

SPIRITUAL TASK — INTERNAL SENSE (AC 7262)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story The Lord's Word is a parable. That does not mean it is not true. It means it is more true because it contains not only a literal and historical meaning, but also an internal sense which is a mirror of our spiritual path—the struggles and triumphs, as well as prescriptive of how we can grow spiritually.

Meaning The importance of this teaching becomes abundantly clear when we reflect upon all of the damage done to people on this earth in the name of God and religion. Understanding the Word falsely is no small matter. Seeing it only literally has caused immense amounts of damage and pain. We must remember that the Lord's Word is only about how to love God and how to be thoughtful and kind to one another. "In itself the Word is nothing but the doctrine of love to the Lord, and of charity toward the neighbor." (*Arcana Coelestia* 7262)

Task This week make it a habit to read a chapter or two from the Word. While reading remind yourself that what you are about to read is only about how to love God and how to act with kindness to your neighbor. Secondly, instead of focusing on your spouse's, child's, brother's, sister's, etc., etc., words, instead try to stand back and really pay attention to the spirit behind what they are saying. What is the message?, not What are the words?