

Reflections

This is all about conjunction with the Lord. When is such a oneness with Him possible for you, and what can interrupt it quite suddenly?

What must it be like to be with truly good, God-loving (rather than God-fearing) person? Can you imagine it, and discuss it?

When we read about the love of evil - Have we seen it in others? Have we also recognised it within ourselves? How do we acquire it, or what can help us to get rid of it? How does anger (or 'righteous anger') come into it?

You may like to read Jonah 4 and Matthew 5:21-26.

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Session 2

“The Divine Providence of the Lord has for its end a heaven of angels from the human race.”

Here then we are considering the very purpose of creation itself: Why everything came into being! So that there may be a “heaven of angels” - who, however, were all born as human beings on this or other earths. No angel has ever been created as such. We must all begin on a physical planet in the natural world. For the rest of the book we shall be studying chapter by chapter the reason for this.

From this it follows that the Lord did not create the universe for His own sake, but entirely for our sake, so that we may be happy by sharing our gifts and talents with others. Therefore, we can become creative in the image and likeness of God.

This is a thought which will take us a long time to absorb - mainly, because it is so simple! We may even be tempted to exclaim, “Is that all there is to it?” But could you find a nobler or a more wonderful purpose? The question is, how then are we involved? What is it we should be striving for?

1 Heaven is conjunction with the Lord. (DP 28-31)

Again, a simple truth which is almost self-evident, but who really understands what it involves? Clearly it can only be achieved through love. Love alone conjoins and also brings enlightenment because it helps us to understand the Lord as we are more and more united with Him. Now imagine how difficult, nay impossible, it would be if we tried to approach and worship a completely unknown and wholly mysterious

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God. But we are not asked to do anything like that only to focus on the Lord in His Divine Human, and at once we realise we know His nature, character and healing power. Practice this introspection by focusing on Him in your heart. Let Him gently lead you from worldly purposes to heavenly ones. In number 29, this is described as the 'Circle of Life'!

2 This conjunction is progressive. (DP 32-33)

This conjunction is progressive. However close we may feel to the Lord and be affected by His presence, this is just the beginning which will go on increasing to eternity; drawing ever closer to that Infinite source of Love.

And as experience shows us, when we feel love, we are completely filled with it and can't imagine it could ever be greater. Yet, it will be, much to our astonishment. And because we are all different, our mutual relationship with the Lord is our very own, since every one of us is a unique individual.

Parents who have several children love every child differently and this reflects the Lord's love towards creation and each one of us. He never creates two things alike. Not even snowflakes, how much less human beings!

3 The more we are conjoined to the Lord, . . . (34-45)

. . . the wiser, the happier and the more in control of ourselves we become. And yet, the more clearly we recognise that we belong to the Lord.

Yes, it does seem like a paradox, until we realise two things:

- 1) How perfect the Lord's gifts to us are.
- 2) The more we are free from selfishness, the more we are truly in control of ourselves and yet in our heart we recognise that our inner freedom and strength are due to the Lord's presence within us. You will get used to such apparent contradictions. What appears on the surface is due entirely to the state of our inner life and longings. Please notice the biblical quotes in 33 and look them.

Some key passage I would like you to read - they may also be useful for discussion.

- 27** A fine and very important introduction to the purposes of DP and what it is all about.
- 29/31** The real foundation of our life now and in the hereafter is built on relationships: with the Lord and each other. There is no other purpose in life!
- 31:1-3** The background of our life is a continual struggle between good and evil. Unless we are aware of this, we can make no real progress in regeneration.
- 38** This is explained more fully in this paragraph.
- 43** Discusses the two opposing 'freedoms' within us. Very important!

Prayer – silent

Consider the Lord's constant and individual care for you. How conscious are you of this? Give thanks from your heart and remember: "As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him, for he knows our frame, he remembers that we are dust." (Psalm 103:13-14) stay with that thought. Remember this when you are a bit 'down' or feeling insignificant. You are never that in the Lord's eyes!

Readings from the Word which connect up with this lesson.

Genesis 2; Psalms 1, 4, 5; Isaiah 2:1-4, and chapter 6; John 15:1-8, 9-17, 18-27.