

# An Introduction To Spiritual Christianity

## 6. The Correspondence Between Them

### Video 1 – Spiritual Reception Is Reflected In The Perception Of The Surroundings

#### Introduction

The human experience is deeply intertwined with perception. Our senses paint a picture of a world that feels external, solid and fixed, a reality that seems to exist independently of our thoughts and feelings. The teachings for Spiritual Christianity invite us to question this assumption, showing that the material world is not as autonomous as it appears. Here we explore the profound idea that that sensory objects are not external phenomena but are shaped by the influx of the Divine Life into finite forms of mind. By examining the coexistence of thoughts, affections, and sensory images, and the unique dynamics of perception in the spiritual realm, we uncover a deeper understanding of how our internal states manifest as external realities. Through this lens, we begin to see how the spiritual and natural worlds are intricately connected, with our inner states giving rise to the external experiences that shape our sense of reality.

#### The Challenge of Perception

For those uninstructed in spiritual principles, the idea that the material world, which appears to exist independently of the mind, is actually not independent, is hard to believe. This notion goes against all sensory evidence. However, once instructed, it can be seen that it is the influx of the Divine Life within finite forms that brings forth all sensory objects. These objects are presented to a person's perception in accordance with the quality of their will, from which their forms of thought are generated, manifesting as sensory objects in the natural world.

#### The Co-existence of Thoughts, Affections, and Objects

The objects we perceive in the natural world along with the thoughts and affections that generate them, exist together within the conscious mind, and have no independent existence in an external space. When we comprehend the process of creation in the spiritual world, it becomes clear that these phenomena

align with the universal laws of correspondence, demonstrating their coherence rather than their impossibility.

### Separation of Spheres in the Spiritual World

In the spiritual world, every mind is organised according to the quality of its love or affections, creating a surrounding sphere of life that reflects this inner state. External arrangements mirror internal qualities, with good spirits appearing on the right and the wicked on the left, regardless of the perceiver's orientation. Thus, when two angels face each other, both face east with the good on their right and the wicked on their left. Unlike the natural world, where opposing qualities coexist within individuals and spatial positions seem unrelated to internal states, the spiritual world maintains a precise correspondence. This external manifestation accurately reflects the internal harmony or discord between minds.

### Sensory Images as Effects of Spiritual Influx

The sensory images of affections in their various forms are created by a spiritual influx of the Divine Life into the sentient faculties of the mind. This makes it easy to understand how two good spirits or angels can both have the good on their right and the wicked on their left when they meet. This is the reverse of the natural world, where the mind conceives sensory images as produced by a physical influx, favouring the notion of a fixed external world.

### Orientation and Receptivity in the Spiritual World

In the spiritual world, those receptive to the Divine Life of love and wisdom always face east which represents a state of receptivity that varies according to individual imperfections. Each angel, being a finite mind receptive of the Divine Life, perceives space as an appearance in their sentient faculties. These faculties exhibit the image corresponding to their heavenly state, with its objects appearing to them just as the objects of nature do to those in the natural world as things seemingly sitting outside of the mind's sentient faculties. This appearance of externality corresponds to the imperfect reception of every finite mind, for it is this imperfection that is the origin of space in both natural and spiritual realms.

### Comprehension of Spiritual Realities

Good spirits and angels understand this reality, as they do not think in the fallacies of the senses as those on earth do, but in spiritual truths that reveal the causes that give rise to the effects. For them, effects are not mistaken for causes, they

intuitively perceive time and space as outbirths of thought and affection. This understanding aligns with the universal law that the more the mind is aligned with the Order, the more fluid the sensory objects become.

### Conclusion

Instructed in spiritual principles, one can see that the material world is not independent of the mind but is brought into being by the influx of the Divine Life. The separation of spheres in the spiritual world, the creation of sensory images by spiritual influx, and the intuitive perception of time and space as outbursts of thought all demonstrate the profound reality of correspondences. This understanding helps to perceive the true nature of sensory experiences and the Order underlying all existence.

