

September 5, 2005 – Subject: Substance

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 selections this week are from – Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy and Excerpts from The Spiritual Nature of Reality – Christian Science Transforming the Universe – by Richard Claude Haw.

“IDEA: An image in Mind; the immediate object of understanding.— Webster.

Supply

Christian Science, as the final revelation of Truth, has the ultimate answers to all the problems and limitations incidental to a material sense of existence. Some people object that there can be no “final” revelation, and this is true if that revelation is static and circumscribed, but Christian Science reveals the ever-unfolding infinitude of Mind. The belief that life, substance and intelligence are material is fundamental to all human problems whether of health, supply, relationships, economy, or politics.

The world has now come to the stage where the imperative demand is upon Christian Scientists to demonstrate this Science of divine reality and its limitless potential. Mankind is being driven to look beyond matter to the spiritual source and resources of being.

We have already seen that a material basis is obsolete, and by realizing that everything is mental, the solution to the problem of supply, whether of health or wealth, is brought a step nearer.

The spiritual ideas, which constitute substance, are infinite, and “man reflects infinity,” as Mrs. Eddy says. We need to think constantly in terms of the infinitude of good. The substance of spiritual ideas is as limitless as spiritually right thought. Ideas cannot be limited, cornered, divided, inflated, deflated, or cut off. The super-abundant ideas ever pouring forth from infinite Mind are our substance and supply, equal to every human need. Mrs. Eddy’s statement about Love meeting human needs demands of us the expression of that love in our daily lives. We live at the standpoint of limitless expression, and of limitless opportunity, and of divine fulfillment and completeness.

It is significant that the word substance comes from the same Latin root as the word understanding (substare; sub meaning under, and stare that which supports or stands under). Mrs. Eddy uses the word substance in relation to Mind, to Soul, Spirit, Life, Truth, Love, and to intelligence. She says those who believe substance to be matter are opponents of Christian Science. Perhaps we should examine ourselves to see to what degree we are opponents of Christian Science.

In the divine economy, supply and demand are coordinate ideas of Mind, and it is Love’s purpose to hold them in perfect balance in order to bless both giver and receiver. There is always a supply for demand, and a demand for supply. For every legitimate need, the supply already exists. No idea ever lacks that which is necessary to express its completeness. A want is not necessarily a need, and Jesus said our requests for supply to indulge ourselves are not likely to be met. This is illustrated in a story of a little girl who prayed for a new bicycle. Her brother was skeptical of prayer, and when the little girl’s prayers went unanswered, he said, “You see, God doesn’t answer prayer.” She replied, “Oh, yes He does. He said, No!”

Wanting something is a denial that we have it, and Jesus said, “What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” Science operates from the basis that man is already complete and perfect, having all the good that the Father expresses. Because good is entirely spiritual, we have it in proportion to our spiritualized consciousness and our expression of God’s qualities.

When Jesus told Peter to cast a line and find the tax-money in the mouth of the first fish he caught, he was showing that thought should be open to the infinite possibilities by which supply may come. We should never outline because that implies a separation and limitation. Supply is present everywhere because God, good, is everywhere.

It was Jesus' spiritual understanding of that divine fact that enabled him to manifest whatever was humanly needed anywhere, anytime. The Christ, the true idea of everything comes to us where we are, at our present level of understanding, meeting our needs and showing God's love for His children. But this coming of the Christ to the flesh is really meant to lead us to higher and higher understanding until the absolute is reached.

Everything in human experience symbolizes some spiritual idea but the symbol, and the idea are not two different entities. They are only different views of the one reality. Spiritual understanding translates ideas into sustenance for the human need, as Jesus showed with the loaves and fishes. But in Christian Science, we do not simply aim at having our human needs met. We aim at the ultimate understanding whereby we will be clothed and fed spiritually, as Mrs. Eddy foreshadowed in Science and Health. She said, "Christ, Truth, gives us temporary food and clothing until the material, transformed with the ideal, disappears, and man is clothed and fed spiritually."

In one story in the New Testament; we see three conceptual levels regarding supply illustrated. The lowest, or human, level was when the disciples went back to their fishing, after Jesus' crucifixion. Despite all their Master had taught them, their thought was still anchored to matter as substance, and after fishing all night, they had caught nothing. Jesus appeared on the shore and told them to cast the net "on the right side," to "launch out into the deep," and now "they were not able to draw it, for the multitude of fishes." It is not to be implied, as one commentator surmised, that Jesus, from his vantage point on the shore, could see where the fish were. Casting the net on the right side, or launching into the deep, imports the need to look to the deeper spiritual realities instead of matter.

Jesus' understanding enabled him to see real substance or supply as ever available ideas of infinite Mind. Fish are ideas in universal

Mind, and because ideas are infinite, this Christly understanding translates into temporal food to meet needs at humanity's particular stage of understanding. Mrs. Eddy says, "Christian Science translates Mind, God, to mortals." (Miscellaneous Writings) Jesus translated spiritual ideas into what the disciples saw as fishes in their nets, and loaves and fishes for the multitude.

The disciples found that Jesus on the shore already had "a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread." He did not need to go through the processes of catching fish or making bread. His spiritual understanding enabled him to translate spiritual ideas directly into the human perception of fish and bread.

Plainly, Jesus was showing the disciples - and us - the limitless possibilities of spiritualized consciousness. In an early issue of The Christian Science Journal (Vol. IV, p.94), Mrs. Eddy is recorded as saying, after a party, that she expected her followers one day to be able to enjoy the delectables without going through the conventional processes. But she obviously also saw beyond that to the ultimate state of understanding where "man is clothed and fed spiritually."

