

Secret of the Angels

A Temcat Study

Quite a while ago as I was going about my daily tasks, the Holy Spirit brought a question to my mind. “Why don’t the Holy Angels goof?”

“Huh?” I responded.

It was repeated; “Why don’t the Holy Angels goof and make mistakes as they go about their duties here on earth or elsewhere in the universe?”

I began to ponder; it is true we don’t think of the Holy angels making any mistakes as they carry out the will of God in helping and guiding people—but why? Are angels infallible? I questioned.

No; we know they are not, because Lucifer, who was at one time their leader and the greatest of them all, fell miserably and made every mistake in the book; and a third of the heavenly hosts made the mistake of following him; and we are told even more came close to making the same terrible choice.

I pondered some more; the only way the angels absolutely would never make a wrong choice would be if they were robot-like and programmed never to go against God’s will; but I knew this is not so or else, again, Lucifer could not have fallen. God obviously has given the angels free will and the power of choice.

Clearly, certain angels did goof and goof badly! But the thought of heavenly angels, the unfallen ones, failing in any way to do their work precisely and perfectly is absolutely unthinkable. So just what is the Secret?

As I pondered on the account of the fall of Lucifer from the insight of the Spirit of Prophecy, I remembered how the ‘Law of God’ in heaven was the law of love and unselfishness, true Agape love really is unselfishness. We are told that it came as a surprise to many of the angels that the Law existed as such. It was written in their hearts and it had never occurred to them to disobey it. Heaven was one big, loving family bound to the Godhead with the gentle cords of Agape Love.

“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8.

Basically, the Law of God is His very character, and only that which is in harmony with His character, can be one with God and part of His ‘family’. Ultimately, only that which is in harmony with the Character of God can continue to exist. So how is the Law of God, the very character and personality of God, written in the heart?

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:” Hebrews 8:10.

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” Hebrew 10:16, 17.

And again: **“But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” Jeremiah 31:33.**

But notice this next verse:

34 “And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Here it says that they shall all know Thee; these people who have the Law of God written in their minds *all know* God. It brings to mind the following passage.

“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” 1 John 2:27.

Here we see a people who need not to be taught because they know. Would you say then that they know God? Yes, for sure. And what is it that has brought this blessed state? It says the ‘anointing’. So what is this anointing and how can this solve our mystery? We find the answer in John chapters 14-16. Notice:

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” John 16:13-15.

Again we see this anointing and that it teaches all things; so those who have it, know, is that correct? So what is Jesus talking about here? He calls it the Comforter. It is, of course, the Holy Ghost or Spirit. To make a long story short, the means by which we know God, the means by which His Law, His very character is ‘written’ in our hearts and minds, is by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

How Man and Angels were Created:

So we realize that God’s higher moral beings, His ‘family’ were all created to be incomplete without the actual presence of the Godhead dwelling within them! Now we cannot understand exactly how this works; it is way beyond any finite mind to explain these mysteries and I do not profess to even come close to such profound knowledge; however we can know it is true and we can experience it.

This is why the Holy Angels can go confidently about their business, carrying out the will of God and never goof; because they have with them at all times the indwelling presence of God, in the Third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit. He is there to guide, teach, counsel and lead

them, and He is at the same time a constant, caring companion, as they lovingly go about their work on behalf of God's little other ones. This Law of God the Holy Spirit writes in our hearts, is the very character of God.

The Holy Spirit links the unfallen beings directly to the throne of God. It is the deepest love affair that the universe knows. I sometimes refer to this relationship as 'the Link', because this is how I first began to understand it, as the Holy Spirit revealed it to me. It is not a 'theological term' for sure, but to me it describes a very practical reality in the workings of God for His universe. So here I will use this term to refer to the full indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

When man was created, God breathed into him the breath of life; God's Law was written in his heart and mind; God's very character was placed within through the Holy Spirit. He had the moral 'Image' of God. But he also had freedom of choice; he was not made a puppet or a robot. Why? Because God is Love and love wants interaction with love, and this can only happen with freedom of choice; it has to include the choice *Not to love*.

