

What Is the Use?

Here are several quotes from the Word to help us understand what is meant by "use" in the Heavenly Doctrine. This short word means much more than one's occupation or chores. Sometimes people ask "What's the use?" when they feel discouraged. We might want to ask that question of ourselves just to make sure our actions are looking to what is good and useful in our lives.

Use is fulfilling one's duty and doing one's work, rightly, faithfully, honestly, and justly (*Divine Wisdom* 10).

The essence of charity is good, which is use (*Doctrine of Charity* 0).

[A]ll goods which are of love to the neighbor or charity are uses, and all uses are goods (*Doctrine of Charity* 127).

To perform use is to will well to others for the sake of the common good (*Heaven and Hell* 64).

[G]ood works are love and charity in act (*Apocalypse Explained* 798:4).

Charity is the love of uses (*True Christian Religion* 394).

[E]very person is valued and loved, not for his will and understanding alone, but for the use which he performs or is able to perform from them (see *Apocalypse Explained* 1193:2).

An affection for doing the goods of use is charity in its life (*Doctrine of Charity* 162).

[T]o perform useful services is to act honestly, rightly, justly and faithfully in the work connected with one's occupation (*Divine Love and Wisdom* 431).

[E]very person who loves a good use, and performs it from the love of it, is loved by the Lord and received with joy by the angels in heaven (*Apocalypse Explained* 1226:6).