



“and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” Revelation 22:2

You are the Demonstration

A talk by Laurance R. Doyle
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I got to thinking last night about leaves - being here at The Leaves. As you know in this week’s Bible lesson, in the Responsive Reading from Revelation, it says, “In the midst of the street of it (the Holy City), and on either side of the river, there was the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of the nations” (Rev 22:2). I had a colleague from London who studies trees. He was visiting me and we went to church together. From the desk the reader read this passage, “God gives the lesser idea of Himself for a link to the greater, and in return, the higher always protects the lower” (*Science and Health*, p. 518). And he said, “That’s true, the trees do protect us.” I said that folks may have usually thought of that passage in terms of the humans being the greater. But he said, “Oh no, she must be talking about trees; they are the greater.” He said, “They help run the atmosphere, they make up about 90% of the land biomass, they make their own food and eat it, whereas we just eat—we really can’t make our own food from sunshine,” and so on. He made quite a case for trees being the higher protecting us. It was actually a wonderful, humbling thing to hear.

Now, of course, in Revelation, the tree of life is wholly spiritual, and one may even think of it metaphorically as, for example, the leaves of a book for the healing of the nations. But let’s just for a moment more continue with reading the metaphor of leaves. The key feature of leaves is photosynthesis—turning light into food. Leaves catch light from the Sun and turn it into food for all the animals, birds, and so on. So what an appropriate name for a Christian Science facility expressing the “turning” of the light of Soul into practical, nurturing love. Of course, Mrs. Eddy defines “Sun” in the Glossary of *Science and Health* as, “The symbol of Soul governing man,—of Truth, Life, and Love” (p. 595).

You know, it has recently been discovered that leaves are actually little quantum computers. This has led to the new field of quantum biology. This discovery first appeared in the journal *Nature*. Quantum computers are computers that can use elementary particles as the switches to calculate things almost instantaneously that a regular computer might take thousands of years to compute. They utilize the quantum property of trying all possible solutions to a problem at the same time. No one has built a quantum computer yet, but there are three \$25M prototypes that are trying to approximate quantum computing. NASA Ames and Google recently bought one together. But all leaves are apparently natural quantum computers. And they don’t cost \$25M each! They somehow catch light without the light collapsing into a particle (called a photon) until they are ready to use it to do photosynthesis. Natural scientists have a long way to go before they know how to be this gentle. Catching light without having it collapse its wave function into a photon is the most delicate process known to physics. Anyway, I just wanted to share some ideas about leaves as an analogy for healing. They can represent the gentlest expressions of Love, making practical use of the light of Soul for healing of people, and of the nations. So what a wonderful and appropriate name for this healing and nurturing place!

OK, so the title of our talk today is, “You are the demonstration.” Let’s see what this means. Mary Baker Eddy, who re-discovered Christ Jesus’ original method of healing with reality, wrote of him, “Jesus of Nazareth was the most scientific man that ever trod the globe. He plunged beneath the material surface of things, and found the spiritual cause” (*Science and Health*, p. 313). This is a very good definition of the scientific process; a scientist should “...[plunge] beneath the material surface of things and [find] the spiritual cause.” Contrary to many views of science, scientists do not take the so-called “obvious” evidence of the material senses as reliable. Simple examples include that the Earth is not flat, and that the Sun does not orbit the Earth but rather the other way around. These observations are in direct conflict with the evidence of the material senses. Science actually begins when one starts by taking the evidence of intelligence as superior to, and more reliable than, the evidence of the material senses.

So was Christ Jesus a scientist? From what he stated about his mission it certainly sounds so. Christ Jesus did not say he came to start a new religion. When asked about his mission he said, “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth” (John 18: 37). So he said that he came to bear witness to the truth. If you lived 2,000 years ago and you wanted to teach the scientific idea that experimental results are more reliable than human opinion, how would you put it? Say you wanted to get this idea across to your disciples? How might you say it in Bible language?

Does anybody here realize that Jesus probably made the first statement of the scientific method in history?

