

May 16, 2005 – Subject: Soul and Body

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 Helen Wright's book – MARY BAKER EDDY GOD'S GREAT SCIENTIST VOLUME III.

MATTER IS AN ERROR OF STATEMENT

When Mrs. Eddy persisted in pointing out that “matter is an error of statement” (1910 ed. 277:26), and “matter is a misstatement of Mind” (Mis. 174:2), what did she mean? She meant that organic life is an error of statement that Truth destroys. What appears, when correctly seen, is always a divine idea.

Mrs. Eddy was the first in human history to explain matter's nothingness — to explain the total unreality of the physical universe. She saw it was universal hypnotism, aggressive mental suggestion, that caused mankind to accept as real that which was only illusion. Jesus saw through this illusion, and 2000 years ago said: “My kingdom is not of this [material] world.” His kingdom was the world we are now in, but rightly viewed.

Jesus demonstrated this when he healed the withered hand, it was restored whole, “like as the other” — like as the divine reality. Why? Because the misconception, the illusion, had been removed by Jesus' perfect understanding of what was actually present, already fulfilled. Others who saw the withered hand were deceived by an appearance which was only illusion.

“Good and evil... are not two but one, for evil is naught, and good only is reality” (*Un.* 21:7).

Again, Mrs. Eddy writes: “Whatever seems material, seems thus only to the material senses, and is but the subjective state of mortal and material thought [nothingness].” (*Mis.* 102:24). The first edition states:

P. 147:23 Every belief of matter as substance, Life or intelligence, must be destroyed before man is found the image and likeness of God; Christian perfection is won on no other basis. In the scientific unity between Soul and body, or God and man, Soul is not in body, but man is embraced in Spirit, even as Principle contains its idea, and [idea] is controlled by it.

In *Christian Healing*, P. 7:6, we read:

“The new tongue” is the spiritual meaning as opposed to the material. It is the language of Soul instead of the senses; it *translates matter* into its original language, which is Mind, and gives the spiritual instead of the material signification.

BRIEF 17

THE TRUE NATURE OF MAN

MORTAL MIND MISSTATES DIVINE MIND

Mrs. Eddy brought to light the great fact that man does not do his own thinking. She revealed that man is the activity of Mind — of God [who in reality] is the Mind of man, "your Mind." This is why Jesus, our great example, is the Christ. His Mind was Science. His Mind expresses itself in what people then called miracles. These miracles were the expression, the activity of the divine Mind. He explained: "I and my Father [Mind] are one." Therefore, as quoted previously, Mrs. Eddy, building on Jesus' statement, could teach:

Whatever diverges from the one divine Mind, or God, — or divides Mind into minds, Spirit into spirits, Soul into souls, and Being into beings, — is a misstatement of the unerring divine Principle of Science. [this misstatement] interrupts the meaning of omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence of Spirit, and is of human instead of divine origin. (Ret. 56:5).

Further explaining matter (*Un. 35:20*), Mrs. Eddy states: "Matter and mortal mind are one; and this one is a misstatement of Mind" — a misinterpretation of Mind which, if rightly viewed would be seen as the presence of God. Before one can have a lie about something, or a misstatement about a spiritual fact, the truth must be there. The spiritual fact must be present or there could be no misstatement or

lie about it. Her teaching on the subject of matter is clear to the spiritually minded reader:

The forces of Truth are moral, and spiritual, not physical... What then *are* the so-called forces of matter? They are the phenomena of mortal mind, and matter and mortal mind are one; and this one is a misstatement of Mind [a false, limited view of the phenomena].... Matter is an error of statement.

Mind has no more power to evolve or to create matter [that which *is* subject to dissolution and decay, to sin, sickness, and death] than has good to produce evil. Matter is a misstatement of Mind; it is a lie claiming to talk and disclaim against Truth.

Matter disappears under the microscope of Spirit.

These thoughts from *Un. 35:17*; 1910 ed. 274:26; *Mis. 174:1*; 1910 ed. 264:21, have all been frankly, freely, uninhibitedly orchestrated in Chapter III of the first edition where with concerted and vigorous voice Mrs. Eddy delivers repeated blows to the false belief that life and intelligence are in a matter body. With reason and revelation she persuades us that we can and will assert our freedom from the illusion, the hypnotic suggestion, that life and intelligence are encased in a material body.

“MAN, THE REFLEX SHADOW OF SPIRIT”

The seven-fold Being, Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love—the kingdom of heaven within our consciousness—has an expression, a manifestation (man), a body, but it is not a material body; it is not a flesh blood and bones body that sins, suffers, and dies. “Man is idea, the image, of Love; he is not physique” (1910 ed. 475:13).

In the first edition, we read:

P. 216:4 & 27 Man... is the reflex shadow Spirit...Take away the belief that limits [limitations] and sensation in matter constitute man, and you have immortal man, the idea of God; and remove personality from your belief of God, and you have the infinite Principle, even God that is Love.

WE NEED NEVER LOOK TO OTHERS FOR HELP

The textbook, Science and Health — the Christ Science — is within you. It is present in “the kingdom of God within you.” It constitutes your consciousness; therefore all the help you will ever need is within your spiritual consciousness. For this reason it is never necessary to look to others for supply, companionship, love, or any other desirable quality. Jesus gave overwhelming proof of this awesome and (to mortal sense) mysterious power, in his Gethsemane experience. He had asked the disciples to watch with him “one hour,” while “he went a little farther and fell on his face and prayed” asking that “this cup” — this death by crucifixion — be removed from him. (Matt. 26:39)

When he returned he found the disciples sleeping. On that final night when he was preparing to make the highest demonstration a human being has ever made, no one watched with him. He fought his battle, with self, alone. He could have escaped, but he knew it was to *prove eternal life that* he had come into the world. His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground” as he prayed: “Not my will but Thine be done” (Luke 22:44, 42). He knew he would have to depend solely on the divine Principle, the kingdom of God within his own consciousness.

Each of the disciples served Jesus in a special way, but not one of them stayed awake to watch with him and give him support in his final hour of agony. Disappointing as this must have been for Jesus, that experience nevertheless proved for all humanity, beyond all question, and for all time, that there is no contingency that is not provided for in the inherency of things. The kingdom of God within our consciousness has the means, has all that is necessary for any achievement.

The divine Principle, Life, which Jesus called “Father,” *endured*. It did not forsake him. Alone for three days with his Principle, his Christ Mind, without any help from his followers or disciples, he overcame death —overcame the belief in human birth which had encapsulated him in a flesh and blood body. He rolled away the stone from the tomb — tomb meaning the belief of being entombed in a matter body — and lovingly “hastened to console his unfaithful followers; to disarm their fears”; and present to them the same body that to

mortal sense had died on the cross and been buried.

“Human theories,” Mrs. Eddy wrote, “are inadequate to interpret the divine Principle involved in [Jesus’] mighty crowning, unparalleled, and triumphant exit from the flesh” (1910 ed. 117:19). It was Mrs. Eddy’s God-appointed task to explain how Jesus accomplished his mission of proving eternal life, of proving how God’s inexhaustible divine Love – the Father-Mother Principle that Jesus knew to be his own Mind – is omnipresent to meet every human need. Her revelation and discovery will continue to leaven thought. Spiritual education will cause the material sense of body to disappear as our consciousness changes, and universal hypnotic suggestion no longer hides Truth. Untold millions have experienced God’s power as they have risen to even a faint glimpse of the Truth that frees.

“Christian Science healing is ‘the Spirit and the bride’- the Word and the wedding of this Word to all human thought and action” (My. 153:27).

Witnessing the power of this Word, Mrs. Eddy wrote: “Our Cause is rushing on: it’s chariot wheels are heard before the lips can speak its coming. Let us have on our wedding garments, for purity and peace NOW await our bridal” (DCC 209:18). The extent to which Mrs. Eddy’s message from God has already penetrated and invaded the world’s religions, and world thought in general, augurs well for the fulfillment of her prophecy (see Put. 22:9).

YOU DO NOT LIVE IN THE BODY

Every page of Chapter III, “Spirit and Matter”, indicates plainly that the body is not you, that you do not live in the body. The material body is but “a lifeless, unintelligent *belief*,” Spirit being the substance of all form.

P 227:17 Look away then from your body... let go the belief you live in matter... [and] personality will be swallowed up in the boundless Love that shadows forth man.

[This is] finding yourself more blessed as Principle than person, as God than man, is Soul than sense, and yourself and neighbor one [since all have the same Mind, the same Principle].

Recall also (p.158:30):"You , the intelligence, embrace the body in comprehension and completeness'you' the Soul [the center, spitual understanding] and circumference [your infinite individuality] of being," are the law-giver to your body, the law-giver that makes your body either harmonious or discordant according to the understanding or ignorance that governs it.

The body is not you, "it is but the idea of 'you,'" since the divine Mind, which is your Mind, constitutes its own body, or thinking. Mrs. Eddy taught: "[God] spake, and form appeared... Mind is its own great cause and effect... reason and revelation declared that God is *both* noumenon and phenomena," and that God, good, being All, evil is therefore unreal. (See *Mis.* 280:1:173:12:23:18.)

We are being roused from the Adam-dream slumber, from the universal hypnotic suggestion, to see "what manner of love the Father [Mind] hath bestowed upon us," in giving all. "It is His good pleasure to *give* you the kingdom," but "when will mankind awake to know their present ownership of all good?" We need only to see through the mesmerism, that hides the kingdom of infinite good that is at hand and is within our consciousness. Mrs. Eddy knew the Ego — your "I" — is Mind that includes body. In "the Only," we have the eternal harmonious verity of God and man including the universe. There is naught beside.

WHY WE ARE SOUL AND NOT BODY

In this first edition there is a constant iteration and reiteration of her great discovery that we do not live in the body — that we are Soul, and the body is the visible expression of Soul.

Why are we Soul?

We are Soul because spiritual *understanding* is Soul and not body.

Mortals have ignorantly worshipped matter, placing life and intelligence in matter bodies, instead of seeing that Soul, Spirit, meaning our own Mind, is the substance of all form. Everything we see or that happens "out there" is actually a projection of our consciousness. Everything Jesus saw was a projection of his Christ consciousness. Everything the scribes, Pharisees, and high priests saw was a projection of their false consciousness.

To become one with God, we need only to get a personal sense of self out of the way and realize there is only one infinite divine consciousness that is the true consciousness of everyone. Like the prodigal son we need to return to the kingdom within. "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength... The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever," counsels Isaiah.

This is true because a selfhood apart from God is an illusion. In reality we are now at one with the kingdom of God within our individual, infinite, spiritual consciousness. God is always saying:

"All that I have is thine." All that God has belongs to every individual on earth. We need only open our consciousness to receive it. "God is no respecter of persons.

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