

Quotes from the Word: Seeds of Truth

OLD TESTAMENT

All that the Lord has spoken we will do.
(Exodus 19:8)

Man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.
(Deuteronomy 8:3)

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.
(Deuteronomy 29:29)

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,
So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth....
(Isaiah 55:10-11)

Your word has given me life.
(Psalm 119:50)

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.
(Isaiah 40:8)

NEW TESTAMENT

Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 13:3-9).

"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come" (Mark 4:26-29).

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“A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.”
(John 3:27)

“He who abides in Me and I in Him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”
(John 15:5)

“Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.”
(Luke 11:28)

HEAVENLY DOCTRINE

THE WORD IS FROM THE LORD

The Word is from the Lord, about the Lord, and is the Lord (*Apocalypse Revealed* 200).

Knowledges from the Word are such that they are open from the Lord Himself; for the Word itself is from the Lord through heaven, and the Lord's life is in all things of the Word (*Arcana Coelestia* 1461).

Where the Word is read with reverence and the Lord is worshiped from the Word, the Lord is present together with heaven. This is because the Lord is the Word, and the Word is Divine Truth which constitutes heaven (*Divine Providence* 2:2).

The life that flows in from the Lord through the Word is the light of truth into our minds and the love of good into our will (see *De Verbo* 2).

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

The Sower

The Lord is He who sows, the “seed” is His Word, and the “earth” is a person (*Arcana Coelestia* 29:2).

It is the truth that is meant by the “seed in the field,” of which the Lord said: “A sower went forth to sow.” Here the “sower” is the Lord, and the “seed” is His Word, thus the truth (*Doctrine of Life* 90).

The “seed” is the Word of the Lord, thus truth, which is said to be of faith, and the “good ground” is the good which is of charity for it is the good in a person that receives the Word (*Arcana Coelestia* 3310:2).

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The Hardened Path

The “hard way” is falsity (*Arcana Coelestia* 3310:2).

The “seed upon the way” exists with those who do not care for the truth (*Doctrine of Life* 90).

Those who subscribe heavily to falsity do not have any freedom even to see what is true.... That conviction is so powerful in them that it removes all freedom to think anything different. This is primarily so when such falsity is the product of evil, that is, when evil causes them to be convinced of it. These are the ones who are meant in the Lord’s parable in Matthew: “Other seeds fell on the hard path, and the birds came and devoured them” (Matt. 13:4). “Seeds” mean Divine truths, “hard rock” conviction, and “birds” false assumptions (see *Arcana Coelestia* 5096).

Stony Places

A “stony place” is truth that has no root in good (*Arcana Coelestia* 3310:2).

The “seed upon stony places” exists with those who do care for the truth, but not for its own sake, thus not interiorly (*Doctrine of Life* 90).

Every person who possesses a spiritual affection for truth, that is, who loves real truth because it is true, is enlightened by the Lord when he reads the Word. Not so, however, one who reads the Word solely out of a natural affection for truth, which is called curiosity. Such a person sees only what accords with his love, or with his philosophic opinions, either that he has conceived for himself, or that he has adopted from others through hearing and reading (*De Verbo* 12).

Thorns

The “thorns” are evils (*Arcana Coelestia* 3310:2).

The “seed in the midst of thorns” exists with those who are strongly attracted to evil (*Doctrine of Life* 90).

Those who love the world above all things, admit no truth that would lead them away from any falsity of their religion. They reject the truth as soon as they hear it, and if they listen to it they stifle it. These are they who are meant by the seed which fell among thorns. They hear the Word, but the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, so that it becomes unfruitful (see *Divine Providence* 278:3).

Everyone receives enlightenment and instruction from the Word according to his affection for truth and degree of desire for it, and according to his ability to receive it. Those are blinded who are ruled by worldly loves, since these loves receive and like sponges soak up falsities (*Arcana Coelestia* 9382:2).

