



## Washing the Lord's Feet *continued*

good looks, intelligence), opportunities (e.g. vacations, sports) or things (e.g. bike, bedroom) we want, etc.

6. The Lord's "feet" represent the Word—the lowest part of Him, where we can go to meet him. Our own feet are the lowest or most natural part of our bodies. The Lord is willing to be with us in that lowest part, to cleanse the lowest part of us.
7. So how do we go about removing the evil? First we must take an honest look inside ourselves, measuring our actions against true ideas we know from the Word. We must see bad attitudes and habits for what they are and accept responsibility for them. We must ask the Lord's forgiveness, and His help in not doing them again. And just as He told the woman her sins were forgiven; He immediately forgives!
8. Ask for a volunteer, a "woman," to take the "sins" off the Lord's feet. As the sins are removed, acknowledge them by reading them aloud, tearing them up, and throwing them away.
9. When the Lord was in the world He washed His disciples' feet. When Simon Peter, a disciple, objected, the Lord said, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in Me" (John 13:8). He meant that by washing the feet—the lowest part of our lives—we would be made clean. All He asks is that we recognize selfish actions, admit that we have done them, and try not to do them again.

### **New Church Concept: Because She Loved Greatly**

Good people out of the good treasure of their hearts bring forth what is good. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45; Matthew 12:35) In the Word, the heart means our will, and since this is the source of our thinking and speaking, it says that "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." And Jesus said of the woman who had washed his feet with anointing oil that her sins were forgiven because she loved greatly; and later added, "Your faith is saving you" (Luke 7:46-50). We can see from these words that when our sins are forgiven—that is, when they are no longer there—our faith saves us. See *Doctrine of Life* 51

### **New Church Concept Washing**

'To wash' signifies to be purified from evils and falsities, which is to be regenerated. Therefore 'a person that has bathed' signifies a person who has been purified or regenerated in respect to the spiritual. This is done by a life according to the goods and truths and doctrine from the Word. To the extent that this is done, the person is purified or regenerated; for to live according to the goods and truths of doctrine from the Word is to will them and so to do them, that is to be affected by them and to love them. See *Arcana Coelestia* 666

### **New Church Concept Fragrant Oil**

The fragrances of aromatic substances correspond to qualities connected with spiritual love, or with charity and faith. See *Apocalypse Revealed* 394