What Satan Threw Away

In order to rebel against his Maker, Lucifer had to make the choice to push aside the 'Link' of love and place himself where God's Spirit was meant to be. The Spirit pled with him, and with all the angels who eventually fell, but they wanted freedom from the Link, freedom from the Law and character of God. They wanted self and self only, and so broke from the 'anointing' to do things their own way. And so they goofed, terribly, and set in motion results and events so terrible that our finite minds cannot even fathom them. Thankfully, some of the angels responded to the gentle wooing of the Spirit and returned to their allegiance, even though they did not fully understand it all. Lucifer cast aside infinite love so he could exalt his own self and seek to rule over his fellow beings.

Eve was prompted to turn back.

Adam and Eve had the 'Link' to the throne. We are told that Eve, when she wandered away from Adam, felt a warning apprehension.

"On perceiving that she was alone, she felt an apprehension of danger, but dismissed her fears, deciding that she had sufficient wisdom and strength to discern evil and to withstand it. Unmindful of the angels' caution, she soon found herself gazing with mingled curiosity and admiration upon the forbidden tree." Patriarchs and Prophets 53.

We are also told that she was counseled by the Holy angels not to go off alone. The angels work very closely with the Holy Spirit, indeed we cannot always tell where the work of one leaves off and the other begins, but it is not at all needful for us to make that distinction because, ultimately, the Holy Spirit is the One directing it all.

Sadly, as you see, she too decided she did not need that still, small Voice of wisdom to guide her, nor even advice from the angels; she wanted to do her own thing and make up her own mind. She forgot the tender love that had been shown her by God, her Creator, and chose to accept false accusations of selfishness against Him. First she, then later Adam, broke the Link, and this brokenness passed to all of the human family.

The Profound Loneliness of Man.

There is one characteristic of humanity that we see all through society and in every life from cradle to grave—it is a profound loneliness. This loneliness is caused by the absence of the ‘Link’ that was intended to provide each being with the actual indwelling presence of God as a loving, guiding, Companion.

This loneliness causes mankind to crowd together; to seek constant distraction; to desire promises and commitments of loyalty and ‘love’ from fellow humans—which, by the way, no human is actually able to fulfill. Also it causes man to try and manipulate, control, and rule over one another. Just listen to popular music, love songs spouting; “I will love you forever”; “Love me with all of your heart”; “Together forever”; and on and on.

This loneliness has caused people to falsely conclude that man is a ‘herd animal’, which is not at all true. Man was created to be a family member, and yet exist in noble independence with a one on one Link with God. Without that Link with God though, even the closest family ties do little to alleviate that residual and profound loneliness in the heart of man.

We seek for groups to join; special friends; best friends; going steady; even engagement and marriage; and yet the one thing that can forever satisfy and which is the only true source of help to man, we shun like the plague. That one thing is complete surrender to God, and willing return to total obedience and loyalty to Him, and the restoring of the Link to the throne—the inward companionship and guidance of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit.

Like the Godhead.

God intended always to be one with man; they would be part of His family—part of Him, in a similar way as the three Persons of the Godhead are One together and yet separate Personalities, both man and angels were meant to share a similar arrangement, and without it there exists a terrible void that nothing else can ever fill.

Of course, after the fall this Link could only be restored by heaven making the supreme sacrifice. Jesus, our Saviour—the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, had to pay the price of sin and rebellion before there was any hope the Link could eventually be restored. It was a relationship of Love that was broken and cast aside when man fell, and only the Ultimate demonstration of Divine Love had any hope of restoring the Family from its brokenness, to oneness again with the Creator. Only by an acceptance of this infinite sacrifice with repentance, confession and forsaking of all rebellion and sin, can mankind get ‘plugged in’ again, as it were, to the Throne of the universe and the loving heart of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Only that which is in full harmony with the Divine Personality can be connected to the Godhead, and so a process of re-creation and restoration and retraining has to take place in an individual, to bring him or her eventually to the place where the Link can be restored. The One doing this work is the Holy Spirit; it is made possible only by the Blood of the Lamb and the intercession in the heavenly Sanctuary.

“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that

they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” John 17:21-23.

Jesus bridges the gap and the ‘Link’ can be restored; but at first it is given with measure and then as the individual surrenders more and more and comes closer to the character of God, the measure can increase. Eventually, after the Sealing, it will be given in its fullness to the 144,000 who will be at that time free from all sin.

“And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.” Revelation 14:5.

Do we lose our Freedom of Choice?

