

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

The Divine love and wisdom which proceed from the Lord as a Sun, and make heat and light in Heaven, are the proceeding Divine, which is the Holy Spirit. A just idea may now be had of the proceeding Divine which is called the Holy Spirit, -- that it is one with the Lord, but that it proceeds from Him, as light and heat do from the sun....

Divine Love and Wisdom # 146

When people know therefore that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Truth emanating from the Lord, which is real Holiness, they may know the Divine meaning in the Word wherever the terms 'Spirit of God' and 'Holy Spirit' are used, as in ... John, When the Paraclete comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes forth from the Father, He will bear witness to Me. And you will bear witness (John 15:26, 27). And in yet another place, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away. If I do not go away the Paraclete will not come to you; but if I go away I will send Him to you (John 16:7). From these places it is again evident that the Divine Truth which emanates from Divine Good, or from the Father, is the Paraclete and Holy Spirit. This also explains why He is called 'the Spirit of truth', and why it is said that He will remain in them, teach them all things, and bear witness to the Lord. In the spiritual sense 'bearing witness to the Lord' means teaching about Him.

Arcana Celestia #9818.25, 26

That the Divine virtue and operation, which are meant by the Holy Spirit, are, in general, reformation and regeneration; and, according to these, renovation, Vivification, sanctification, and justification; and according to these, purification from evils, remission of sins, and finally salvation. These are, in their order, the virtues which the Lord operates in those who believe in Him ... and this is done through the Divine truth, and with Christians through the Word....

True Christian Religion # 142

“And then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues (Acts 2: 3, 4).” By the fire was signified the love of truth; by being filled with the Holy Spirit, was signified the reception of Divine Truth from the Lord; and by new tongues are meant confessions from the love of truth or from zeal.

Apocalypse Explained #455.22

The Holy Spirit means properly the Divine Truth, so also the Word; and in this sense the Lord is Himself also the Holy Spirit. But the present-day church uses the term “Holy Spirit” to describe the way God works, that is, the actual process of making a person righteous, so this is the meaning given here to the Holy Spirit.... Another reason is that the activity of God takes place by means of the Divine Truth which proceeds from the Lord; and that which proceeds is of one and the same essence as He from whom it proceeds. This is like the trio of soul, body and what proceeds making up a single essence, which in the case of a human being is purely human, but in the case of the Lord is Divine and human at the same time, these essences after His glorification being united as what is prior is with what follows from it, or like essence and the appropriate form. So the three essentials called the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one in the Lord.

True Christian Religion #139

5 / 27 / 2007

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
PENTECOST: Spiritual Empowerment

The disciples heeded Jesus' command not to leave Jerusalem until they received the gift of the Spirit – which is their experience of Pentecost. In like manner, we do well to “tarry in Jerusalem” by learning principles of our faith. In so doing, we prepare ourselves to receive the spiritual, mystical experience of God's presence in our lives that moves us from knowing about God to knowing God.

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Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Genesis 11:1-9

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues (or, languages) as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language...?” Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.’”

Acts 2:1-18