



# God's Power to Save

## Lesson Overview

### 1. Watch a Video

Watch *What is Hellfire?* online at [bitly.com/WhatIsHellfire](http://bitly.com/WhatIsHellfire) (1min 36sec).

### 2. Read

The Lord's Power to Save Us pp. 1-2.

### 3. Experiment

Source of Power p. 2.

## New Church Concept

### Divine Power

By the Lord's Divine power one should understand Divine truth emanating from the Lord, for power resides within Divine truth to such an extent that it is power itself. Divine truth emanating from the Lord flows into every person and stirs to life things attuned to it. *Arcana Coelestia* 6948.2

When healing the sick the Lord often said that they should "have faith...." This was because the first of all is to acknowledge that the Lord is the Savior. Without this no one can receive anything of truth and good from heaven.... The healings of diseases by the Lord... symbolized healings of the spiritual life that belong to salvation. See *Arcana Coelestia* 10083.5

## FaithBuilder 2 | Lesson 4 | Lord

### Watch a Video

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### Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. What spiritual force does the speaker in the video say is like fire?
2. There are many different kinds of love. Some kinds are good, and some are not. What kinds of actions come from good loves?
3. What kinds of actions come from evil loves?
4. How can a person know whether something he or she likes doing comes from a good love or a bad love?
5. What does the fire of the Lord's love do for us?

### Read

We are all born with a tendency to love ourselves more than others or the Lord. The Lord longs to save everyone from the fires of this hellish love and constantly holds us back from being selfish—from putting ourselves first.

All people without exception are withheld from evils by the Lord, and this by a mightier force than a person can ever believe. For the effort of every one is continually toward evil, and this both from what is hereditary, into which he is born, and from what is actual.... And this is the case to such a degree that if he were not withheld by the Lord, he would rush headlong every moment toward the lowest hell. But the mercy of the Lord is so great that at every moment, even the least, the person is uplifted and held back, to prevent him from rushing to there. *Arcana Coelestia* 2406.2

When we focus our thoughts on ourselves above everything we can feel "dead" spiritually. We may not think about the Lord or believe in Him. In the Word "deaths" like this are represented people dying, for example Jairus's daughter. Thinking only of ourselves prevents the Lord's power from working within us. If we do not fight to stop the coals of selfish love from igniting in us, we can "die" spiritually. This happens each time we give in to a selfish impulse—like anger. But like Jairus's daughter our spiritual lives can be restored again when we recognize that we need the Lord to save us, and ask His help to receive His saving power.

People sometimes say, “If it feels good, it must be good!” But what feels good is often misleading and does not bring lasting happiness—the happiness of heaven. Since we are born not knowing what is good or what is evil, we first need to learn what good and evil are, and we can only do this by reading the Word. Once we know what good and evil are, then we can tell good from evil.

It is by means of the truths in a person that the Lord has the power to save him. For a person is reformed and regenerated...by means of truths from the sense of the letter of the Word. *Sacred Scripture* 49

When we know the truths from the Word the Lord can be with us with His healing power since these truths contain the Lord's power. When we know and use His truth in our lives, we can see evils, reject them, and choose to do good instead.

### Experiment—The Source of Power

Divine truth has power in itself, and by means of it, heaven was created and the world and everything in it. That there is such power in Divine truth may be illustrated by two comparisons: by the power of truth and good in people and by the power of light and heat from the sun in the world. See *Heaven and Hell* 137:7

Take the batteries out of a flashlight and try to turn it on.

### Consider the following

1. Is the flashlight complete without the battery?
2. Is the battery part of the flashlight?
3. Does the flashlight look the same with and without the battery?
4. How can you tell whether the flashlight will work or not?

### Dig deeper

*Choose questions for discussion.*

1. If the battery symbolizes the power of Divine truth, are there times when it seems like there is no spiritual “battery” in your life?
2. Our ability to receive the power of good and truth from the Lord are never restricted by Him. What does limit our ability to access this power?
3. Think about the power of heat and light from the sun. How is the Lord's creation sustained by heat and light? In what ways do people “harness” the energy or power of the sun for other uses?
4. Now think about the power of good and truth in people. How can we access this power? What can we do with it?

### New Church Concept Knowing Good from Evil

Evil is recognized from the experience of good, but not good from the experience of evil, just as a sweet smell is not detected by the nose when it has a foul smell clinging to it. *Conjugal Love* 439

A person cannot be reformed unless he has freedom because people are born into evils of every kind. These must be removed for the person to be saved, and they cannot be removed unless the person sees them in himself, acknowledges them, and afterwards ceases to will them, and finally loathes them. Not until then are they removed.

This cannot be done unless a person is in good as well as in evil, since **it is from good that a person is able to see evils, while from evil a person cannot see good.**

The spiritual goods that a person is capable of thinking he learns from childhood by reading the Word and from preaching. He learns moral and civil good from his life in the world. *Heaven and Hell* 598