Does the Link prevent us from being free individuals? No, not at all; the Link is an amazing arrangement of the Godhead that lets us live autonomously and yet linked to the ‘Family’ of heaven. Each individual can have a Link so complete, it is as if he or she were the only one heaven is connected to, as close as the Godhead has with One another, but on the level of our finite comprehension.

“When you receive the words of Christ as if they were addressed to you personally, when each applies the truth to himself as if he were the only sinner on the face of the earth for whom Christ died, you will learn to claim by faith the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour in your own case. Your religious experience will have a different mould from what it now has.” 1888 Materials 400.

Satan ensnares all he can, and humankind without the Link is prey to Satan, his manipulation and cruel dominance. They find themselves hurled on and on in destructive and harmful practices that they cannot break free from—but the Link sets us free—free to live in the light and love of our Creator as we were designed to live.

“The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.” Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 10, p. 37. (1897)

“The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.” Desire of Ages 671.

We can have the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit only through complete surrender, and yet it brings us victory. We must die to self, be crucified with Christ, and yet we live.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

We weep and mourn in sorrow as we repent fully of sin, and yet, once born again, it brings us fullness of life and joy. But if we cling to any worldly habit, selfish indulgence, or seek our own ways, in opposition to God's way, we can never know this wonderful Link with heaven.

Any time we put selfish desires ahead of complete obedience to God's will, we break the Link. Anytime we turn our minds to focus on what is false, and savor of the rebellion—anything that takes our thoughts away from dwelling in heavenly places, we sever the connection, and it can take much repentance and seeking for restoration to get it back. We must live always in the attitude of prayer; that is, remaining conscious of our connection with Heaven. Anything that distracts us so much that we forget, even for a time, our focus on God, will break this precious Link. It is all or nothing, friends, if we want to know the fullness of God. If we can't be 'religious' all the time, we are not really 'religious' at all.

“Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19.

“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” James 4:4.

God makes no Links with His enemies. In fact, if we make the habit of occasionally hearing and reading the Word and focusing on Heavenly things and then turning right around and seeking worldly things—back and forth like a pendulum—we will end up severing the connection forever; committing the unpardonable sin, and we will happily go our worldly way, even attending church, and think we are just fine.

“Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.” Hosea 4:17.

Satan seeks to bind us against our will, but God always respects our choice; if we choose our own selfish ways, He lets us go. The Holy Spirit will strive to call us back, but He is on the outside. We only have the refreshing, the rest, the anointing, when He is on the inside and we are walking according to His gentle direction and infinite wisdom.

“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” Jeremiah 31:3.

‘Beulah Land’

There were some old time hymns in Christianity of yesteryear that spoke of Beulah Land. The place is also referred to and described in Pilgrim's Progress. In more modern hymnals it has been made to seem like a synonym for Heaven; but I was surprised one day to discover from older collections that 'Beulah Land' is not referring to Heaven, but rather to a spiritual state that can, and indeed, needs to be, attained by an individual here in this life. What does the Word tell us?

“Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.” Isaiah 62:4.

Beulah means 'married'. It indicates a state of being where that loneliness so typical to humankind is gone. It refers to experiencing the restoration of the 'Link' and the indwelling of

the Holy Spirit, that blessed Comforter. For those who experience this, heaven begins on this earth; indeed if heaven does not begin in our hearts in this life, we need not look for any future life.

“As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal. Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ. The longer we are in the heaven of bliss, the more and still more of glory will be opened to us; and the more we know of God, the more intense will be our happiness. As we walk with Jesus in this life, we may be filled with His love, satisfied with His presence. All that human nature can bear, we may receive here.” Desire of Ages 331.

“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” Hebrews 4:11.

Entering into His Rest; this refers to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as well as the keeping of the Sabbath. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is referred to as the ‘Times of Refreshing’. But notice we are to labor to enter it; labor to rest? Yes, our battle, our labor is in turning from self to fully serve God.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;” Acts 3:19.

“Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” Hebrew 10:15-17.

Restoring the Link

Yes, the restoring of the Link is what the Holy Spirit is poured out to do, and as more and more that Link is restored, we can learn to tap into the guidance, wisdom and companionship made available to us by the Comforter. But this can only come by full surrender of our own selfish ways and full obedience to God’s Law as revealed in His Character and the Word.

