

An Easter Message - April, 2011

This is the season when millions of Christians celebrate the conclusion of the Lord's life in this world and His victory over death and the grave. New Church teachings help shed tremendous light on the purpose of the Lord's Advent and why it had to end as it did. We take a moment to consider just one of those here.

Among the Lord's reasons for coming into the world was His desire to build a partnership of love and wisdom within each person. This is an idea expressed in the work 'True Christianity'. That section of the book presents the message that:

When love and wisdom have a partnership in us, we become like a tree in springtime, when heat joins equally with light to make the tree bud, flower, and bear fruit. On the other hand, when love and wisdom are separated in us we become like a tree in winter, when heat withdraws from light, making the tree bare and bald of all its foliage (§ 41 ff)

The Lord loves us and wants us to become truly alive spiritually. He wants love and wisdom to be working together within us. He cannot do this by leaving us alone. He needs to be with us continually. Indeed, our very existence relies on the Lord's active presence. In the same section of 'True Christianity' we are taught that:

The essential elements of God's love are the reason the universe is maintained, because maintaining is an ongoing creation, just as continuing to exist is the same as perpetually coming into being.

The Lord sometimes describes His act of continually bringing us into being in terms of His breathing on us. This is something the Lord did for His disciples after He had risen from the grave. The Gospel of John says that, "*He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'*" (20: 22).

We can know that the Lord is always breathing on us with the life of His Spirit. He is continually recreating us and giving us the opportunity to respond in a positive way to Him. The Lord wants love and wisdom to live in partnership at the very core of who we are. We can say that this, in large part, is the reason why the Lord came into the world. He wanted to put in place those measures that would best provide for each to person to become, in freedom, both loving and wise.

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