

## COLLEGE CHAPEL TALK

---

# HEAVEN IS CONJUNCTION WITH THE LORD

by the Rev. Ormond Odhner

*Readings: Divine Providence 27.2*

The Lord is love itself; and love, by its very nature, is directed toward others outside itself, desires to be conjoined with its loved ones, and unceasingly wishes to make them happy. This is why the Lord created us—to be recipients of His love. This is why He gives us free will and rationality and why He reveals Himself to us—that we may rationally learn of Him and freely return our love to Him. And all of this so that He may lead us into heaven, there to bless us with unending and eternal joy.

He is infinite, and we are finite. It follows, therefore, that He alone is complete and has certain knowledge of what happiness, or heaven, really is; and that if we would gain understanding of the nature of genuine happiness, we must acquire it from Him.

But the Lord is not only infinite; He is also eternal. To Him the eternal future is already present, as it were; while we are ever bound down by time and can hardly even see into tomorrow. It follows, therefore, that He alone has certain knowledge of what eternal happiness will be for each one of us individually (and it is to that personal, eternal happiness that He unceasingly leads us). The goals of happiness we set for ourselves, on the other hand, are always limited, temporary, fleeting things. Of ourselves we can hardly even see what will bring us happiness tomorrow; and often the happiness we gain for ourselves today proves to be a thing we would gladly forget tomorrow.

He ever seeks to bring us to the eternal, unending joy of heaven. He alone knows what that future joy will be for each of us. Little by little, we must gain from Him, each in our own way, an understanding of it, must make that our goal, and with His aid must work to achieve it.

This is why the Writings teach that heaven is conjunction with the Lord. We, His creatures, must gain from Him, our Creator, the love and the wisdom to learn His will for us and the strength and steadfastness of character to achieve it in our daily lives. Thus will He abide in us and we in Him in a spiritual conjunction—a conjunction of our finite spirits with our Divinely Human God, who Himself is a Spirit, seeking to be worshiped in spirit and in truth. Heaven is a conjunction with the Lord, beginning here on earth and eternally increasing after death, crowned forevermore with everlasting joy.