

Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:37-38

Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-12

and: Psalm 121

Summary

Your *angelic self* is constantly being given to and by the very nature of what it [you] receive there is an ever present power to give out likewise, as a reflection of your God within.

Continue the mirror activity over the coming days and weeks. Keeping your *angelic self* healthy is really important. You may find it helpful to reflect every now and again on your activities, contact with people and your relationship with the Lord. For example, here are two ideas of mirrors that may bring you into touch with the image and likeness of God into which you were created:

- Lord's abundance
- Facing the shadow-side of life

Now use some of your own mirrors:

- First image:
- Second image:
- Third image:

Loving ourselves - our angelic self



And God saw that it [land producing living creatures] was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness". So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:25-27 (parts of)

In this creation of man - male and female in his own image and likeness - God seems to be laying down a foundation. A firm base fed and nurtured by the Lord. That is, nurtured towards becoming an angel within a heavenly sphere.

The title for this session - '*Our angelic self*' - is to do with both how we have been created and secondly how the image and likeness of God within permeates our inner being.

Of what does this *angelic self* consist? We know from the wording in Genesis Chapter 1 above that each person is made in an image and likeness of God. Perhaps it could simply be said that the angelic self consists wholly of gifts from the Lord.

A mirror activity

Maybe looking into some mirrors could give clues to knowing something of *our angelic self*:

A mirror from the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

Enter into the mysteries of the Word for each of its truths is a mirror in which we see the Lord. Drawn from True Christian Religion 508:6

Consider looking into such a mirror – let's take a favourite or familiar passage from the Sacred Scriptures, say a beatitude from Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

What you see could be a reflection of your God. What is this reflection telling you about quality of life, behaviour or possible expectations of action through your angelic self? Maybe this could be part of what you see - your receiving mercy and giving out a sense of forgiveness to others.

Absorb a possibility that you know and accept you are able to be nurtured and developed by the Lord. He has a role for you participating in heavenly states of life.

If you feel you are being reprieved or forgiven from some error, could you also be being shown possibilities for future attitudes or behaviour?

At this point let's try one more mirror, here from the world of nature as a correspondence of something heavenly. There is a song called 'Who put the colours in the rainbow' which includes the words - 'Who put the tree inside the acorn?' - a favourite line of many people. In relation to the Lord as Creator, what do you feel this image of a huge oak tree being inside an acorn means for you as a person with an *angelic self*?



Do you know of any seeds or fruits in your inner life that have grown or are growing from something tiny into something large or truly significant and magnificent?

Reflect on the meaning of this for your *angelic self*.

Teaching focus

At length God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; so God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him.
Genesis 1:26, 27

From this it follows that a human being is an organ capable of receiving God, and that its capability as an organ depends upon its capacity to receive.
True Christian Religion 34

Then ... those who sat on the east side [of heaven] rose from their seats and looked up to the Lord. Then they sat down again and said that an image of God was a receiver of God, and since God is Love itself and Wisdom itself, the image of God is the receiving of love and wisdom from

God in the man; but the likeness of God was the perfect likeness and complete appearance of love and wisdom being present in man and of belonging to him. 'For man does not know but that he loves and is wise of himself, or that he wills good and understands truth of himself. In fact not a whit is of himself, but from God. It is only God who loves of Himself and is wise of Himself, because God is Love itself and Wisdom itself. The likeness or appearance that love and wisdom, or good and truth, are present in man as if they belonged to him is what makes a man human, and thus able to be linked to God and so to live for ever. ... True Christian Religion 48:5

Notice the statement: "... the **image** of God is the receiving of love and wisdom from God"

Let the wonder of this receiving truly sink in. You have been made in this image!

Notice the statement: "The **likeness** or appearance that love and wisdom, or good and truth, are present in man [male and female] as if they belonged to him is what makes a man [male and female] human,"

Let the wonder of what makes a person genuinely human make an impact on you. You have been made in this likeness!

Biblical focus

The following biblical passages may offer you insight into aspects of your *angelic self*. That is, what your angelic self [you] receives and what your angelic self [you] needs to deal with.

Reflect on as many of these passages below as you wish. You may find that your *angelic self* feels generosity, receives insight, knows the love of the Lord, finds solace, practises love of the neighbour, overcomes the shadow-side of life, and so on:

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am"?

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."
Matthew 16:15-17

... my cup overflows. Psalm 23:5

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.
Luke 22:20

