

References From Science And Health

At the end of this chapter we have listed all the references in Science and Health dealing with Mind. Some of these references were quoted at the beginning of this chapter, in our list of what Mind is, does, and deals with and how Mind interprets itself. Before proceeding, the reader may wish to review that list. Then, to refine our understanding of Mind, let's now look at some of the more difficult references to Mind.

We will begin with references that use "power" with synonyms other than Mind, showing Mind blending with the other synonyms. (Note: because of these blendings, some of our discussions will draw on terms characterizing synonyms we have not yet studied. Students may wish to return to this section after reading the chapters on the other synonyms.)

S&H 316:7 states, "Christ, Truth, was demonstrated through Jesus to prove the power of Spirit over the flesh..." To understand why power is used with Spirit in this statement, rather than with Mind, we need to ask, "What is the main proposition in this sentence? Is the main proposition Spirit over the flesh, or is it that there is power?"

The main proposition here is "Spirit versus flesh;" *this is the key to this sentence*; this is what we have to remember. We must read the textbook not as words, but as stated subjects, as stated themes. We must be able to distinguish what is in the sentence, in the hierarchy of a sentence. What is the highest hierarchy of a theme, what is the secondary, the third, etc.

In this statement the highest hierarchy of the subject is Spirit versus flesh. Secondary is the idea that in order for Spirit to overcome the flesh it must have power to do so. Here power is secondary; it is not primary. It is always the primary subject that rules the use of a synonymous term.

The statement answers the question, “What can I do to overcome the flesh?” Here we see the necessity of knowing our counterfeits. The *fact about flesh*, (as we will see in the next chapter) is Spirit, so it is the power of Spirit that is necessary to overcome the flesh. We could just as well have the law of Spirit to overcome the flesh, or the authority of Spirit. The secondary term isn’t critical; it could be the indestructibility of Spirit, the eternality of Spirit. The main interpretation is flesh vs. Spirit, and that rules the use of the synonymous term. A right understanding of the synonymous terms gives you the first clue for scientific interpretation vs. inspirational or mystical interpretation. The text itself dictates the interpretation of the text.

S&H 109:32-2 tells us, “The three great verities of Spirit, omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience—Spirit possessing all power, filling all space, constituting all Science—...” Up to this point in this statement we might think what is between the dashes should be Mind. Yet power is used here with Spirit. Why?

In this case the primal subject is what is outside those dashes. The primary theme is that the three great verities of Spirit “contradict forever the belief that matter can be actual.” Always ask, “What is the primal proposition?”

Here we have the verities of Spirit vs. the actuality of matter, so between the dashes Mary Baker Eddy has to use Spirit; she couldn't go back to Mind. She is saying that Spirit, not matter, is the verity, and as a sub-tone she is saying that Spirit has all power, fills all space, and constitutes all Science.

If what is between the dashes were the main subject, and Mrs. Eddy were actually asking, "What is it that is all power? What is it that fills all space?" you would have to answer, "Mind," but here that is not her main question or proposition. Here her main question is, "Here are the verities of Spirit; what do they contradict?" The answer, of course, is, "They contradict the belief that matter can be actual."

You can see that a sentence like this can't be interpreted at random, just as we happen to feel about it, or as inspiration might flow to us. We must depend on the structure of the subject to tell us what the primal proposition is and what the secondary proposition is. As we go on in the textbook, we find very few statements where only the intrinsic characteristics of a synonym are used. The synonyms are usually in combination such as this one, "Spirit possessing all power" and that is what makes it difficult at first sight, until we realize we can say, mentally, "*Spirit possessing all Mind power.*"

What the Three Verities Are

Note that in the statement we are considering, Mrs. Eddy also explains what the three verities are. "Omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience" characterize