

December 29 - 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 Mary Baker Eddy Institute, Letter 12 by Helen Wright. For a brief biography on our featured author, [click here](#).

LET'S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING

What is the most important question in the Christian Science textbook? Isn't it the question: "What is God?"

And why?

Because, as we noted earlier, it tells you what you divinely are. The foundation, the basis, of all Mrs. Eddy's teaching is found in the question, "What is God?" and her answer: "God is incorporeal, divine, supreme, infinite Mind [your real Mind], Spirit [your real substance, reality], Soul [your true identity], Principle [your forever harmony of operation], Life [eternal indestructible individuality], Truth [your Christ consciousness], Love [your holiness, peace, glory].

Students of Science and Health will find that each synonym has its own distinct meaning. For example, the synonyms can be characterized as: law (Mind), order (Spirit), rule (Soul), system (Principle), method (Life), form (Truth), and plan or design (Love). Or again they can be characterized as: wisdom (Mind), purity (Spirit), spiritual understanding (Soul), spiritual power (Principle), love (Life), health (Truth), holiness (Love) (S&H 116:2).

It is quickly evident as we will show later on, that each synonym has many characteristics and each is characterized in Mary Baker Eddy's writings differently than the other six synonyms. Each denotes a unique quality or attribute pertaining to God, infinite good, which stands in unique relation to each other quality or attribute. For example:

Mind is characterized by intelligence, law, power, basis, information, action, creativity, etc.

Spirit is characterized as substance, reality, order, the only, strength, divine energy, good, etc. Here note that the infinite ideas of Mind have the nature of Spirit.

Soul is characterized by identity, Ego, self-sameness, rule, spiritual understanding, intact, balance, etc.

Principle: Mind, Spirit, Soul, as one, constitute our Principle. Principle is characterized as harmony, divine government, structure, system, Science, spiritual power, foundation; Principle explains, etc.

Life is characterized by is-ness, eternity, God-governed individuality, inspiration, method, etc.

Truth is characterized by consciousness, the whole, form, deliverer, health, ideal, remedy; Truth uncovers, unveils, etc.

Love is characterized by fulfillment, plan, purpose, rest, peace, perfection; Love accepts, etc.

LEARNING WHICH WORDS INDICATE THE SEVEN SYNONYMOUS TERMS

While I learned much from Mr. Doorly's class in London and from Max Kappeler's teaching and others, in order to find out for myself how each of the seven synonymous terms differ from each other, and what each synonym is, does, and deals with, I "dissected" Science and Health. Using a Spanish-English translation of Science and Health, and working with the word "Mind," I cut out every paragraph that had "Mind" in it, and pasted that paragraph into a notebook. Then I could see for myself what Mind is, what it does, and what it deals with.

In a second Spanish Science and Health, I cut out the paragraphs (in English) that had the word Spirit in it; and pasted these paragraphs into a notebook. Then I could see how Mrs. Eddy characterized Spirit by what Spirit is, what it does, and what it deals with.

I did the same with Soul, and with Principle, and with Life, with Truth, and with Love.

I used seven Spanish-English translations of Science and Healths for this project because these books have the English on one side only. If you want to try this, use foreign editions of S&H or you will have to use 14 English editions, since Mind (or any synonym) might be on both sides of one page.

When I had completed this project The Rare Book Company sold a few of these voluminous works on the synonyms; and several interested students volunteered, and sold a few copies. It is my intention to make this study available again, as there is more interest today in the system imbedded in Science and Health.

Helped by the insights I had received from John Doorly, Max Kappeler and others, I drew up the two lists-first, words used to describe or explain Mind-and second, words used as opposites, to explain what Mind is not.

I did the same for Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth and Love. The notebooks this generated are too massive to include here, but readers might find the following lists useful.

Sometimes Mrs. Eddy uses a word that mostly characterizes one synonym to also characterize a different synonym, two different ways.

One such example is the word "power." While "power" indicates and is mostly used with Mind, Mrs. Eddy sometimes uses it with Love, as "the healing power of Love." And, while "creates" is a Mind word, Mrs. Eddy in certain cases says Spirit creates. The same is true of a word like "govern." While Mind governs, "govern" and "government" are usually words denoting Principle. While "delivers" is usually a Love word, Mrs. Eddy also uses it with Mind. These words are marked on the following lists (e.g.-Soul/Mind/Principle, or Mind/Truth, etc.)

LIST OF WORDS OFTEN USED WITH SYNONYMS

In the following list of words, the first section contains words Mrs. Eddy often uses to describe Mind, to show what Mind is, what it does, and what it deals with.

The second section contains words Mrs. Eddy uses with Spirit to tell us what Spirit is, what it does and what it deals with. This pattern is then utilized throughout the remaining sections covering all seven of the synonyms.

This first section contains words Mrs. Eddy uses to describe MIND.

