

Weekly Lesson Citations

DEAR FRIENDS: We plan to use this spot on our web page to bring you a different set of citations each week—expanding on specific citations from the “Weekly Lesson.” A paraphrase can so often open thought to new insights of familiar statements. In this way we hope to share with you some of the wonderful work that has been done in Christian Science over the past fifty years and in to the present by authors you may or may not have yet met.

Our selections this week correspond to the Subject as a whole. The first is from Peggy Brook’s booklet — GOD’S NATURE AS MIND. The other selection is from John Doorly’s TALKS ON THE SCIENCE OF THE BIBLE — VOLUME SEVEN. (pages 448-450 and 459-561).

August 20: Mind

Let us begin by going through this sevenfold reflection of Mind as a whole, together with the extracts from the days of creation that we have taken to illustrate it:

Mind as Mind is the divine intelligence of all creation.

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

Mind as Spirit is the allness of Mind, and therefore the only Mind, entirely spiritual.

“And God said, Let there be a firmament let it divide the waters from the waters.”

Mind as Soul is the definiteness of idea which precludes mere thought or belief.

“And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.”

Mind as Principle is the one control governing all.

“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.”

Mind as Life is the activity of ideas that is spontaneous and eternal.

“And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.”

Mind as Truth is the unerring and whole nature of consciousness, which is health.

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

Mind as Love is the ever-fulfilled and restful activity of Mind as All-in-all.

“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.”

Let us always remember that in taking a subject like the seven synonymous terms for God one has, of necessity, to use words and with them to analyze each term and consider it separately, but the truth is that the divine nature is one infinite and is always in operation. For instance, Love does not come into operation at the end of six periods of unfolding thought, nor is it operating only when we are thinking about it, nor solely as Love. The infinite is omnipresent and omni-active, and each facet reflects every other, so that every operation of Being from the infinitesimal to the infinite has the nature of Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, Love. Moreover the nature of the infinite Being is beyond words. We use words as symbols, but “as we rise, the symbols disappear” and we “see him as he is,” as the apostle John declared.

The synonymous terms for God are Life

One feels more than ever the wonder of the divine nature as defined through these synonymous terms for God. They express pure reality, natural power, and in dwelling with them, one is aware of touching the fundamental values or all life. Today, in understanding these truths, thought is getting away more and more from mere words. In initial research into the meaning of these synonymous terms for God, although being fundamentally interested in ideas, the temptation is often to get involved with words. In their original study it is perhaps a temporary help to make lists of words which characterize the nature of Mind, Spirit, Soul, and so on, but there comes a time when, even if one is tempted to have merely an intellectual sense of Science, one is impelled to move on into the consciousness of living, flexible ideas, aware of the infinite power and presence behind the mere terms.

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The synonymous terms for God are Life (cont.)

Then one finds quite naturally that these ideas are no longer objective and outside of one in the limited sense of looking up to reality and out to an objective universe, but that man is these ideas in operation and they constitute his universe. Man is idea and nothing is going on outside of all-inclusive infinity where "all is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation."

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Terms are useful, but all terms, as well as books and teaching, are merely ladders to the innate spiritual consciousness that is man's birthright. (See Ret. 85: 9-12.) To think behind mere terms to the reality of the activity of Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love is to find the kingdom of heaven within, and when we have found the kingdom of heaven within, we find it in the so-called "without;" we can discern the operation of divine facts all around us, however unfamiliar the symbols may be to us. It is only as we rise beyond the confines of mere words that we can discern specifically where and how the Christ is at work in the many outstanding ways in which Christ, Truth, is leavening thought in the world today. The "signs of the times" in the fields of science, theology, medicine are truly wonderful. One feels Isaiah's prophecy coming to fulfillment, that "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

In what terms will this "knowledge of the Lord" be couched? We may not be able to say, and indeed it may not be necessary even to know. All we do know is that if we allow the spirit always to guide us, we shall experience the common unity of divine idea expressing itself, so that every man will hear the voice of Truth speaking in his own tongue, as on the day of Pentecost, and thus experience the omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, and omniscience of one Mind, one Spirit, one Soul, one Principle, one Life, Truth, and Love.

Translation is Essential

You know, these things we have loved and lived with for so many years, which we call Mind, Spirit, Soul, Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, are all just symbols which mean something to us because they indicate to us divine facts. In mathematics you have your symbols, in music you have your symbols, and so too in the Science of reality you have your symbols. Now, when you begin to see these symbols blend, and you see why they blend and how they blend, how they reflect each other in countless orders, and you feel and touch them in spiritual consciousness, then you begin to find yourself a "new creature," and old things pass away. You begin to put on the Mind of Christ.

When we were studying the Word of God, Mind said to us, "Let there be light," Spirit said, "Let there be development," and Soul said, "Let there be definiteness." At the point of Soul we began to understand something of God, and Soul began to lead us to divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, but if we had stopped at the point of Soul, we would never have gone anywhere. We have to go on now and see what divine Principle, Life, Truth, and Love, really is and what it does, and as we do that we shall have the subjective sense of reality, which is always power. We shall begin to hear the angels sing, to hear the infinite refrain of the infinite Principle forever declaring, "I am the one infinite Life, the infinite fatherhood; I am the one Truth, the infinite sonship;" —a father without a son would not be a father; —"I am the one Love, the infinite motherhood."

Translation is Essential (cont.)

