't suppose that Jesus would have had to go on the cross if he hadn't wanted to, do you? Jesus went on the cross willingly and gladly to prove to men the superiority of the spiritual over the material. All this talk about Jesus being crucified against his will is just nonsense, and Jesus' own statements prove that. The belief that Jesus was crucified by hate and jealousy and envy robs his demonstration of its beauty and importance. Of course, animal magnetism claimed that it crucified Jesus, but Jesus willingly allowed it. He said at one point, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" Jesus didn't have to be crucified at all. He allowed himself to be crucified. It is as if he were saying to those who tried to put him to death, "You think that the material man is the real man. Well, take it and crucify it, and I'll prove to you that the spiritual man is the real man." And he proved it to perfection. Look at the love in that, the power in it, the consciousness in it!

And so with you and me, we can say, "if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there;" you and I can dwell "in the secret place of the most High," where nothing can touch us. Each one of us must through spiritual sense find our lives "hid with Christ in God" and dwell there. I have proved that if you walk with God, then hate and malice and criticism and condemnation cannot touch you. They will come, and you can't avoid that, but you don't take them in. Don't take in anything but that which is born of God, and then you'll have a life of peace and happiness, and you will turn many of your enemies into your friends. There are quite a few of you people sitting here to-night who at one time thought that I was right off the track; well, that changed—Soul changed it. And so it will go on.

Don't let any spot or blemish come onto your picture of the Christ, and that is especially so when someone claims to be your enemy. Don't accept the unlovely as good, but see that it is just animal magnetism and so separate it from the true man. In that way you will free your enemy as well as yourself.

(Page 420 in Science & Health with Key To The Scriptures)

LINES 10-21. This is the direct application of Truth to the human problem, which we get all the time in this part of the chapter, called "Mental Treatment Illustrated."

LINES 28-30. This is true not only with disease, but also with sin.

LINES 30-32. I love that sense of translation. Remember, we are seeing Truth and Spirit operating as Soul. The Christ-idea, infinite Truth, the truth about God, man, and the universe, all the truth that God knows, forever going on, and reflecting itself through Spirit,

comes to us as translation, as Soul-sense. The Christ-idea at the point of infinite reflection forever translates itself through infinite Soul, which exchanges the objects of sense for the ideas of Soul. This impelling, irresistible translation is forever going on. I know for myself every day that I live in that realm of Soul.

We have got to get to the point where we see that we don't have to do something—God has done everything, and being is perfect. All we have to do is just to accept and understand and use what God has done, that's all. It is no use trying to make man perfect: man is perfect. It is no use trying to make God perfect: God is perfect. Through spiritual sense we understand the realities of being, we let those realities enter our thinking. Now, Soul translates, and so as we let Truth and Spirit operating as Soul enter into our thinking and experience, it will translate it out of sin into holiness, out of corporeality into incorporeality, out of everything that is unlike God into that which is Godlike. That process is forever going on and on and on, because God is infinite Soul, and we can use it if only we open our thought to it and understand it, because consciousness is power.

LINES 11-15. If a crisis occurs, you need to bring in a sense of the calm of Soul, the balm of Soul, the balance of Soul, and that will settle the whole situation.

LINES 15-18. (to "Him"). Always when Mrs. Eddy is trying to show the onliness of God, she uses the term Spirit.

LINE 21. "Calm the excitement"—Soul-sense does that wonderfully. When you find that things are stirred up and there seems to be a crisis, or the family is disturbed, or something of the kind, just enter into a sense of Soul. Know that the one Soul, the calm of Soul, the balm of Soul, the balance of Soul, governs the situation, and it will calm right down.

Elisha Raises the Shunammite's Son

The story of Elisha raising the son of the Shunammite, which you will find in II Kings 4:18-37, gives a great sense that Truth's ordered reflection demands translation.

VERSES 22, 23. When you want to go to the "man of God,"—the man that God knows, your own true self-hood, or the true self-hood of anyone or anything,—the carnal mind will always tell you, "You don't have to do that, there's no reason for you to do that."

The better the work you are doing, the more mortal mind tries to rob you of the sanctity of that work—that is one of mortal mind's tricks. If you want your work to have a sense of safety about it, then base it on Soul-sense, and eternally identify it with divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. In that way you will free it from anything which is unlike divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. The Shunammite woman saw that her child was not safe as a mere human proposition, but that it would always be safe if she got back to God in her thinking and let that concept of God identify her child as idea,—identify it with divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love. And so she went to the "man of God."

That which is woman in each one of us desires a child, and that child is our definite and formulated sense of the spiritual idea. We must prove — each one of us — that we are

mothers. As Isaiah puts it, "Unto us a child is born." To prove that we are true mothers we have to lay down the false, mortal mother sense, lay down all false sense of possession; we have to see that the idea is God's idea, not our own personal property.

VERSE 24. She knew where she was going.

VERSES 25, 26. Remember that the Christ says, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." The impulsion of the Christ is ever-present and ever-available, forever going on. You don't have to push the Christ or pull it in, because it is ever-present and ever-available. And so the "man of God" in each one of us, as we understand it, always understands our need, just as here Elisha said, "Behold, yonder is that Shunammite" and sent Gehazi running to meet her. You don't have to ask the "man of God" in yourself, as it awakens, to help you to work out your problem. You only have to let the "man of God," as it is awakened, take care of the situation. The "man of God" is true consciousness,— the form of the Son of God, which is true consciousness.

As you have the true consciousness of God, man, and the universe, that is the man of God's creating. Your true body is true consciousness, the embodiment of right ideas. You might say that your false body in mathematics would be your mistakes, whereas your true body in mathematics would be your consciousness of mathematical facts. Just so, in divinity your true body is really what God knows about you, and in human experience your true body is your consciousness of what God knows about you.

This story of the raising of the Shunammite's son is a wonderful story. If you and I have the vision of that Shunammite woman and the true motherhood of that Shunammite woman, we shall never be satisfied until our child (our sense of the divine ideal) is translated out of sin, disease, and death into a living thing. But we need the persistence and the vision of that Shunammite woman. We need to have a mother sense for this idea of Science that has so much Soul-sense, so much definiteness, that it will never be fooled or turned aside, no matter what the circumstances. Everybody tried to turn this woman aside,— her husband, Gehazi, even Elisha at first, who wanted her to be satisfied with his staff,— but she wouldn't have any of it. She knew that the only way of safety was in the highest spiritual sense. So if you and I have that vision of the Christ-idea, and know that the only way is spiritual, that no human way will do at all, and if we are as faithful as that Shunammite woman, then we shall not only do something for ourselves, which is important, but we shall also do more than that, because we shall do something for mankind.



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