The religious establishment of the time once asked Christ Jesus who bore witness for him. And he replied that it was not human authority that bore witness to the truth of what he taught. He said, “If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. Ye sent unto John [this is John the Baptist], and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man:... I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me” (John 5: 31-33, 34 to :, 36-37). So Christ Jesus said that, rather than even the highest human authority, it was his healing works that were the true test of the truth of what he taught. So we have, perhaps for the first time in history, a statement of the scientific method—that experimental verification is more important and reliable than human authority. Also, just in case his disciples were not getting it, Christ Jesus also added, “If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not.”

In modern scientific language, one might say ‘You are not to blindly believe a theory without experimental verification.’ This is a tenant of the natural science community. Christ Jesus stated this in other ways as well. For example, he said: “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matt 7: 20). But if such Christian healing is really a science, then others should be able to follow Jesus’ example in demonstrating healing also. Well, Christ Jesus taught this also. Jesus said, “Verily, verily I say unto you, the works that I do shall ye do also, and greater works than these shall ye do, because I go unto my Father” (John 14: 12). So this spiritual understanding of healing could be applied by others—in other words Jesus said it was not his personal charisma that healed. He said, “Because I go unto my Father,” that is, he went to his Father, God, for the healings. He was not talking about leaving, he was talking about going to the Source, Creator, Principle of the universe, divine Love, for the healing works. And what was being healed? In every case, a misconception of reality. Healing is the turning of thought from a limited, material viewpoint to the spiritually perfect, unlimited creation of infinite Mind.

Healing is the turning of thought from a limited material viewpoint to the spiritual, perfect, unlimited creation of the infinite Mind, which is an ongoing process. I'm sometimes asked if I believe in evolution or creation. Well, creation is ever appearing. So oddly enough, to a lot of people, Christian Scientists believe creation is an ongoing event. It's God thinking the universe right now. God is thinking us right now or we would not exist. So we do believe in creation. Do we believe in evolution? Yes, we do. Mrs. Eddy uses the phrase "survival of the fittest." She says that "Man outlives finite definitions of himself according to a law of "the survival of the fittest" (*No and Yes*, p. 25). So there's a Christian Science survival of the fittest law, and it is that the spiritual survives and the mortal does not. By definition the mortal does not survive. So in other words, the Christian Science *science* goes deeper. It doesn't mean we ignore science, we go deeper with it—plunge beneath the material surface of things and find the spiritual cause. As you may know Mrs. Eddy uses evolution, manifestation and creation in one sentence as equivalent terms.

One of the teachings of Christ Jesus concerning himself was, "I can of mine own self do nothing" (John 5:30). He did not say "very little." He said he could do nothing of himself. You know there is an old Zen Buddhist saying, "It is never too late to do nothing," and I think of Jesus saying he could do nothing of himself. So I take that saying to mean that it is never too late to let God do it. Mary Baker Eddy writes of Jesus, "Our Master taught no mere theory, doctrine, or belief. It was the divine Principle of all real being which he taught and practised. His proof of Christianity was no form or system of religion and worship, but Christian Science, working out the harmony of Life and Love" (*Science and Health*, p. 26). So Jesus' purpose was to reveal reality. Isn't that a much greater purpose than trying to do miracles to impress people into certain religious behavior? And it turns his followers from being caretakers of a religious tradition into prophets of reality—into demonstrators who have a purpose to reveal reality. The same effort that the natural sciences are trying.

Jesus taught that there was an infinitely powerful, omnipresent, and always-loving Principle of the universe that wipes out false notions of mortality and limitation, and he always relied upon his healing works to bear witness to this. He talked about and demonstrated a creation of such perfection that even a glimpse of this underlying reality would heal. Jesus called this divine Principle of perfection, "Father." A man would come up to Jesus and say, "Look, I have a withered hand," and Jesus would say, "No you don't!" The man would look again and see he must have been mistaken as his hand was whole. What looked like a fixing to others was a knowing to Jesus. Christ Jesus and Christian Science heal with reality.

