

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

There are two minds in every individual, a natural mind, and a rational mind. The natural mind is the mind of the external being, and the rational mind the mind of the internal being. The things belonging to the natural mind are called knowledge, while those belonging to the rational mind are called intellectual processes. ...That what pertains to the natural mind is for the most part in the light of the world which is called the light of nature; but what pertains to the rational mind is in the light of heaven, which is spiritual light.

Arcana Celestia # 7130

All people in respect to the interiors which belong to their minds are spirits, are clothed in the world with a material body, which is under the direction of the thought of the spirit and under the control of its affection; for the mind - which is spirit - acts, and the body - which is matter - is acted upon; and every spirit, when the material body has been cast off, is a person in a form like that which one had as an individual in the world.

Apocalypse Explained #1142

A person's mind is their spirit, which lives after death; and one's spirit is constantly in company with its like in the spiritual world, and at the same time by means of the material body with which it is enveloped, it is with people in the natural world. One does not know that in respect to their mind one is in the midst of spirits, for the reason that the spirits with whom one is in company in the spiritual world, think and speak spiritually, while one's own spirit thinks and speaks naturally so long as one is in the material body; and the natural person cannot understand or perceive spiritual thought and speech, nor the reverse. This is why spirits cannot be seen.

But when the spirit of a person is in company with spirits in their world, one is also in spiritual thought and speech with them, because one's mind is interiorly spiritual but exteriorly natural; therefore by means of one's exteriors one communicates with people. By such communication one has a perception of things, and thinks about them analytically. If it were not for such communication, one would have no more thought or other thought than a beast; and if all connection were taken away, one would instantly die.

True Christian Religion # 475

People are quite ignorant [of the fact that] they are governed by the Lord through angels and spirits, and that there are at least two spirits with a person and two angels. Through the spirits a communication of the person with the world of spirits is effected; and through the angels, with heaven. As long as one is not regenerated, one is governed quite otherwise than when regenerated. While unregenerated, there are evil spirits with the person, who dominate one so fully that the angels, through present, can scarcely do more than guide the person, so that one shall not hurl oneself into the lowest evil, and bend one to some good - to some good by means of one's own desires, indeed, and to some truth through even fallacies of sense. Then, through the spirits who are present, one has communication with the world of spirits, but not so much with heaven, for the evil spirits rule with the person, and the angels rule and inspire all good and truth, and a horror and dread of evil and falsity. The angels lead the person indeed, but serve only as ministers for it is the Lord alone, Who, by angels and spirits, governs people.

Arcana Celestia # 50

SUNDAY MORNING FORUM
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS
CHRISTIAN FESTIVAL OF ALL SAINT'S DAY

The Christian Festival of All Saints has come to be reinterpreted as a celebration of the unity of the entire Church. Swedenborgians could take this to be a recognition and affirmation that we are essentially spiritual beings. While we usually do not see our spirits and angels, we can, and often do, have a sense of presence of spirits and angels in our thoughts and or feelings.

* * * * *

Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said: "The Lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints; from his right hand came a fiery law for them. Yes, he loves the people; all the saints are in your hand; they sit down at your feet; everyone receives your words. Moses commanded a law for us, a heritage of the congregation of Jacob...."

Deuteronomy 33:3-4

And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before you, for your judgments have been manifested."

Revelation 15:3-4

I was watching, and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, "until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. Thus He said:"... then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Daniel 7:21-23a, 27

Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants and those who fear him, both small and great!" And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is righteous acts of the saints." Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

Revelation 19:5-9a