

The Australian New Church College Seminar
May 24th to 27th 2012

Communication: God with us and us with others

The communication of angels with us

Now since correspondence exists between spiritual thought and natural thought, and since angels' thought is spiritual, that which man perceives on a natural level the angels perceive on a spiritual one; and they do so in an instant without any hesitation or reflection on the difference. This happens in particular when a person reads the Word or has thoughts inspired by the Word; for the Word has been written in such a way that a correspondence exists in every single part...

Arcana Caelestia 10604

“The actual internal sense of the Word is to some extent open to every person who, though he may not know what the internal sense is, has his external subject to the internal, that is, his internal man lying open. For heaven, which is in possession of the internal sense of the Word, brings him light, gives him discernment, and in this way teaches him. Indeed, if you are willing to believe it, a person's internal man is of itself in possession of the internal sense of the Word since the internal man constitutes heaven in the smallest form it takes, and when that internal man lies open the person is consequently present with angels in heaven, and also possesses discernment similar to theirs. This becomes additionally clear from the consideration that the interior concepts within a person's understanding are not like his natural ones, though they are in agreement with these. What they are like however a person does not know as long as he lives in the body; but when he enters the next life he knows them automatically because they have been implanted within him, and by means of them he lives instantly in company with angels. From this it is evident that the person in whom the internal level lies open is in possession of the internal sense of the Word, though he does not know he is, and as a consequence has enlightenment when he reads the Word.”

Arcana Caelestia 10400:3

“In heaven it is not the historical descriptions of the Word that are perceived but the things that those descriptions mean, for the Word has been written not only for the sake of man but also for that of angels. When man reads the Word and gains from it no more than the literal sense, the angels do not gain the literal sense but the internal sense. The material, worldly and bodily ideas man has when reading the Word become with angels spiritual and celestial ideas. While man is reading about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, for example, the angels do not have Abraham, Isaac or Jacob in mind at all but those real things which are represented and so meant by them.”

Arcana Caelestia 1025:2

“The spiritual sense of the Word inflows into the natural sense thereof as the sun does with its own light into the moon, and causes it to appear in a mediate manner. In this manner also does the spiritual sense of the Word enlighten men, even those who do not know anything about that sense, while they are reading the Word in the natural sense. It, however, enlightens a spiritual man as the light of the sun enlightens his eye, but a natural man as the light derived from the moon and stars does his eye.”

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