## Video 2 - Fluidity In The Spiritual World

### Introduction

In the spiritual realm, appearances are not fixed but fluid, shaped by the inner states of individuals and the spheres of life they inhabit. Here we explore the dynamic relationship between an angel's countenance and the spiritual societies they engage with, revealing how their outer form reflects their internal affections and uses. Through the lens of spiritual fluidity, we delve into how heavenly objects respond effortlessly to Divine Influx. Additionally, we examine the nature of space and time in the spiritual world, where these concepts are not external realities but expressions of inner states, illustrating the profound harmony between love, thought, and the sensuous objects of perception.

### The Reflective Nature of an Angel's Countenance

The teachings of Spiritual Christianity reveal that an angel's countenance within their own community reflects the detailed qualities of their individual mind. At the same time, it also embodies an image of the collective sphere of life shared with those they are closely aligned with. This unique expression of the angel's inner self remains consistent as long as they stay within their own community. However, when an angel enters another society, their entire appearance shifts to align with the spiritual influx of that new sphere.

### Adaptability Across Spiritual Spheres

If an angel were to visit a hundred different societies, their countenance would change a hundred times, each alteration reflecting the unique qualities of the spheres they encounter and their connection to the uses of their home society. These spiritual uses are the source of the angel's deepest joy and fulfilment, shaping how they are perceived by others in their community.

### The Unchanging Core of Angelic Identity

Despite these transformations, the angel's original countenance remains as the underlying foundation for all modifications. Each change is simply an adaptation of this core expression, tailored to the specific affinities of the new sphere. As a result, the angel's true form is always recognisable, no matter how it is altered. This is because the mind's structure is permanently shaped by the uses it serves, forming a stable and unchanging plane of identity.

### The Fluidity of Spiritual Objects

This phenomenon highlights the fluidity of objects in the spiritual world. Unlike the lifeless inertia of physical matter, spiritual objects retain all the properties of matter but remain dynamic and responsive. In heaven, the minds of angels offer no resistance to the influx of Divine Love. Their affections, being both tender and pure, readily conform to Divine impressions.

### The Nature of Space and Time in the Spiritual World

These phenomena, which contradict the notion of an external world, reveal that space and time are not fixed realities but states of life. The simultaneous presentation of sensory objects to the mind gives rise to the illusion of outward space through an influx from the Lord. Similarly, their sequential variation creates the perception of outward time. These appearances are conditions of the sentient faculties, reflecting the relationships between heavenly thought and love.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the reflective nature of an angel's countenance offers a profound insight into the spiritual realm. Their appearance, shaped by their individual mind and collective sphere of life, adapts and transforms as they navigate different spiritual spheres. Despite these changes, their core identity remains unchanged, rooted in the uses they serve and the structure of their mind. This phenomenon highlights the fluidity and responsiveness of spiritual objects, as well as the

dynamic nature of space and time in the spiritual world. Ultimately, the angel's countenance serves as a reflection of their inner self, shaped by their relationships with others and their connection to the Divine.

## Video 3 - The Correspondence Of Use And Beauty

### Introduction

The concept of the law of correspondence is fundamental to understanding the relationship between spirit, mind, and matter. This universal law applies to every degree and quality of mind, whether good or evil, and to every property perceived by the senses, regardless of whether it is considered matter or spirit. This law encompasses all aspects of perception, affection, and sensation, and is vividly illustrated in the nature of heavenly existence.

### Use and Beauty

In heaven, the beauty and attractiveness of all things are directly proportional to their use. The use of an object reflects the excellence of its interior causes. Essentially, the more excellent the interior cause, the more beautiful and attractive the use. This principle highlights how the delights experienced in the heavenly realm are manifestations of the happiness and satisfaction that the Divine Love and Wisdom impart to the wills and intellects of the angels.