Why is it that we are willing and eager to try to find eternal commitments from humans and seek from our frail, fellow mortals, declarations of undying love and loyalty, trying to bind one another up in chains of selfish control, while we shun like the plague anything that speaks of making such total commitment to God, and call the few we see who have made it, fanatics and extremists?

We want humanistic versions of the plan of salvation; talk about Jesus, sit in a pew at least once a week, do some outwardly good works, and prattle on about love; love; love. But to totally chuck away the world and all of its sinful ways and indulgences and live the life of Enoch—walking and talking with God, one on one—we don’t want that! We don’t want to let go of that self-directive; that doing our own thing, and just be led of God. We don’t want to part company with sin totally; after all, once in a while; on special occasions; under certain circumstances; just as a treat; we deserve a little self-indulgent sin; we don’t want to be ‘too religious’.

So on we go in our human misery; seeking solutions in a million fantasies but always shunning that still small Voice that would fill the gap completely and give us Heaven in our hearts here

and now.

“Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest. The Lord says, **“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.”** Isaiah 26:3. Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master Worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. And that character which expresses the glory--character--of Christ will be received into the Paradise of God. A renovated race shall walk with Him in white, for they are worthy.” Desire of Ages 331.

“Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, ... Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” 1 Peter 1:10, 11.

The Link is the secret; the angels of God all have it; the fallen angels have cast it off forever. Humankind still has a choice; heaven has provided everything necessary for each individual to be fully restored and the Link reinstated, and thus the very character of God placed in our inward core.

The Problem of Standing without a Mediator

Many have puzzled over how man will be able to stand when once there is no longer any mediator between God and man, but this will not be any problem for those who at that time are fully occupied by the Holy Spirit. I used to believe and fear that we are just dumped at that time and left on our own. It used to be a terrifying thought to my soul. But the holy angels do not require a mediator--why? Because they have the intact connection with God, and God's very character is within them; they have the Link.

So the 144,000 will by that time, have the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit without measure. The Link will be fully restored in them. God's Law and very character will be within them, right in the place where it was designed for this sacred presence to occupy in human kind, and they will be complete. This Presence is forever; the everlasting Love-Link. The sin problem is solved forever and the mediation for sin is no longer needed.

Some clues as to what heaven is like.

We often hear songs about finally seeing Jesus when we get to heaven and talking with Him and walking with Him and so on; but have you ever thought of the fact that if many millions are saved, and each one wants to have an interview with Jesus, that it could take years before your name even comes up for an appointment! This is according to our human thinking and our human ways.

But that is not the way things are going to work in heaven. All those who are among the redeemed will already have been walking and talking with Jesus, long before they enter heaven. They will know Him through having His character. They will have that close Link with the Godhead through the Holy Spirit; that Link that is the closest relationship that can ever be known between any two beings. It is closer than brother and sister; closer than mother and

child; closer even than husband and wife, a relationship as close as that of the Godhead with each other.

This relationship satisfies completely and solves the problem of human loneliness forever. It brings peace in the heart, victory in the life and a joy and satisfaction that nothing can ever take from the one who has it. But those who have this Link will be contrite and humble, and this very contriteness brings a peace and quietness to the life. There is no boasting of goodness or spiritual attainments.

“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57:15.

Our God is meek and humble, that is why we can have this Link within us and the result is peace and rest instead of enslavement and struggle.

Satan began his career by self-exaltation and he led a third of the heavenly host to think that they could exalt themselves by exalting him, and so he brought them into bondage. Satan tricked Eve into thinking she could exalt herself to a higher sphere, and so she lost all she already had, including the Heavenly Link to the throne through the Holy Spirit. If we continue to seek to exalt ourselves in whatever way we like doing it, we will eventually be ashes upon this old world along with Satan and his nasty, selfish crowd.

But we can make the choice to respond to heaven’s efforts, as Jesus invites:

“Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you REST”. Matthew 11:28.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:16.

“And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.” Jeremiah 24:7.

As we truly accept what is offered to us, and return with the whole heart, we find the answer to all of humanities ills, and we learn by personal experience the Secret of the angels, the Link to the Godhead. Then we can walk with God as did Enoch—right into heaven, first, heaven on this earth and eventually for eternity. How much better than the vain promises of faithfulness from frail human kind, who cannot possibly fulfill them, even if they truly wanted to. This Link is promised to us forever because the Godhead continues unchanged forever!