

Guardian Angels

New Church Background Reading for the Teacher

For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways (Psalm 91:9-13).

“[T]here is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:4-10).

The Lord leads a person as if by the hand, permitting and withholding as far as a he is willing to follow in freedom. If a person looks to the Lord, he is brought by continual steps out of hell up towards heaven and into heaven. This the Lord does without the person knowing it, because if a person knew it he would disturb the continuity of that process by leading himself (*Apocalypse Explained* 1174:2).

The Lord has provided that there should be angels and spirits with each individual, and that a person should be ruled by the Lord through these (*Heaven and Hell* 247).

The two spirits who are linked to a person provide a communication with hell, while the two angels provide a communication with heaven (*Arcana Coelestia* 5849).

The nature of the Lord's love surpasses all human understanding and is unbelievable in the extreme to people who do not know what heavenly love is in which angels abide. To save a soul from hell the angels think nothing of giving their own lives; indeed if it were possible they would suffer hell themselves in place of that soul. Consequently their inmost joy is to transport into heaven someone rising from the dead (*Arcana Coelestia* 2077:2).

Angels from each society [in heaven] are sent to people to watch over them and to lead them away from evil affections and consequent thoughts, and to inspire them with good affections so far as they will receive them in freedom (*Heaven and Hell* 391).

The angels through whom the Lord leads and also protects a person are near his head. Their function is to impart charity and faith, to notice the direction in which the person's delights turn, and to modify and bend those delights towards what is good, so far as they can do so in the person's freedom. The angels are forbidden to act in any violent manner and thereby crush a person's evil desires and false assumptions; they must act gently (*Arcana Coelestia* 5992).

Every person, so long as he is living in the world, walks midway between heaven and hell and is thereby in equilibrium, and thus in freedom of choice either to look upwards to God or downwards to hell (*True Christian Religion* 69:3).

A love of evil which does not make itself apparent is like an enemy in ambush. Being in freedom to think and to will evil while also learning spiritual truths, helps a person learn how to guard or shut the door against these evils (see *Divine Providence* 281:3).

Nothing gives the angels greater delight and happiness than to remove evils from a person and lead him to heaven. This is their joy (*Arcana Coelestia* 5992:3).

Angels are near to a person just in the degree in which he is in good from truths, and are distant from him just in the degree in which his life is distant from good (*Heaven and Hell* 391).

Just as the delight and bliss of heaven consist in doing what is good to a person and contributing to his eternal salvation, so conversely does the delight of hell consist in doing ill to a person and bringing about his eternal ruin (*Arcana Coelestia* 5864).

It is a momentous truth that the Lord governs people by means of spirits and angels. When evil spirits start to have dominion, angels set to work to ward off evils and falsities, as a consequence of which conflict arises. It is by means of perception, dictate, and conscience that a person comes to feel this conflict (*Arcana Coelestia* 227).