

Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist, Chicago, Illinois
Wednesday, January 4, 2017
Subject: *What Is The Father Doing?*

Hymns: #382, #416, #437

The subject of tonight's readings is "What is the Father doing?" In John 5, in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Jesus offers this explanation of his healing works. "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing;" What is the Father doing? How can we make sure we are seeing what He is showing us? Why is it important to see what our Father is doing? We'll be exploring these questions in tonight's readings.

Tonight's Bible readings are from the New Revised Standard Version and The New King James Version of the Bible.

Part One – What is the Father doing?

From the Bible.

Romans 8:14 (NKJV)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

John 5:20 (to ;) (NRSV)

The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing;

Eccl. 3:14 (to second ;) (NRSV)

I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it;

From Science and Health

S&H 523:26-27

God creates all forms of reality. His thoughts are spiritual realities.

S&H 532:3

God makes and governs all.

S&H 151:23

The divine Mind that made man maintains His own image and likeness.

S&H 470:32

The relations of God and man, divine Principle and idea, are indestructible in Science; and Science knows no lapse from nor return to harmony, but holds the divine order or spiritual law,

in which God and all that He creates are perfect and eternal, to have remained unchanged in its eternal history.

S&H 151:20-21

Every function of the real man is governed by the divine Mind.

S&H 331:16

Everything in God's universe expresses Him.

Part Two – How can we make sure we are seeing what the Father is showing us?

From the Bible,

Ps. 46:10 (to:) (NRSV)

Be still, and know that I am God:

Matt 6:6 whenever (NRSV)

whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

From Science and Health,

S&H 15:14

In order to pray aright, we must enter into the closet and shut the door. We must close the lips and silence the material senses. In the quiet sanctuary of earnest longings, we must deny sin and plead God's allness. We must resolve to take up the cross, and go forth with honest hearts to work and watch for wisdom, Truth, and Love. We must "pray without ceasing." Such prayer is answered, in so far as we put our desires into practice. The Master's injunction is, that we pray in secret and let our lives attest our sincerity.

S&H 4:17

Simply asking that we may love God will never make us love Him; but the longing to be better and holier, expressed in daily watchfulness and in striving to assimilate more of the divine character, will mould and fashion us anew, until we awake in His likeness.

S&H 26:10

The Christ was the Spirit which Jesus implied in his own statements: "I am the way, the truth, and the life;" "I and my Father are one." This Christ, or divinity of the man Jesus, was his divine nature, the godliness which animated him. Divine Truth, Life, and Love gave Jesus authority over sin, sickness, and death. His mission was to reveal the Science of celestial being, to prove what God is and what He does for man.

S&H 322:3-7

When understanding changes the standpoints of life and intelligence from a material to a spiritual basis, we shall gain the reality of Life, the control of Soul over sense, and we shall perceive Christianity, or Truth, in its divine Principle.

S&H 454:18-19

Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way.

Part Three – Why is it important to see what the Father is doing?

From the Bible

Luke 4:14 (NRSV)

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.

Luke 9:37-42 (NRSV)

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. Jesus answered, “Bring your son here.” While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father.

Luke 7:11-15 (NRSV)

So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them.

John 8:28 (NRSV)

So Jesus said, “I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me.

John 3:35 (NRSV)

the Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands.

From Science and Health,

S&H 14:12

Become conscious for a single moment that Life and intelligence are purely spiritual, — neither in nor of matter, — and the body will then utter no complaints. If suffering from a belief in sickness, you will find yourself suddenly well.

S&H 476:28 - 5

When speaking of God’s children, not the children of men, Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is within you;” The kingdom within that is, Truth and Love reign in the real man, showing that man in God’s image is unfallen and eternal. Jesus beheld in Science the perfect man, who appeared to him where sinning mortal man appears to mortals. In this perfect man the Saviour saw God’s own likeness, and this correct view of man healed the sick. Thus Jesus taught that the kingdom of God is intact, universal, and that man is pure and holy.

S&H 120:20 the
the divine Principle of Science, reversing the testimony of the physical senses, reveals man as harmoniously existent in Truth, which is the only basis of health; and thus Science denies all disease, heals the sick, overthrows false evidence, and refutes materialistic logic.

S&H 300: 28

The universe reflects and expresses the divine substance or Mind; therefore God is seen only in the spiritual universe and spiritual man, as the sun is seen in the ray of light which goes out from it. God is revealed only in that which reflects Life, Truth, Love, — yea, which manifests God's attributes and power, even as the human likeness thrown upon the mirror, repeats the color, form, and action of the person in front of the mirror.

S&H 286:12

Physical causation was put aside from first to last by this original man, Jesus. He knew that the divine Principle, Love, creates and governs all that is real.

S&H 207:20-23

There is but one primal cause. Therefore there can be no effect from any other cause, and there can be no reality in aught which does not proceed from this great and only cause.

S&H 302:19

The Science of being reveals man as perfect, even as the Father is perfect, because the Soul, or Mind, of the spiritual man is God, the divine Principle of all being, and because this real man is governed by Soul instead of sense, by the law of Spirit, not by the so-called laws of matter.

S&H 3:9

His work is done, and we have only to avail ourselves of God's rule in order to receive His blessing, which enables us to work out our own salvation.

Part Four – One more time

From the Bible

Romans 8:14 (NKJV)

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

John 5:20 (to ;) (NRSV)

The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing;