

# Food for Thought: Come unto Me

## ***Readings from the Word about the Lord's Part***

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

A person is unable of himself to come near the Lord and be joined to Him. Rather the Lord has to come near the person and be joined to him. Yet since the Lord draws a person toward Himself the appearance is that the person does of himself come near and join himself (*Arcana Coelestia* 9378:2).

Since the Lord alone leads a person to heaven, and opens the door, therefore He calls Himself “the way” and also “the door” (*Apocalypse Revealed* 176:2).

When a person is governed by good, and from good is guided by truth, he is drawn by the Lord to Himself and joined to Him (*Arcana Coelestia* 8604:3).

## ***Readings from the Word about Our Part***

The person who approaches the Lord, acknowledges Him, and believes in Him, is said to open the door to the Lord that he may enter in (*Apocalypse Explained* 208:3).

To think well about the Lord and about the neighbor opens the way from heaven; while to think not well about the Lord and to think evil about the neighbor shuts that way (*Apocalypse Explained* 208:3).

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock,” symbolizes the Lord’s perpetual presence and His perpetual wish to admit. He does admit and conjoin Himself with all who receive Him but this can be effected only by a person’s receiving good and truth, or love and faith (see *Apocalypse Explained* 248).

## ***Ideas for Discussion*** (respond to the questions and then discuss answers)

1. Use the chart below to note ways the Lord helps us and what we can do to open the door to Him.

<b>The Lord's Part</b>	<b>Our Part</b>

2. We are told that “the Word is the means by which the Lord’s presence among people is achieved because the Word unites a person to heaven and through heaven to the Lord” (see *Arcana Coelestia* 9378:2). What implications does this have for our lives?

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