

## 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 only opened to the extent that a person understands it (see *True Christian Religion* 245). What can we do to increase our understanding of the Word?

Read this passage adapted from *Apocalypse Explained* 11:

Spiritual things do not enter into a person's understanding...unless the light of heaven enlightens the understanding. For this reason the Word cannot be understood except by one who is enlightened, and those only are enlightened who are in love to the Lord and in charity towards the neighbor.

When we go to the Lord's Word in search of truth, we should try to have love to the Lord and charity toward the neighbor in our hearts. This puts us in the best 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, how might you read 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 frame of mind.