### The Divine Influx and Sensory Experience

The presence of the Divine, inflowing into the representative plane through the receptivity of the mind, ensures that every property within the circle of sensation corresponds fully to its Divine Source. In heaven, there is no selfish or worldly love to disrupt the course of this Divine Influx or to weaken its power. Consequently, the objects presented to the senses of heavenly beings are not only beautiful and attractive in exact accordance with the truth and goodness of their minds but are also presented with the distinct properties typically associated with matter in the natural world.

### The Distinctness of Sensation

The distinctness with which sensations are experienced in heaven is as much a part of the law of correspondence as the properties of the objects themselves. This distinctness is a reflection of the condition of the mind, representing the clarity and

purity of the interior perceptions of heavenly beings. In heaven, where minds are open to freely admit the Lord's love and wisdom for guidance and instruction, the clearness of interior perceptions is mirrored in the distinctness of exterior sensations and the superior powers of discrimination in the sentient faculties of sight, hearing, smell, and touch.

#### Superior Sensory Perception in Heaven

The properties of sensuous objects come more vividly and distinctly before angels than they do before those on earth. This heightened perception underscores the profound connection between the interior state of the mind and the exterior manifestation of sensory experiences. The law of correspondence ensures that the purity and clarity of the angels' minds are perfectly reflected in the distinct and vivid presentation of sensuous properties, enhancing their overall experience of beauty and goodness in heaven.

#### Conclusion

The law of correspondence serves as a universal principle that governs the relationship between mind and matter, spirit and perception. In the heavenly realm, this law ensures that the beauty and attractiveness of all things are aligned with their use and the excellence of their interior causes. The distinctness of sensation experienced by angels reflects the purity and clarity of their minds, demonstrating the profound impact of the Divine Influx on their sensory experiences. This understanding of correspondence provides a deeper insight into the nature of heavenly existence and the harmonious interplay between the Divine, the mind, and the senses.

## Video 4 – The Theatre Of The Mind

#### Introduction

The quality of our minds profoundly shapes how we experience reality, both in the natural and spiritual worlds. The regenerating mind, guided by Divine Truth, understands that sensory experiences are not merely external impressions, but rather internal creations projected into the plane of the senses to represent the internal quality of active states of mind. This recognition of the mind's formative role in experience provides a pathway to a deeper appreciation of the

interconnectedness between our interior states of mind and external sensory experience.

### Natural and Spiritual Origins of Sensory Objects

The primary difference between objects in the natural world and those in the spiritual world lies in their origins. Objects in the natural world have a natural origin, while those in the spiritual world have a spiritual origin. However, it's important to clarify that by natural origin, we do not mean matter as something extraneous to the mind governed by a separate set of laws. Such a materialist doctrine would contradict the understanding that the natural world exists and subsists entirely from the spiritual, the natural world being the effect of the spiritual as its cause. For something to have a natural origin from the perspective of Spiritual Christianity, means that the object displays qualities aligned with a natural mode of thought, just as to have a spiritual origin means that the object displays qualities aligned with a spiritual mode of thought. Each degree of the mind encompasses its distinct world of sensations, reflecting the broader truth that the sensory world operates as a kind of theatre where the Lord's kingdom or its opposite, is represented. This is true whether we're talking about the sensory experience of angels and spirits in their world or the inner workings of our own minds.

### Creation of Sensory Objects in the Spiritual World

Unlike the experience of the physical world, where objects are considered to exist independently of the mind, the spiritual world operates differently. In the spiritual world, what appears like physical objects are actually mental images created by the inflowing life of the Lord to represent the active mental state of a spirit or angel. These images appear to be "out there," in their own "space" and "time". Spiritual objects to the spiritual senses of angels and spirits appear to possess all the qualities of material objects, so much so that externally they can be said to be indistinguishable. However, the spirit or angel knows that what they are perceiving without is in fact a representative world that corresponds to their internal states of mind. They intuitively understand that these "external" things are actually products of their own consciousness. They see, hear, and feel them within themselves, not as separate from themselves.

