

“I say to you, though they will not rise and give to them because they are their *friend*, yet because of their **persistence** they will rise and give them as many as they need. So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” (Luke 11:5-13; see also 18:1-8)

“This describes the power those people have who are in the Lord. They do not wish for and so do not ask for anything that does not come from the Lord; and whatever they wish for and ask from the Lord, this comes to pass, for the Lord says, ‘*without Me you can do nothing. Abide in Me, and I in you.*’ Such is the power that angels in heaven have, that they have only to wish for something in order to obtain it. But still they wish only for things that may be of useful service, wishing this as though of themselves, but in fact from the Lord.” (Apocalypse Revealed 951.2)

“‘**Midnight**’ stands for the final period of the old Church when no faith at all exists because no charity at all does so, and also for the first period of the new Church.” (Secrets of Heaven 6000.4)

“‘**Bread**’ means heavenly and spiritual food of all kinds.... In a general sense bread means good actions that come from love.” (New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine 218)

“**Three** in the Word has the spiritual meaning ‘being complete and perfect’ and also ‘containing all aspects at once.’” (True Christianity 211)

“Communication between truth and good is presented visually [in the spiritual world] as a **door**. ... I have also on many occasions heard [spirits] say, when their thoughts were being communicated to me, that the doors of their rooms were open, or when they were not being communicated, that their **doors were shut**.” (Secrets of Heaven 8989.3,7,9)

“In the Word a **little child symbolizes innocence, and charity** too, since true innocence is not possible without charity, nor true charity without innocence.” (Secrets of Heaven 430)

“**A bed symbolizes doctrine** because of its correspondence; for as the body rests in its bed, so the mind rests in its doctrine. The doctrine symbolized by a bed, however, is the kind that each person acquires for themselves, either from the Word or from their own intelligence. For it is in this that their mind finds repose and, so to speak, sleeps.” (Apocalypse Revealed 137)

“The first step in our being generated anew is to receive truths in our intellect. The second step is to intend to put those truths into practice; eventually it takes the form of actually putting them into practice. No one can justifiably be called a ‘reformed’ person solely on the basis of his or her knowledge of truth. By lifting our intellect above the love that resides in our will, we are all capable of grasping those truths, saying them, teaching them, and preaching them. A truly reformed person is someone who desires the truth because it is true. This desire attaches itself to our will, and **if it persists**, forges a partnership between our will and our intellect. Then our regeneration begins.” (True Christianity 589)

“Persistence”

September 18, 2022

Rev. Solomon Keal

Seek Only Thy Perfect Way _____ 70

Open Door _____ 177

Abide _____ 66

(Children Light Candles)

Seek Ye First -----65

Welcome

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Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah ----- 25

Opening of the Word

Offertory

Readings and Talk

Here I Am Lord ----- 136

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Samuel, Samuel! ----- 165

(Children put out the Candles)

Discussion

Closing of the Word

Please join us on Zoom at 11:00 am Sunday for a discussion.

(Please help clean up altar, hang chairs on rack,
take down quilt and roll up rug, school is back!)

Musicians: Maxwell Nelson, Shawn Rose, Graham Bier,
Gregg Swierczynski, Pam Henderson, Ethan Daum

Altar: Kristina Boyesen

Livestreaming: Frank Stanley

Sound: Keith Genzlinger

“The whole process of reformation and rebirth for individuals who become part of the church... [is that] they first sense a measure of struggle, but **when they persist and overcome**, the Lord makes a home with them and strengthens them in goodness. He gathers them to himself, bringing them into his kingdom, and lives with them. There he purifies and perfects them, giving them goodness and happiness as their own.” (Secrets of Heaven 2343.2)

“These and many others are the factors which cause the natural self to receive truths much later and with greater difficulty than the rational self receives them.

Consequently **conflict occurs, which persists for rather a long time** and does not end until the recipient vessels of good in the natural self have been softened by means of temptations... for truths are nothing else than recipient vessels of good. The harder those vessels are, the more firmly is a person settled in the things referred to above. And the more firmly settled they are, the more serious is the conflict if they are to be regenerated. This therefore being the situation with the natural self - that the joining of truths to good in the natural self is effected by means of the conflicts brought about by temptations - Esau's statement ‘*I am weary*’ occurs a second time here (Genesis 25:30).” (Secrets of Heaven 3321.3)

“After this the subject is the temptation undergone by the external natural self, **which persists until there is a willing submission to the internal celestial self**. That temptation is described by the accusation laid against the ten [brothers] and their return in despair to Joseph, while the willingness to submit is described by the offer made by them all to become slaves, and by Judah's offer of himself in place of them (see Genesis 44). The joining together of the external self and the internal is not effected without that temptation and willing submission.” (Secrets of Heaven 5729)