

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

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“He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit . . . does He do it out of the works of the law or out of the hearing of faith?” Galatians 3:5

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*Only that which comes out of Christ is in the church. Eve was not made from clay, but from Adam, the one who typified Christ. The preciousness is that God took a rib from Adam and made Eve. Only that which came out from Adam, not from clay, can be called “Eve,” and only that which comes from Christ can be called the church.*

*The Collected Works of Watchman Nee, Set Two, Volume 34, p. 29*

*Dear Listeners,*

September is a month of reflection. With the passing of summer and the coming of fall, most of us find the pace of our daily lives slowing a bit. We hope that you will pause to give us a call or drop us a quick note. Your comments and input are the most meaningful measure we have of how we are doing. Also, please mention the program to a friend. We pray continually for the Lord to reach more people with this encouraging and uplifting ministry. Our only aim is to glorify Christ and bring all His people into a deeper experience and enjoyment of Him for the building up of His Body.

Our daily listeners are absorbed in the riches that are unfolding in *Life-study of Exodus*, particularly as we continue to explore the tabernacle. The clearness and genuine light that we have received from this ministry on the tabernacle are truly astounding. We see the redeeming Christ in so many items of the tabernacle, and we are brought day by day into the very presence of God in the Holy of Holies. Judging from the comments of our listeners, you are being enlightened as we are by these outstanding messages. We look steadfastly to the Lord for His continued shining in the weeks ahead as we go even deeper into the tabernacle.

Finally, don't forget our free offer to all our listeners for *Reference Guide to the Tabernacle*. Those who have already received it have told us what a benefit it is to their understanding and enjoyment of this unique portion of Scripture. To get your free copy, simply call or write to us. Our toll-free number is 888-Life-Study, or 888-543-3788.

*Living Stream Ministry Radio*

## WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

When we come to the matter of the church, we touch a marvelous subject in the Bible, one that is in the very depths of the heart of God. Many today speak of the church in a common way, referring to a physical building, an organization, or simply a gathering of the Lord's children. However, the church is higher, deeper, and more wonderful than this.

In Ephesians 3:9-10 the apostle Paul speaks of the mystery which was hidden in God throughout the ages and of the multifarious wisdom of God being made known “through the church.” Verse 11 goes on to say, “According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The church did not come into existence merely as an afterthought. In eternity past, before the foundation of the world, before the heavens, the earth, and all things were created, God purposed to have the church. The church is so dear, so lovable, and so precious to God because it is the desire of God's heart and the center of His eternal plan, which He purposed before time began.

*(continued on page 2)*

## CHURCH

(continued from page 1)

There are many wonderful types or pictures of the church throughout the Bible. One of the most remarkable types is that of Eve in Genesis 2. To produce a counterpart for Adam, God took a rib from his side and built from it a woman, whom He presented to Adam. Ephesians 5:25-32 tells us that this picture is fulfilled in Christ and the church. Just as Eve was formed from a part of Adam, the church as the bride of Christ is built with something of Christ Himself, that is, with His very life and nature. As such, it is not only His counterpart but His enlargement and increase.

Ephesians 1:22-23 reveals that the church is also the Body of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in all. The Body is not an organization but an organism constituted of all the regenerated believers for the expression and activities of the Head, Christ.

The church is also the house of God, typified most vividly by the tabernacle and the temple in the Old Testament. All the detailed items of the tabernacle and temple signify the many aspects of Christ for our experience. God is embodied in Christ, Christ is known in the Spirit, and the Spirit is joined to our human spirit to produce the church as the dwelling place of God in spirit (1 Cor. 6:17; Eph. 2:21-22).

In the book of Ephesians, the church is also revealed as the corporate and universal new man germinated by Christ on the cross (2:15), the kingdom of God today as the citizenry of the saints (v. 19a), the household of God (v. 19b), and the corporate warrior fighting the spiritual warfare for God (6:11-18). In Revelation we see the universal church realized and practiced in the local churches as the golden lampstands. These golden lampstands are the testimony of Jesus today, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the goal of God's eternal economy in eternity future (1:11-12, 20; 21:2).