## The Anatomy of Spirits and Angels

Spiritual beings, like those on earth, have nervous systems. However, they don't mistake these systems as simply relaying external information to the mind. Instead, guided by Divine Truth, they understand their nervous systems as tools to perceive the way their inner states create their experiences. They don't see their bodies as separate from their minds, but rather as expressions of their own conscious thoughts and feelings. Everything about their body is reflective of their particular form or quality or state of mind being presented in the field of their awareness.

## The Impact of Divine Truth on Perception

Spiritual beings have a very different experience of reality because they understand that sensory experiences are created by their own minds. This perspective, rooted in Divine Truth, allows them to see their bodies and all their sensory experiences as interwoven with their internal thoughts and feelings. This unified view protects them from the illusions that mislead those with a natural mindset—illusions such as believing in a material world that exists independently and functions under its own separate laws.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the distinction between natural and spiritual origins reveals a profound truth: that what we perceive as external reality, both in the natural and spiritual realms, is ultimately rooted in the mind. While the natural world is experienced through our natural mind and the spiritual world through our spiritual mind, both are theatres displaying the states of our interior lives. A spiritual understanding, grounded in Divine Truth, clarifies that sensory experiences are not merely external impressions but are actually representative forms created within our own consciousness. This realisation, that even our bodies are manifestations of our mental states, transforms how we see the world, both within and without. It is an understanding that can free us from the illusions of a purely material existence and point us towards a reality that is deeply interwoven with our inner being.



## Video 5 – A New Reality in What is Substantial

### Introduction

The journey toward spiritual awakening invites a shift in how reality is perceived. For spiritual beings, true substance lies not in the material world but in the regenerated will and Divinely guided intellect. This inner transformation reveals a reality far more substantial than the fleeting and insubstantial nature of physical matter. Central to this understanding is the recognition of the Lord as the ultimate Source of all existence, whose presence sustains and gives meaning to every experience. Through this lens, the external world dissolves as an independent entity, revealing itself instead as a mirror of one's inner spiritual state. This shift in perception is foundational to the wisdom of heavenly life.

### The Superior Reality of Regenerated Will and Intellect

For spiritual beings, the regenerated will, with its pure, selfless affections, and the perceptive intellect, guided by Divinely inspired thoughts, are regarded as far more real and substantial than the physical matter of the natural body. This perspective stems from their profound awareness that such matter, as perceived by the natural mind, is ultimately unreal and insubstantial, serving only as a base for sensory impressions.

### The Lord as the Ultimate Substance

Spiritual beings do not mistake their imperfect, finite life for the One perfect Life. They acknowledge the Lord as the sole true Substance and Support of all sensory objects, which are designed to perfectly reflect the state of their love and thought. This understanding helps them see that every aspect of their existence and perception is profoundly interconnected with the inflowing life of the Divine.

### Rejection of an Independent External World

A key aspect of heavenly wisdom is the understanding that the perception of an external, spatial world beyond the mind is merely an appearance, arising from the imperfect reception of Divine Life. Spiritual beings recognise that all sensory objects and spatial relationships are reflections of their internal states. These objects and experiences are not separate or independent; rather, they directly

represent the condition of their love and thought, perfectly corresponding to their spiritual state.

### Conclusion

In the spiritual journey, the regenerated will and intellect reveal a superior reality that transcends the physical world. By recognising the Lord as the ultimate Substance, spiritual beings understand that their existence is not rooted in external, material forms but in an inner union with the Divine. This profound realisation dissolves the illusion of a separate external world, affirming that all perceived experiences are reflections of their spiritual states. In this truth, they find a deeper, more substantial reality—one in which every aspect of their being is harmoniously aligned with Divine Love and Wisdom.