Mrs. Eddy writes of Jesus' healing method, "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" (*Science and Health*, p. 476). So Mrs. Eddy's great discovery of Christian Science is that reality—the one and only spiritual reality of God's creation—is perfect. In Jesus' own words, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt 5: 48). And that is present tense.

So why do we call healings in Christian Science "demonstrations"? We know that Christ Jesus overcame every mortal limitation thrown at him. One might say that Christ Jesus did all the experimental verification for all of us, illustrating the love and perfection of his Father in overcoming sickness, sin, death, and rising from the grave and ascending. A religious friend of mine asked if I believed if Jesus was coming back. Before I could stop myself, I said, "What would you want him to do this time?" Didn't he already do it all for us?

In science when one does an experiment it is to find out if something is true or not. But in the classroom one does a demonstration of experiments whose outcome is already known for the students. Christ Jesus really did all the experimental verification we need. So all we can do—and it is much—is to follow his example. So we call him the “Way Shower.” Christ Jesus did all the proving over every possible apparent condition of limitation, and so we can but demonstrate what he already proved. And what did he prove? Christ Jesus said that it was his mission to bear witness to the Truth. So we call our healings “demonstrations” because we are illustrating what Christ Jesus already proved.

In present-day natural science there are two main divisions of physics—classical physics and modern physics. Modern physics starts with the discovery of quantum mechanics in the early 20th Century. The reason a new name was assigned is that there is a fundamental difference in how classical physics works and how modern physics works. In classical physics, we have the experimenter doing an experiment “out there.” His experiment is independent of what he knows about the experiment. However, in quantum physics it has been found that one cannot separate what one knows about the experiment from the experimental results. In other words, it appears that consciousness is involved in modern physics experiments in a way that it is not in classical physics experiments. In modern physics the consciousness of the observer is said to effect the results of the experiment and cannot be wholly separated from these results.

I was thinking about this with respect to Christian Science demonstration. Mrs. Eddy writes, “Christian Science differs from material science, but not on that account is it less scientific. On the contrary, Christian Science is pre-eminently scientific, being based on Truth, the Principle of all science” (*Science and Health*, p. 123). So why does natural science seem to have a difficult time recognizing Christian Science as science? In part it is because natural science is still, at various levels, trying to accommodate the evidence of the material senses with the evidence of the spiritual senses. As the philosopher Bertrand Russell stated, “Physics is based upon the notion that things are as they appear, and then proceeds to show that things are not as they appear.” So I realized also that, following the trend from classical to modern physics, we cannot be said to demonstrate God so much as God is demonstrating us! We are the demonstration, the expressions of God. We cannot do an experiment with God; rather God is omni-action and we are that expression. So we arrive at the title of this talk then—You Are the Demonstration.

You can’t succeed in Christian Science without God. You can get good enough in chemistry so you don’t need a chemistry book, and at math so you can do it without a calculator. But you can never get so good in Christian Science that you can do it without God. That’s because we are the experiment. We are the demonstration. God demonstrates us.

So where is natural science heading? Mrs. Eddy writes “Academics of the right sort are requisite. Observation, invention, study, and original thought are expansive and should promote the growth of mortal mind out of it-self, out of all that is mortal” (*Science and Health*, p. 195). Let me just read what some quantum physics folks have written and let you decide whether mortal mind is outgrowing itself in this direction.

One of the founders of quantum physics was Werner Heisenberg. He discovered the uncertainty principle which states that there is always going to be some uncertainty in the measurement of matter. And notice,

ideas are exact. $1+1$ is exactly 2, not 2.0001 or anything. Ideas are always exact. And matter never is. The uncertainty principle ensured that matter will never be exact. So it's kind of a revelation that matter is formed. Did you ever notice in the first chapter of Genesis how God creates? He creates by letting. Doesn't "let" kind of give you a sense of revealing rather than starting? And how does Lord God in the second chapter of Genesis create? By forming. The uncertainty principle basically demonstrates that matter is formed and it comes in chunks called quanta. So there would always be uncertainty in matter and there is always certainty in ideas and spiritual things. Spiritual things don't have units because they are not limited. There are no units to spiritual ideas.