It is no wonder that Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her (Eph. 5:25). May we all have a spirit of wisdom and revelation to see what the church is, and may we love the church as Christ does.

*For further reading on this subject, please see*

*Life-study of Ephesians, msg. 1 and Basic Principles for the Practice of the Church Life, published by Living Stream Ministry.*

## Highlights

### FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF EXODUS

If we would understand any book of the Bible, or any chapter, either in the Old Testament or in the New, we need to know the underlying thought of that book or chapter. We need to know what concept is beneath the surface. In particular, we need to know the underlying thought connecting Exodus 27 and 28. Why does the divine record speak of the priesthood immediately after the description of the tabernacle? It is rather difficult to find the reason. I have never read a book which tells us why, after the record concerning the tabernacle ending in chapter twenty-seven, we have a long section concerning the priesthood. Therefore, we need to find out why, in the sequence of the record in Exodus, the priesthood follows the tabernacle.

#### THE TABERNACLE AND THE PRIESTHOOD

The last two verses of chapter twenty-seven speak of the lighting of the lamps in the tabernacle. These verses give us the reason that these two sections of Exodus are put together. Here is the reason: we cannot have the tabernacle without the priesthood, and neither can we have the priesthood without the tabernacle. The last two verses of chapter twenty-seven indicate that immediately after the tabernacle came into existence, there was the need of the priesthood for the lighting of the lamps. This indicates that, spiritually speaking, the priesthood and the tabernacle are one entity. In the typology of these chapters, God reveals that His redeemed people are both the tabernacle and the priesthood.

The tabernacle is a dwelling place. But how can such a dwelling place be a living people? With the fulfillment of these types in the New Testament, the tabernacle and the priesthood are put together. First Peter 2:5 says that we are built up into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood. In this verse, according to the grammar, the spiritual house and the holy priesthood are in apposition. This means that these terms refer to the same thing. Therefore, the spiritual house is the holy priesthood.

In English the word priesthood refers to two things. First, it denotes a body of priests, a group of priests who work and serve together. Second, the word priesthood denotes the priestly service, the work or ministry done by the priests. Many readers of the Bible emphasize the second meaning of this word. Whenever you read 1 Peter 2:5 in the past, what did you understand by the word priesthood used in this verse? The Greek language has two different words to denote the priesthood as a body of priests and the priesthood as a priestly service.

In 1 Peter 2:5 the priesthood is not the service of the priests; rather, it is a group of priests who live, serve, and work together. The priesthood here is not a service; it is a body of priests built together to live and serve as one entity. This priesthood is the spiritual house. Hence, the body of priests is also a house. In like manner, the saints who are built together are a spiritual house. This spiritual house is a collective people. My point here is that the house and the priesthood are one entity.

The church today is first the house of God. We the believers are being built together into a spiritual house. This spiritual house is a serving body, a serving unit, a serving people. The biblical term for this unit is the priesthood.

*“In the typology of these chapters, God reveals that His redeemed people are both the tabernacle and the priesthood.”*

*Life-study of Exodus, msg. 116, pp. 1325-1326*

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# RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of our broadcast *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners so that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All responses should be addressed to *Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; via fax (714) 765-8024; email [radioresponses@lsm.org](mailto:radioresponses@lsm.org). Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

*I can honestly say that ever since I came in contact with this fellowship my Christian life has been full of enjoyment, life, light, and building. Amen! The riches are unlimited and the dispensing of the Spirit is immeasurable. Praise the Lord for such an organic expression being infused and transfused into us as we listen! Amen, hallelujah! Keep it up!*

