

Banner or Firebrand?

When a person worships the Lord without charity in his heart, the angels see him as an actor with a firebrand in his hand. But when a person worships the Lord with charity in his heart, he appears to be a standard bearer carrying a banner (see the Doctrine of Charity 177).

Can you dramatize this idea? First make a “firebrand” and a banner:

1. Attach orange and red tissue paper to the top of a stick to make something that looks like a firebrand.
2. Then make a beautiful banner out of paper, felt, or some other fabric. Your banner could have a favorite quote from the Word or show something that helps you think about the Lord—perhaps a picture of the Lord, His Word, or the Heavenly Sun.

Now think about the contrast between an actor carrying a firebrand and a standard-bearer carrying a banner?

Why would someone who seems to be worshipping the Lord (but is not worshipping the Lord with his mind and heart), appear to the angels as if he is an actor? Why does he carry a firebrand in his hand? A firebrand is a stick that is set on fire and held in the air. A person who is a trouble-maker is sometimes called a “firebrand” as well.

Contrast this with someone who is worshipping the Lord with his body, mind, and heart. Why does this person look like a standard-bearer to the angels? The standard-bearer of an army or a procession bears the standard for all who follow. (How can true worship help us start the week in a way that “sets the standard for all that follows?”) Why does this person appear to be carrying a banner rather than a firebrand?

After dramatizing this idea, hang your banner in your room to remind you about worshipping the Lord with your mind and heart—not just your physical presence.