Fatherhood demands sonship and motherhood, sonship demands fatherhood and motherhood; and motherhood demands sonship and fatherhood. To have any one without the others would be an impossibility, and so the infinite must express all three of these qualities. Then as the infinite interpretation of this one Principle forever declaring itself as Life, Truth, and Love begins to translate itself through the symbols which we call Soul, Spirit, and Mind, Soul first reduces or translates the one ideal of Principle down to the point of definite ideas; then Spirit gives those ideas order, it shows that they are diversified, classified, and individualized; and then the symbol we call Mind shows us that every one of them is made manifest at the point of Mind, at the point of idea, at the point of power, at the point of intelligence and law.

In proportion as you realize, to any extent whatever, something of the Christ translation, in that proportion does the scientific translation of mortal mind spontaneously begin to operate. Your thought first rejects the merely physical as "Depravity," which is analysis. It begins to separate between the physical and the spiritual, and thus it uncovers the nothingness of the physical, and so the physical begins to disappear. This we call morality, which has been a wonderful thing for the world, but which purely on its own merits can never stand up to the attacks of evil. Finally, your thought arrives at the spiritual, in which, as Mrs. Eddy says, "mortal mind disappears, and man as God's image appears."

We are living in a world today where great things are happening. If we have enough of the Mind of Christ today to make all these clashing ideologies —communism, capitalism, socialism, and so on— Christian, we shall save the world. Moreover, we shall have a common meeting-ground, and that common meeting-ground will be the scientific and spiritual. Now, nothing can establish the spiritual in human experience but divine and scientific translation. If we don't understand that there is an infinite translation forever going on, which can be understood and utilized, which will translate everything that is unlike reality out of itself, and establish the fact that the spiritual is the only, we shall get nowhere at all. We have a wonderful opportunity. These forces in the world of love, so-called, and hate and every kind of human passion can only be dealt with in one way, and that way is through divine translation. As we individually put on the Mind of Christ, we begin to understand the Christ translation and then we can do something with those conditions, but not otherwise.

And so it is essential to mankind that we should learn how to translate. Just as there is a process in mathematics called subtraction, which, when you understand it, you can use and it operates for you, so in metaphysics there is a process which we call translation, a process of finding God. When we understand that process, we can use it, and we can use it in the realm of being, in the realm of omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, and omni-action. Then we can go on to use the process of Christianity, of what is really multiplication, in which we begin to use what has been translated to us in the Christ, and so demonstrate reality. Finally, we arrive at the point where we see that there is nothing going on from everlasting to everlasting, but one infinite Science, one infinite system. Then we begin to look at everything from that standpoint.

The Christ Translation is Divinely Natural

Don't strain and stress at these things; don't push and pull. Start with the scientific fact that there is only the infinite One, and that you are an idea of that infinite One. Paul says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Science is always grace. Because there is only one cause, you are the perfect effect of that cause. Because that cause is Mind, you exist as idea, and that idea is the Mind of Christ. So start by knowing that you have the Mind of Christ, and that is the only Mind you have. And then begin to see that divine Principle must forever translate itself, must forever translate its own ideal of Life, Truth, and Love as a perfect creation of divine ideas; and then you will begin to see that as that translation of omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, and omni-action takes place, the mortal must disappear. And because that translation is ordered, the disappearance of the mortal must be ordered —not because the mortal itself is ordered, but because the immortal is ordered. Then you will find in your life that not only will all things become new, but old things will disappear in the most ordered way, and it will be because you have felt the touch of this infinite divine translation.

The Christ Translation is Divinely Natural (cont.)

This Christ order of translation is such a lovely thing. Divine Principle interprets itself to itself, translates itself to itself; it says, "I am Life, I am Truth, I am Love, I am the infinite Person, the Person of fatherhood, sonship, and motherhood, the only relationship." Then this Principle begins to translate itself at the point of Life as the creative, everlasting Father, —forever sustaining and maintaining every one of its ideas. At the point of Truth it is forever establishing its own ideas, and giving a sense of the divine ideal. At the point of Love it is forever fulfilling and cherishing and nourishing and glorifying that idealism. Then Soul, which gives us a sense of translation, comes into the picture, and so that divine ideal which is forever operating begins to be translated to us as infinite ideas. Then Spirit says to us, "Yes, and all these ideas have divine order, they are all identified, classified, and individualized—they are not wandering, they are not chaotic —and they all reflect each other, and in the language of Spirit you can understand them all." Finally, Mind says, "Yes, and they are all manifested as idea, and they all manifest the nature of that which is all power, all intelligence, all wisdom, all law." And so you begin to find that all men in reality have the Mind of Christ. As this is made manifest to you, error begins to disappear in an ordered way. Whatever divine idea comes to you, that which is unlike that idea is bound to disappear. When you know that $2 + 2 = 4$, $2 + 2 = 5$ has got to go. And so when this translation comes to you at the point of Mind, at the point of infinite idea, all that is unlike it has got to go.

You don't have to do anything with the infinite translation of the Christ; you have only to let it use you. Paul writes, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God," —being the Son of God, —"thought it not robbery to be equal with God." You are of the same nature as God; if you are not, you will never amount to anything. The disciple John wrote, "Beloved now are we the sons of God." Science has nothing to do with time; it has only to do with eternity. Nor has Science anything to do with place; it has only to do with infinity. You must not only know it, but you must love it and feel it. It must come into you, and it must be so real to you that it becomes you, and then you will act "as one having authority," and you will go forward. You will not be afraid of, the man that shall die, but you will be so interested in the man that will live eternally, that you will have no time for the man that shall die.