



IN SEARCH OF WINGS

“If we turn our attention to the humblest creatures on earth, there is a wonderful picture of regeneration presented by the way silk-worms and many caterpillars are transformed into nymphs and butterflies, and other insects which as time goes on are adorned with wings” (*True Christian Religion* 103).

The life cycle of a butterfly helps us see that the process of spiritual rebirth or regeneration is a gradual one. The butterfly starts life as an egg, full of potential. It is born a caterpillar. Think about the perspective of a caterpillar. It crawls along the ground or on vegetation, looking for food. After it becomes a butterfly, wings lift it up, giving it a different perspective. But how do we become like butterflies? Like caterpillars eating leaves, we need to eat spiritual leaves or take in truths. These give us the nourishment that we need to grow spiritually. Eventually we can become transformed so that we have *spiritual* wings.

Wings are a spiritual affection for truth which the Lord wants to give us so that He can lead us to the happiness of heaven (see *AE* 282:6, 118:2). Different kinds of butterflies eat different kinds of leaves. So each of us progresses through different states where we may find some truths more applicable than others. Some truths may feed our particular needs as we grow spiritually.

Application

- Look for truths that you find especially applicable to your life.
- Write these down on the attached butterfly page, the “Spiritual Rebirth” page, or in your journal.
- Think of ways to apply these truths in your life.

Then reflect on how these truths help change your perspective from that of a caterpillar to that of a butterfly.

- A caterpillar is focused primarily on its need to eat and can’t see very far ahead.
- A butterfly sips the nectar of flowers, reproduces, and seems to play as it floats on the wind.

More on Wings

A spiritual person is like a dove as to gentleness, like an eagle as to the sight of his mind, like a flying bird of paradise as to progression in spiritual things, and like a peacock as to adornment from spiritual things (see *Coronis* 30).

Internal people are like eagles soaring aloft and seeing all things spread out beneath them (*True Christian Religion* 839).

“Who will give me wings like a dove?” (Psalm 55:6)

The Lord gives you these truths for you to use as “wings” that can give you a more spiritual perspective on life. We don’t have full use of these “wings” until we become completely regenerated and make our homes in heaven. But the Lord lets us test them on when we try to understand the truths of His Word and use them in our lives.

SPIRITUAL REBIRTH

What are some “leaves” or truths that could help you grow from a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly? Write a true idea on each of the leaves. As you work on applying these to your life, think about developing “wings” to give you a more spiritual perspective on life.

