

## For Reflection—Give Me Understanding

*“Call to Me, and I will answer you,  
and show you great and mighty things...  
(Jeremiah 33:3)*

The Word is like a mine that is opened to reveal precious stones—more precious as you explore more interior truths. But this mine—the Word—is more fully opened as a person’s understanding increases (see *True Christian Religion* 245). So, then what can we do to increase our understanding of the Word?

We learn in *Sacred Scripture* 57 that:

Enlightenment is from the Lord alone, and exists with those who love truths because they are truths and make them of use for life.

The Heavenly Doctrine amplifies this idea in *Arcana Coelestia* 6222: 3:

Enlightenment comes to those “who have the desire to know truths, not for the sake of reputation and glory but for the sake of life and service.”

When we go to the Lord’s Word in search of truth, we gain the most when we approach our reading with an attitude that is affirmative to its truth. It is also helpful to read the Word with the idea of putting its truth into action to help others. This places us in a good frame of mind to understand what the Lord is telling us.

Now read this teaching about opening the understanding.

In the New Church...it is permitted to enter with the understanding and penetrate into all her secrets, and to confirm them by the Word, because her doctrines are continuous truths laid open by the Lord by means of the Word, and confirmations of these truths by rational means cause the understanding to be opened above more and more, and thus to be raised into the light in which the angels of heaven are (*TCR* 508:5).

Based on these passages, what are some ways you could approach reading the Word to increase your understanding of it? For example, you might create a prayer to say before reading to ask the Lord for help to be in the right mindset.