



# *“Your Angel Allies”*

*-Rev. Kit Billings*



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What is your own personal belief about the structure of the universe, about the structure of life? Are you more of the philosophical bent that is skeptical about anything you cannot see, touch, taste or smell? Do you struggle with a belief in Heaven and Hell...in spiritual worlds or realms beyond the natural one you now sit in? Or has your life journey and experience convinced you that angels and devils are real and may even be closely involved in every step you take?

What flows through you when I share this famous quote from Hebrews 13:2, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”<sup>1</sup>

Angels among us... Angelic allies, sent to each one of us personally by none other than God Himself. There are many things about God and His infinite wisdom I not only admire, but are also the primary forces that have transformed my life from one of quiet desperation into one teeming with hopefulness inside that never ends! No matter how terrifying and difficult life can be (an yes, for sure, life CAN and DOES sometimes overwhelm us with pains, losses and griefs), even then, our God-led Angel friends will remain by our side. Sometimes they do so simply to hold us close in their arms, giving our hearts the comfort we need.

The Bible alludes to this when Jesus was so tired and worn thin at the very end of His incredible 40 days and nights of temptation in the desert as we read: “Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and waited on Him.” (Mtt. 4:11)

Three years later while at the end of His redemptive mission on Earth, our Lord found Himself in similar spiritual struggles—this time in the Garden of Gethsemane, sweating drops of blood and praying hard that that painful “cup” might pass from Him, we read: “Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.” (Luke 22:43-44)

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Our guardian Angels do a great deal for us in life. They are often God's spiritually tangible encouragers, our true friends sent by the Lord who are empowered by God's own Divine goodness and truth.

What else does our theology tell us about the lives and work of those who always see God before their face?

First, they guard and protect very young infants, and often act as conduits of the Lord's immense goodness, sweetness and peace. Also, when we are children, teenagers and adults, during times when some nagging fear or depression has a hold of us, angels intervene according to God's will. Sometimes they make themselves fully known to us, while most of the time they communicate desires, values or other affections flowing through them from the Lord.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kirven, in his excellent book *Angels In Action*, speaks of this in this way: "The glow of affirmation, almost physically warm, when a line from a hymn you are singing in church expresses a truth about your life is a common example of this. So, too, is the emotion behind the involuntary blush of shame that makes poor liars of so many of us."<sup>2</sup> (Pg. 12)

Bob Kirven continues, "How do we know whether such a feeling originates with us or is inspired by an angel? There is no easy way to distinguish with certainty between an emotion that is felt deeply and a feeling induced by angelic influence." (ibid. 12-13) I cannot tell you how many, many times during my teenage and young adult years, when I came into my father's church with some worry or problem hanging on my heart, and then, at some point during the service (very often during the reading of God's Word), I could feel almost tangibly what felt like an Angel companion sit down by my side and communicate the warmth and clarity of their faith in the Lord, which moved me easily to tears. And often their message was without words, "Kit, you do not need to worry about these things anymore."

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<sup>2</sup> Kirven, Robert H. *Angels in Action: What Swedenborg Saw and Heard*. West Chester, PA: Chrysalis Books, 1994.

Our angelic guides are very adept at nudging us away from selfish or other false directions in life. When these prove ineffective, then they have other great skills up their sleeves. One of my favorites comes in the form of very creative dreams. Dr. Kirven shares an example of what I refer to on page 13 in his book:

“[This] occurred during the late years of the European phase of World War II. In retrospect, it is clear that Allied victory was growing near; but to my depressed mind, American defeat seemed a frighteningly real possibility. This prospect, which I now know was encouraged if not originated by evil spirits, was invading my consciousness enough to interfere with my college studies. Then one night I dreamed that I was standing in an open field. There was no person or building in sight, just me, standing before a massive tangle of coiled barbed wire that stretched to the horizon on my left and on my right, fencing me in. As I stood there, an angel, appearing as a light too bright to look at, came over the hill ahead of me, leaving a paved highway in its wake. [The angel] approached me, passing through the barbed wire, which vaporized before it, and then passed by and moved on out of sight behind me. Realizing I was free, I walked forward on the road in the direction from which the angel had come.

I awoke. My obsession with the war, and my general depression, was lifted from that time on. The angel had saved me from the irrational fear that had held me captive. Even without words, the communication was clear. My experiential certainty that angels can do such things has helped me break free from other fears as well.” (Pg. 13-14)

Angels have other very important roles to fill in our lives, such as helping us to passionately celebrate when good things happen, and they remind us of the most important purpose we have in life---to help others. That is, to be useful to others not for our sake but for their sake.

A brief example illustrates this. One Sunday morning, a pastor had just put his family safely into their vehicle, while the minister was running a bit late as usual. As he backed their car out of their driveway, he heard a voice say with the clarity of one of his children behind him saying it, “Your sermon is on your desk.” He thought about it and felt certain his sermon was in his briefcase. Then

the apparently audible warning was restated, and so the pastor chose to heed the warning, feeling a bit foolish. He pulled back into their driveway, walked into his study and there sitting on his desk was his Sunday morning sermon! How's that for angels running interference—as they enjoy being useful to us, helping us traverse good lives here on Earth.

Amen.