

THE WORD

by Rev. Prescott Rogers

“By means of the sense of the letter of the Word there is conjunction with the Lord and association with the angels.” (*Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* 62, heading) This powerful statement points out the value of the Word and the importance of teaching it to our children.

The doctrine of the Word is the second great doctrine for the New Church, after the doctrine of the Lord. It teaches us that the Word is the Lord *because* it is His Divine message to the human race. When a person conveys his thoughts and feelings to others, he is sharing himself, for he is, in essence, those thoughts and feelings. In the same way, the Lord shares His thoughts (expressions of truth) and feelings (expressions of good) in His Word, and so the Word *is* the Lord. If a person wants to know the Lord and come to understand and appreciate Him, he must go to the Word, either directly (through reading) or indirectly (through listening).

When a person receives the Lord’s goods and truths and loves them, the Lord, who is those goods and truths, becomes a part of that person’s life. The Lord is conjoined with that person. And since the angels have received and loved the Lord’s goods and truths on the spiritual and celestial planes, when a person on earth lives and loves the goods and truths of the natural sense of the Word, the angels are with him. Just as the spiritual and celestial goods and truths are in the natural goods and truths, the angels with their higher goods and truths are in the person with the lower goods and truths. They are associated. And, in this way, heaven is brought into the person’s life.

More than anything else, we want to bring the Lord and His angels into our lives and into the lives of our children. This is done by means of the Word in daily reading or worship, religious instruction, and personal conversations. In this way, we provide an opportunity for the Lord to establish His kingdom on earth.