This understanding is relevant in our work on community, national and international problems of supply, such as famine, inflation, unemployment, and other beliefs of limitation associated with materialism. God's business of being All-in-all includes no limitation in any direction, and man, as His "full and perfect expression," includes all that God is expressing.

All business is God's business and expresses limitless abundance. Its purpose is to bless. There are no fluctuations or cycles in the infinitude of good. Beliefs of stagnation or lack or loss cannot touch true business because business is the activity of Mind, God. Loss, lack and stagnation are mortal beliefs not actual conditions. Business is in us, and we bring to bear on it the qualities of our own thinking. Business can't think; it doesn't know whether it is good or bad, and we have dominion in proportion to our spiritual understanding of substance, supply, and true business. Many people have demonstrated dramatic turn around from failing businesses to successful ones through spiritually understanding these realities. Mind has infinite ways of employing man in expressing the qualities

of God... Mass famine, and the crime it generates, looms ahead. How do Christian Scientists respond to all this? Like every other problem, it boils down to the claim of animal magnetism that everything is material, and man a creator. Everything about matter is limitation, but Christian Science and even the physicists tell us that matter isn't substantial, that it's an illusion, and that everything is mental. Christian Science has come to show that everything is spiritually mental, the creation of God, Mind, who is infinite and entirely good.

This puts a completely new complexion on the world situation. Healing in Christian Science comes through understanding the realities of being right where the material unreality seems to be. There are not two realities – one material and imperfect and another spiritual and perfect. The world and everything in it is not a creation to be made perfect, any more than a diseased body has to be changed.

Mrs. Eddy says, "There is but one creator, and one creation." She also tells us that to the unillumined human mind it appears material, while to spiritualized consciousness it appears spiritual. She says, "Mortal existence is a dream" - an illusion. All that appears out there as a surging world of hungry, warring, sinful, constricted mortals, and a polluted earth is the unillumined human mind's pictured delusion about the spiritual creation, which is the only reality. Mrs. Eddy says, "For right reasoning there should be but one fact before the thought, namely, spiritual existence." The kingdom of heaven in which we live, move and have our being, is the present reality. Man reflects the infinity of Mind, Soul, and its perfect ideas. God's immortal children reflect every good quality and condition. Inasmuch as matter, space and time are obsolete human concepts, there can be no pressure of space for living, no depletion of the limitless resources of Soul. In the pure atmosphere of Spirit, pollution is impossible. In the realm of infinite Love, man lives eternally as the blessed child of God, rejoicing in the harmony, peace and superabundance of good that God is forever expressing. God is ever employing man in expressing His qualities, and He rewards man for so doing. This isn't a dream picture, but the reality; and in proportion as we unequivocally hold to it and reject the lie; we will help the world to see it.

Mankind's greatest need is not for material wealth, food, clothing, houses, jobs or healthy matter. It is for the spiritual understanding which translates the limitless ideas of Mind into humanly perceptible supply. The situation in the world today appears one in which increasing demands are being made for us to help the poor and needy. ...Because of the compassion we feel, it is hard to resist supporting reputable charities, but our purpose is to heal lack at its source and not become deflected into human means and methods.

Many of the other church denominations are heavily engaged in human ways of doing good, through social work, famine relief, hospital care, and other means. We can be grateful for such Christian endeavors, but that isn't the Christian Science way of healing the problems. Those means often compound the problems by reinforcing materialistic beliefs, dulling initiative and encouraging dependence. They don't heal the problems. Christian Science shows the way to heal and how to dispense with charity.

Mrs. Eddy quotes a Talmudic philosopher on this subject: "The noblest charity and the best alms are to show and enable a man to dispense with alms." Our first priority then should be to strengthen and support the promotion and extension of Christian Science by which mankind can overcome the beliefs of lack. Christian Science alone has the remedy.

You have probably heard of the book, *Gods Smuggler*, by Brother Andrew, who has smuggled millions of Bibles into countries where they are restricted. He now heads a worldwide organization for distributing the Scriptures. To support this work, dinners are held in various centers where couriers tell of their own experiences. In 1981 a million Bibles were carried to China in a barge, and Christians there say they need millions more.

At one of these dinners held in Boston recently, a courier told of his experience in taking Bibles into Mocambicque, a Marxist country in Africa, where the Scriptures are restricted. The courier was from the adjoining country of Malawi. In response to his own prayers he was led to put five hundred Bibles into his white car and head for the border. A border official asked if he had any Bibles, and it came to him to say, facetiously, "Yes, my car is full of Bibles." He was rebuked for his jocularly and told to get on his way.

The courier still had no idea where to deliver the Bibles, but through prayer, he was led to go to a certain city. Only later did he learn that a pastor had set out with an assistant on a two day walk to that city, having seen in a vision a white car bringing much needed Bibles. He saw a white car standing at a gas station and recognized it from his vision. Walking up to the car, he knocked on the window and said; "I think you have something for me - Bibles." One can imagine the tears of joy at that meeting. It is reminiscent of some of the stories in the Scriptures.

The Spirit of Christ is active in human consciousness and nothing can block it.

Your Donations Make It Possible

Maintaining a site as complex as www.mbeinstitute.org can be a daunting and costly task, but with the assistance of visitors like yourself, we will be able to continue to provide the quality articles and information you've come to depend on. We sincerely appreciate your kindness and generosity. Please mail or click for secure online transfer of your tax-deductible donation today.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ *(your receipt will be mailed to this address)*

Email: _____

Mail to: The Mary Baker Eddy Institute
 3350 North Key Drive, #B313
 North Fort Myers, FL 33903



Secure Online Transfer: [**Paypal**](#)