



SWEDENBORG ASSOCIATION of Australia Inc

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Membership of the Swedenborg Association of Australia Inc. is open to anyone who wishes to pursue an interest in Swedenborg, the man, his science and his spiritual teachings.

For details on how to join, call (02) 9888 1066 or browse <http://www.swedenborg.com.au/membership>

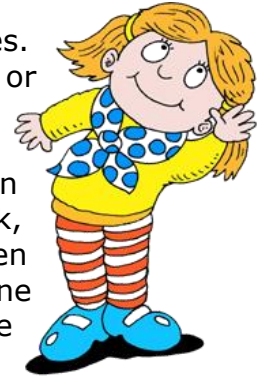
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Swedenborg tells us that birds correspond to our spiritual thoughts - some thoughts are active, chirpy, beautiful, some are serene like the swan, others are perceptive (eagle) and others are waiting to dive and tear (vultures). Birdsong then is the response and audibility of these thoughts, from the sweetness of the skylark, to the cawing of the crow, to the twittering of tiny wrens (sheds an interesting light on the so-called Twitterverse:).

How often do we listen to our internal voices? My favourite time is first thing in the morning just as I wake. Sometimes the new thoughts and ideas come racing in with barely time to put pen to paper to record them. Uncensored like our dreams, but with less confusing symbolism to unravel, these early morning thoughts can bring clarity to our ideas. How often have we heard the phrase that we should "sleep on it."

Listening to God is the best "leaning in" we can do in our lives, yet something that

is hard to grasp at times. Is it God we're hearing, or our own self-justifying thoughts? Sometimes it's hard to distinguish. In his short (90 page) book, "Uses", Wilson Van Dusen refers to a "Divine Response" which he describes on page 46 as the following -



God speaks to us,
if we take time to listen

"I call it a Divine response because it is exceedingly wise with a long range view as to our needs and ultimate uses. We attempt to do something in uses. The response comes in moments, flows in and opens our interior sight. It is so subtle and interior that it could easily be overlooked. Though I can give you examples, you will have to try it yourself to confirm this is a universal process.

I am driving a car on errands around town. I keep getting caught behind slow people. While waiting for a car to make a turn, I think I'll practice uses now. It occurs to me that there are so many slow cars today because I am impatient. If I could drive more patiently, we would all be safer. I'll try, but it is difficult.

The sequence, I will practice uses, I see my fault, is a common one. I had not intended to confront my fault, I had only intended to perform this use of driving well, but it led to seeing my fault....I saw that everyone else's slowness was simply my impatience."

Happy listening

Jan

With respectful acknowledgement to Wilson Van Dusen: "Uses - A Way of Personal and Spiritual Growth" and 'learned friend' Rev Julian Duckworth.

P.S. If you have some time to spare, why not drop in at the North Ryde Swedenborg Centre for a chat with Joe, a tea or coffee, a comfy chair, and curl up with this little book from the Swedenborg Library for an hour. What a lovely way to spend some free time.