

Subject: Doubt: A Luxury You Can't Afford

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Hymns: 195, 354, 461 (Supplement)

The Bible

(New King James Version)

Prov 29:25

25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

(The Message)

Jonah 1:1-3 (to :) , 4, 5 (to ,), 7, 11, 12 (to :), 15, 17

1 One day long ago, God's Word came to Jonah, Amittai's son:

2 "Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer."

3 But Jonah got up and went the other direction to Tarshish, running away from God. He went down to the port of Joppa and found a ship headed for Tarshish.

4 But God sent a huge storm at sea, the waves towering.

The ship was about to break into pieces.

5 The sailors were terrified.

7 Then the sailors said to one another, "Let's get to the bottom of this. Let's draw straws to identify the culprit on this ship who's responsible for this disaster."

So they drew straws. Jonah got the short straw.

11 They said to him, "What are we going to do with you—to get rid of this storm?" By this time the sea was wild, totally out of control.

12 Jonah said, "Throw me overboard, into the sea. Then the storm will stop.

15 They took Jonah and threw him overboard. Immediately the sea was quieted down.

17 Then God assigned a huge fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the fish's belly three days and nights.

Jonah 2:1, 10

1 Then Jonah prayed to his God from the belly of the fish.

10 Then God spoke to the fish, and it vomited up Jonah on the seashore.

Jonah 3:1-3 (to .), 4, 5, 10

1 Next, God spoke to Jonah a second time:

2 "Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They're in a bad way and I can't ignore it any longer."

3 This time Jonah started off straight for Nineveh, obeying God's orders to the letter.

4 Jonah entered the city, went one day's walk and preached, "In forty days Nineveh will be smashed."

5 The people of Nineveh listened, and trusted God. They proclaimed a citywide fast and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did it—rich and poor, famous and obscure, leaders and followers.

10 God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He *did* change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn't do.

(English Standard Version)

Ps 36:7

7 How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

(New Living Translation)

Acts 2:1-4 when (to ,)

1 On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.

2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.

4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 9:1-6

1 Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest.

2 He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.

3 As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him.

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?"

5 "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked.

And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!

6 Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

(The Message)

Acts 9:8 (to :) , 9-12, 15 Go,16, 17

8 ...Saul, picking himself up off the ground, found himself stone blind. ...

9 He continued blind for three days. He ate nothing, drank nothing.

10 There was a disciple in Damascus by the name of Ananias. The Master spoke to him in a vision: "Ananias."

"Yes, Master?" he answered.

11 "Get up and go over to Straight Avenue. Ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus. His name is Saul. He's there praying. 12He has just had a dream in which he saw a man named Ananias enter the house and lay hands on him so he could see again."

15 ...Go! I have picked him as my personal representative to Gentiles and kings and Jews.

16 And now I'm about to show him what he's in for—the hard suffering that goes with this job."

17 So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, "Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 19:11

11 God did powerful things through Paul, things quite out of the ordinary.

(New King James Version)

Prov 28:25

25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered.

(New Living Translation)

Ps 40:8

8 I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart."

Science and Health

183:21

Divine Mind rightly demands man's entire obedience, affection, and strength. No reservation is made for any lesser loyalty. Obedience to Truth gives man power and strength. Submission to error superinduces loss of power.

241:1

"Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." He, who knows God's will or the demands of divine Science and obeys them, incurs the hostility of envy; and he who refuses obedience to God, is chastened by Love.

494:15

The miracle of grace is no miracle to Love. Jesus demonstrated the inability of corporeality, as well as the infinite ability of Spirit, thus helping erring human sense to flee from its own convictions and seek safety in divine Science. Reason, rightly directed, serves to correct the errors of corporeal sense; but sin, sickness, and death will seem real (even as the experiences of the sleeping dream seem real) until the Science of man's eternal harmony breaks their illusion with the unbroken reality of scientific being.

202:3-14

The scientific unity which exists between God and man must be wrought out in life-practice, and God's will must be universally done.

If men would bring to bear upon the study of the Science of Mind half the faith they bestow upon the so-called pains and pleasures of material sense, they would not go on from bad to worse, until disciplined by the prison and the scaffold; but the whole human family would be redeemed through the merits of Christ, — through the perception and acceptance of Truth. For this glorious result Christian Science lights the torch of spiritual understanding.

276:25-26 (to 2nd .)

Material beliefs and spiritual understanding never mingle. The latter destroys the former.

326:12

We must forsake the foundation of material systems, however time-honored, if we would gain the Christ as our only Saviour. Not partially, but fully, the great healer of mortal mind is the healer of the body.

197:16 (only)

We should master fear, instead of cultivating it.

392:1 you (to ;)

you master fear and sin through divine Mind;

392:7

Casting out evil and fear enables truth to outweigh error. The only course is to take antagonistic grounds against all that is opposed to the health, holiness, and harmony of man, God's image.

326:23

Saul of Tarsus beheld the way — the Christ, or Truth — only when his uncertain sense of right yielded to a spiritual sense, which is always right. Then the man was changed. Thought assumed a nobler outlook, and his life became more spiritual. He learned the wrong that he had done in persecuting Christians, whose religion he had not understood, and in humility he took the new name of Paul. He beheld for the first time the true idea of Love, and learned a lesson in divine Science.

490:3

Will-power is but a product of belief, and this belief commits depredations on harmony. Human will is an animal propensity, not a faculty of Soul. Hence it cannot govern man aright. Christian Science reveals Truth and Love as the motive-powers of man. Will — blind, stubborn, and headlong — cooperates with appetite and passion. From this cooperation arises its evil. From this also comes its powerlessness, since all power belongs to God, good.

130:26-11

If thought is startled at the strong claim of Science for the supremacy of God, or Truth, and doubts the supremacy of good, ought we not, contrariwise, to be astounded at the vigorous claims of evil and doubt them, and no longer think it natural to love sin and unnatural to forsake it, — no longer imagine evil to be ever-present and good absent? Truth should not seem so surprising and unnatural as error, and error should not seem so real as truth. Sickness should not seem so real as health. There is no error in Science, and our lives must be governed by reality in order to be in harmony with God, the divine Principle of all being.

When once destroyed by divine Science, the false evidence before the corporeal senses disappears. Hence the opposition of sensuous man to the Science of Soul and the significance of the Scripture, "The carnal mind is enmity against God." The central fact of the Bible is the superiority of spiritual over physical power.

134:28

There is divine authority for believing in the superiority of spiritual power over material resistance.

491:12

It is only by acknowledging the supremacy of Spirit, which annuls the claims of matter, that mortals can lay off mortality and find the indissoluble spiritual link which establishes man forever in the divine likeness, inseparable from his creator.

278:4-5

Spirit is the only substance and consciousness recognized by divine Science.

278:12-16

That matter is substantial or has life and sensation, is one of the false beliefs of mortals, and exists only in a supposititious mortal consciousness. Hence, as we approach Spirit and Truth, we lose the consciousness of matter.

423:24

Both Science and consciousness are now at work in the economy of being according to the law of Mind, which ultimately asserts its absolute supremacy.

536:8

The divine understanding reigns, is *all*, and there is no other consciousness.