Dr. Heisenberg writes this about the reality he was discovering in quantum physics, "Some physicists would prefer to come back to the idea of an objective real world whose smallest parts exist objectively in the same sense as stones or trees exist independently of whether we observe them. This however is impossible." So there appears to be an inseparability of material sense observation and the very coming into existence of matter. How interesting then to read what Mrs. Eddy wrote over one hundred years ago about the nature of matter. In the latter part of the 19th Century she wrote, "The material atom is an outlined falsity of consciousness" (*Unity of Good*, 35: 26-27). Nobody would believe in the quantum physics community that a nineteenth century woman wrote that.

Another of the founders of quantum physics, Irwin Schrödinger—whose equation is used to calculate the probability waves everybody uses—indicated that physics may not, by itself, be up to overcoming the notion of the substantiality of matter. He wrote, "Discoveries in physics cannot, in themselves—so I believe—have the authority of forcing us to put an end to the *habit* of picturing the physical world as a reality." So picturing the physical world as reality was simply a habit which apparently physics alone can not, by itself, put an end to.

So 21st century physics has arrived at the point where it is saying, not just that matter is not substantial, but that—according to the most popular interpretation of quantum physics (called the "Copenhagen Interpretation")—that the elementary particles that are supposed to make up matter do not exist unless they are measured or consciously observed. You can imagine what this does to consciousness, when quantum physics says and can prove that electrons don't exist without consciousness collapsing them into particles. Biologists and physicists are going to have to talk to each other sometime and I don't want to be around when that happens.

The famous astrophysicist, Sir Arthur Eddington, who was the first to experimentally confirm Einstein's Theory of General Relativity at a solar eclipse, observed this about science: "It is difficult for the matter-of-fact physicist to accept the view that the substratum of everything is of mental character. But no one can deny that mind is the first and most direct thing in our experience, and that everything else is remote inference." That's a pretty metaphysically insightful statement. The astrophysicist, Sir James Jeans, stated, "The universe can best be pictured ... as consisting of pure thought."

OK, we are making some progress in the natural science community. Mrs. Eddy writes, "The fading forms of matter, the mortal body and material earth, are the fleeting concepts of the human mind. They have their day before the permanent facts and their perfection in Spirit appear. The crude creations of mortal thought must finally give place to the glorious forms which we sometimes behold in the camera of divine Mind, when the

mental picture is spiritual and eternal. Mortals must look beyond fading, finite forms, if they would gain the true sense of things. Where shall the gaze rest but in the unsearchable realm of Mind? We must look where we would walk, and we must act as possessing all power from Him in whom we have our being” (*Science and Health*, p. 263).

So is natural science moving in the right direction? I hope so. I hope they help to do that. It’s definitely true that quantum physics is the basis of physics. Built on it is quantum chemistry, chemistry, biology, biochemistry,—and medicine claims to be on the top of the heap there. But I think that Christian Scientists generally think that science, materialism, medicine, materia medica are on one side and Christian Science is on the other. And that’s just not true. I call quantum physicists the reluctant metaphysicians. They go kicking, screaming, and biting into the land of metaphysics, but they are there. They are heading there. And all the other sciences are built on the quantum physics stuff.

So science is on the Christian Science side. Nothing has gone in any direction but toward what Mrs. Eddy already discovered about the nature of reality. We should partake of that adventure. Mrs. Eddy writes, “A material world implies a mortal mind and man a creator. The scientific divine creation declares immortal Mind and the universe created by God. Infinite Mind creates and governs all from the mental molecule to infinity. This divine principle of all expresses science and art throughout His creation and the immortality of man and the universe” (*Science and Health*, p. 507).

So let’s act as possessing all power today as God’s demonstration of His/Her nature. You are the demonstration—the ongoing expression of God. God thinks you are a good idea right now. He’s saying about each one of you, “You are a good idea! That was a good idea!”