

# ***SOUL FOOD***

*September /October 2018*



*What is the **human spirit** but a **vessel for the life that the mind possesses?** TCR 470:2, 3*

## ***The Infinite In You*** (Excerpt from offTheLeftEye)

<https://swedenborg.com/the-infinite-in-you> It's a sad thing to watch someone pour cereal into an upside-down bowl! (see above video!!)

But it leads to an important question about the nature of an **infinite** God and **finite** individuals—how do we access the infinite? **Are our spiritual cereal bowls upside-down?** How are we supposed to deal with Swedenborg quotes like the one found here?

**Our sense of self-importance** is wholly evil. That is why we say that we are born into utter evil and that what we inherit is nothing but evil. (Divine Providence §215:7)

All good comes from heaven and **all evil comes from hell.**

**Proprium** is going to stand in for the word **self** = the idea of **ownership of yourself**—the sense that you are your **own person**, with your **own thoughts and feelings and ideas**.

This idea is somewhat of an illusion because **so many things are flowing into us from heaven and hell**. If we get too convinced of our own "rightness," we get self-involved and **too focused on ourselves**

All things that have been created are intrinsically finite . . . as for the human spirit, however, that too has been created from things that are finite. What is the **human spirit** but a **vessel for the life that the mind possesses?**

TCR 470:2, 3

We are supposed to have this feeling of **autonomous life**—this sense that we are simply alive in and of ourselves—rather than sensing the true state of affairs, which is that we are only alive because **God's life is flowing into us**. It's part of His design that our lives feel like our own. That's how we are in **freedom**, through the ability to **choose to love God and turn toward him or turn away from him**. We can't feel God pouring life into us because it would take away our ability to feel like life is our own.

*What is life except the **inmost activity of the love and wisdom** that come from God and are God? It could also be called the **living force itself**.*

***We have to feel that life is our own.** So where does that feeling of separation come from? **The Birth of a Proprium:** Human beings are born into evil; evil can't come from God—**evil comes from turning away from God.** If you find yourself feeling shamed and antagonized by being told that all people are evil, hold on tight and wait, because it does get better.*

*From the Lord's perpetual presence, [we have] the faculty of **thinking, understanding, and willing**. These faculties are solely from the influx of life from the Lord. (Invitation to the New Church 23)*

*The reality is that the Lord animates in us that which seems to be ours. For instance, **it is an eternal truth that life is not ours; but if it did not seem to be, we would have no life at all.** AC 1712:3*

***Self-love and love of the world** are born together within a person. These are the source of what the person feels as **the delight of his life** right from when he is first born; AC 9348*

*This often becomes the **love of controlling or domination, and love of gratification.***

*This is because when we are wrapped up in this love we are **totally focused on ourselves and therefore immerse our thoughts and feelings in our own sense of self-importance.** DP 215:7*

*We need to let love flow into our lives and **let the bad feelings and thoughts that come into our heads go without taking ownership of the bad things.***

*The important thing to remember is that **we're not blamed, spiritually speaking, for the tendencies that we inherit:***

*Furthermore, the **more that we have a heavenly kind of love** (we love actions that are useful and good and are moved with heartfelt pleasure when we do them), **the more we are led by the Lord.** This heavenly kind of love is the kind of love that the Lord has; it is the kind of love that comes from Him.*

*This is what the **proprium of angels** is like: a sense of deep tranquility and peace that comes from having a proprium full of God's love and life.*

*No one ever suffers punishment in the other life on account of hereditary evil, because it is not his, and therefore he is not to blame for being of such a nature; but everyone suffers on account of the actual evil which is his own, and consequently for the **hereditary evil he has appropriated to himself by actual life**. (AC 2308)*

*But, my friend, **abstain from evil, and do what is good, and believe in the Lord with your whole heart and your whole soul;** and the Lord will love you and give you love for what you do and faith in what you believe. Then you will do what is good because of love and you will believe because you have faith, which is confidence. And if you persevere like this, a reciprocal partnership [with the Lord] will develop and become permanent. **This is salvation itself and eternal life.** TCR484:2*

***Birthdays:*** September. Shaun (6), Lois (11), Norm (29), Michael (30)

October: Ros ( 6) Margaret (13), Joshua (16), Heath (28)

***Offertories : Direct Deposits. Please consider giving ONLINE***  
*Donations on a regular basis from each family. It would be very gratefully received. (See back page)*

***Todd is visiting again in November 16,17,18***

## Calendar

Sunday 2 Sept	<b>10:30 am</b> Worship and Sunday school <b>Father's day</b>	Groat Street
Sunday 9 Sept	<b>9am Logo Praxis</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Worship and Godly Play	McDougall House Clydesdale Road
Sunday 16 Sept	<b>10:30 am</b> Worship and Sunday school <i>Let Ros know if you require Sunday School</i>	Groat Street
Sunday 23 Sept	<b>Home worship</b>	
Sunday 30 Sept	<b>Home worship</b>	
7 Oct	<b>10:30am</b> Worship and Sunday school and shared lunch <i>Let Ros know if you require Sunday School</i>	<b>Groat Street</b>
Sunday 14 Oct	<b>9am Logo praxis group</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Worship and Godly Play	McDougall House Clydesdale Road
Sunday 21 Oct	<b>10:30 am</b> Worship and Sunday school	Groat Street
Sunday 26 August	<b>9am Logo praxis group</b> <b>10:30 am</b> Worship and Godly Play	McDougall House Clydesdale Road

***We are all created to become angels of Heaven  
which is a kingdom of communities.***

*Based on the Holy Bible, **The New Church** gains further inspiration and understanding through the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by 18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel Swedenborg**. In the 35 volumes of this new Revelation we see the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.*

***Worship:*** 10:30am on the ***Second and Fourth***  
***Sundays with Godly Play*** for children

***Venue:*** McDougall House, Clydesdale St, Como.

[www.newchurch.org](http://www.newchurch.org)

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***Church:*** BSB 036-302: ACC 189720

***Godly Play:*** BSB 036-019 ACC 258487

***Starting Over Support*** BSB 036-019 ACC 230169