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Good Ground

The “seed in good ground” exists with those who love the truths that are in the Word from the Lord, and do them from Him, thus who bear fruit... The truth of the Word cannot take root in those who do not care for the truth, nor in those who love the truth outwardly and not inwardly, nor in those who are strongly attracted to evil, but in those in whom these attractions to evil have been dispersed by the Lord. In these the “seed”—that is, the truth—takes root in their spiritual mind (see *Doctrine of Life* 90).

Those are enlightened who are governed by heavenly loves. For heavenly loves receive and like sponges soak up heaven’s truths (*Arcana Coelestia* 9382:2).

Anyone who supposes that he has enlightenment is mistaken if he does not love to know truth for its own sake and for the sake of leading a good life, thus if he does not love Divine Truth for life’s sake. For leading a life in keeping with Divine Truths derived from the Word constitutes loving the Lord; and from the Lord, when He is loved, springs all enlightenment (see *Arcana Coelestia* 10551:2).

When “a person possessing a heavenly love reads it, the Word links him to heaven and through heaven to the Lord” (*Arcana Coelestia* 9382:3).

HOW THE LORD TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

When the Word is read, the Lord comes in and teaches (*Arcana Coelestia* 6516:3).

It is through the Word that the Lord is present with a person and conjoined with him, for the Lord is the Word, and as it were speaks with the person in it (*Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture* 78).

The Lord “instructs everyone by means of the Word, and He instructs a person to the degree that the person receives goodness from the Lord in his will, which in turn depends on the degree to which he abstains from evils because they are sins” (*De Verbo* 13:2).

The “world cannot enter into heaven, but heaven can enter into the world, which comes to pass when the Lord inflows through heaven with a person, and enlightens him, teaches him, and leads him, by means of the Word” (*Arcana Coelestia* 10236:4).

He leads those who love truths, and who will them from Himself. Such are enlightened when they read the Word; for the Lord is in the Word and speaks with everyone according to his apprehension (*Apocalypse Explained* 1183).

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THE LORD ACTS IN SECRECY TO MAINTAIN OUR FREEDOM

The Divine Providence moves so secretly that scarcely a trace of it is seen, although it acts upon the most minute things of a person's thought and will, which regard his eternal state.... How all these things flow in and flow through, a person knows nothing; and yet he lives if only he knows what he needs to do and does it. But the ways by which the Lord leads a person are far more complicated and inexplicable, both those by which the Lord leads a person through the societies of hell and away from them, and also those by which he leads him through the societies of heaven and interiorly into them. This, therefore, is what is meant by...“the seed springeth up and groweth up, the man knoweth not how” (Mark 4:27). Moreover, of what consequence is it for a person to know how seed grows up, provided he knows how to plow and harrow the land, to sow the seed, and when he reaps his harvest to bless God? (*Apocalypse Explained* 1153:6,9).

In Mark the comparison with the blade, the ear, and the corn, involves the rebirth of a person by means of knowledges, truths of faith, and goods of charity. The “kingdom of God,” which is compared to the blade, the ear, and the corn, is heaven in a person through regeneration (*Arcana Coelestia* 5212:4).

The Lord keeps a person in the freedom of thinking; and insofar as outward bonds, which are the fear of the law and for life, and the fear of the loss of reputation, of honor, and of gain, do not hinder, He keeps him in the freedom of doing. But through freedom, He bends him away from evil; and, through freedom, He bends him to good; leading him so gently and silently that the person knows no otherwise than that everything proceeds from himself. Thus the Lord, in freedom, inseminates and implants good in the very life of the person, which good remains to eternity. This the Lord teaches in Mark: “So is the Kingdom of God, as a man who casteth seed into the earth; the seed germinateth and groweth, while he knoweth not. The earth beareth fruit of its own accord” (Mark 4:26-28). “The kingdom of God” denotes heaven with a person, thus the good of love and the truth of faith (*Arcana Coelestia* 9587).