I. MIND

action	forces	makes (Mind/Truth)	will
all	forms (verb)	medicine	Opposites,
ability	faculties	metaphysics (Mind/Principle)	accident
apprehend	guides	multiplies	brain
all-faculty	govern (Mind/Soul/Principle)	might	belief
author	heals	origin	darkness
basis	image	one (Mind/Principle)	heredity
comprehend	idea	parent Mind	hypnotism
cause	immortal	perfect (Mind/Principle)	ignorance
controls	immortality	power	illusion
creates (Mind/Spirit)	includes(Mind/Love)	presents	limits
creative ability	influence	produces	Materia medica
desire	intelligence	perception	matter
delivers (Mind/Love)	intuition	revelation	m. m. p.
directs	knows	reveals	mesmerism
discovers	law	Science	minds many
dominion (Mind/Truth)	leads	supreme	mortal
expresses	light	source	nerve
emanates	mandate	thought	
First	manifests	wisdom	

The 2nd section contains words Mrs. Eddy uses to describe aspects of SPIRIT.

II. SPIRIT

ability	faith	patience	unfoldment
adores	firmament	positive	warmth
appear	fruit	prism	worship
baptism	focus	progress	Opposites
blesses	good	purity	absorption
birth	gratitude	quality	animal
chain	incubator	reality	dust
chemicalization (Soul/Spirit)	illumination	reflection	evil
Christianity	leaven	reigns	electricity
conception	language	separates	flesh
creates (Spirit/Mind)	likeness	spiritual	materiality
day	love	strength	matter
dedication	nature	spiritual warfare	mingles
devotion	offspring	substance	physical
develop	only	supreme (Spirit/Mind)	
discerns	order	understanding (Soul/Spirit)	

The 3rd section is where Mrs. Eddy uses certain words to describe SOUL.

III. SOUL

balance	reverses	corporeal
beauty	rules	hypocrisy
changeless	resurrection	in
chemicalization (Soul/Spirit)	satisfies	lost
defines	seed within	lust
doctrine	sinless	malice
earth	spiritual sense	m.m.p.
find	spiritual understanding (Soul/Spirit)	mortality
freedom	star	oblivion
incorporeal	unconfined	pantheism
identity	wilderness	passion
intact	Opposites	pleasures and pains
joy	appetite	salvation
mission	body	senses
names	bondage	sin
perseverance	change	slavery
		suffering

The 4th section is where Mrs. Eddy uses certain words to describe PRINCIPLE.

IV. PRINCIPLE

Spiritual	establishes	obedience	teaching
power	explains	one	unity
apodictical	foundation	operation	universe
authority	government	personal	universal
balance	harmony	perfect (Principle/Mind)	work.
being	heart	platform	Opposites
calculus	honesty	practice	Fragmentation
classification	idea	proof	discord
consistency	individual	rock	dishonesty
conformity	interprets	Science	personal
crown	kingdom	spiritual	hypocrisy
demonstration	loyalty	power	theories
economy	metaphysics	statement	ungodliness

Words that Mrs. Eddy uses to describe the attributes of LIFE are in section five.

V. LIFE

ascension	exaltation	laying down	highway
aspiration	Father	the mortal	Opposites
abundance	fatherhood	love	age
Being	fathering	method	blood
being	follow	multiplies	body
bread	followers	nowness	crucifixion
creator	grace	open	death
coexistence	gratitude	perpetual	grave
coincidence	habitual	perseveres	heredity
character	immortal	repentance	limits
constructive	immortality	resurrection	mortal
day	individual	risen	mortality
earth	individuality	sacrifice	organic
essence	indivisible	temple	physiology
eternal	indestructible	timeless	temple
existence	inspiration	way	time
experience	is	wings	veil

The 6th section contains Mrs. Eddy words to describe the attributes of TRUTH.

VI. TRUTH

abide	dawn	ideal	revelation	Opposites
affirmation	deliverer	judgment	rock	
appears	demands	justice	seed	
awakens	demonstration	key	son	
bread	destroys	leads	star	
brotherhood	dominion	leaven	sword	
calculus	example	light	theology	
casts out	Exemplar	makes	treasures	
chemicalization	expression	man	triumph	
Christian Science	follow	manifestation	true	
Christ	followers	Messiah	trust	
claims	form	Mission	uncovers	
complete	garment	morning	virtue	
conquers	gospel	potent	voice	
consciousness	grace	reaches	whole	
cross	health	reflection	way	
cup	heals	remedy	work	
cure	honesty	resists		

The last section contains words Mrs. Eddy uses to describe aspects of LOVE.

VII. LOVE

abide	comforter	forgives	Oil	Opposites
accepts	compass	gives	patience	
affection	complete	glory	peace	
amplitude	crown	gospel	perfection	
anoint	conception	grace	plan	
ascension	delivers	heart	purpose	
beauty	design	holiness	rest	
bestow	divine Science	Holy Ghost	satisfies	
blesses	encompassing	inspiration	sublime	
bliss	fulfills	loveliness	salvation	
chastens	fulfillment	meets	universal	
coexistence	fill	Mother		

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