*Praise the Lord! The fellowship today was rich. I listen to the radio broadcast daily, and I enjoy the wonderful speaking that is issued out through Brother Lee concerning the truth and reality in the New Testament economy of God. Oh, we need to fill our pockets with this wonderful Christ! He is the real silver, the Redeemer! Oh Lord Jesus! Oh Lord, we love You! Lord, thank You for this subjective provision You have made available to us! Amen!*

*Brothers, I would like to have the free offer of the booklet Reference Guide to the Tabernacle.*

**A brother in Christ, Gatesville, TX**

*I love the best the Living Stream Ministry radio broadcast of all the Christian radio broadcasts. My joy in the Lord is now complete. It is so simple and practical in my whole life. My traditional Christian life before was such a drag! Thanks to your ministry again.*

**G.B., Montreal, Quebec, Canada**

  
I PRAISE GOD SO MUCH  
FOR YOUR MINISTRY AND  
WHAT HE IS WORKING OUT IN  
MY LIFE AND HEART—A DESIRE  
TO LOVE HIM AND WORSHIP  
HIM FOR WHO HE IS AND  
HIS GREAT LOVE FOR ME!  


*As I tune in at 9:30 A.M. the song that ushers in this wonderful radio broadcast is so inspiring. It is a complete gospel in itself. It is God's economy, and it is so refreshing. With such enjoyment, I cannot help but tell others. I am trying to encourage my contacts and my neighbors to listen to it. One sister listens to it almost every day. Then we fellowship*

*around the message later. May the Lord continue to strengthen and bless you for this good work. May His name be praised.*

**B.O., Texas City, TX**

*Words cannot express what a blessing your radio ministry has been to me these past few months! I have been a Christian for a long time and these messages are so new and dynamic. This is what I have been longing and looking after for so long. It's a whole new dimension to the Christian life! I praise God so much for your ministry and what He is working out in my life and heart—a desire to love Him and worship Him for who He is and His great love for me!*

**D.R., Brossard, Quebec Canada**

# THE *Path* OF *Life*

*Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of the spiritual life as revealed in God's Word. May the Lord show us "the path of life" (Psa. 16:11) that we may have a daily living of enjoying, experiencing, and gaining Christ.*

## THE FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE PART 1

After we have received life in a basic way, we must pay full attention to and practice to maintain the real fellowship of life. . . .

### THE CYCLE OF LIFE

The fellowship of life is life itself flowing, and this flowing life is God the Father and God the Son in God the Spirit—the very Triune God Himself. Now we must see the way the current flows and the way to maintain this flow. First John 1:5-7 says, "And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth; but if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin." These verses were written by the apostle through his experience, and they can be apprehended only by our experience. To have fellowship with God means that we are in the current with God, and because God is light, to truly be in the fellowship with God means that we are in the light. To be sure, when we have fellowship with God who is light, we are in the light, and while we are in the light, we have fellowship with one another.

At that very moment the blood of Jesus is applied to us because while we are in the fellowship and in the light, we sense our sins. In the light we see the wrongdoings, mistakes and trespasses which we have committed. Even though we Christians are regenerated and saved, we are still in the old nature, and we still walk and live in this world. Therefore, many times we are defiled. It is when we are in the fellowship that we have the light, and in the light and under the light we see how sinful and defiled we are. It is at this time that we spontaneously confess and apply the blood of the Lord Jesus for our cleansing. . . .

After the cleansing, the sprinkling, of the blood, we have the anointing of the Spirit. First John 2:27 says, "And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you." In the Old Testament type, the anointing of the oil always follows the sprinkling of the blood. This is why in this Epistle the blood is mentioned first, and in the second chapter there is the anointing. The anointing always follows the cleansing of the blood, and the cleansing of the blood always brings in the anointing.

This is a cycle in our experience. When we are in the fellowship, we have the light. When we are in the light, we realize our sins. When we realize our sins, we apply the cleansing of the Lord's blood. When we apply, enjoy, and experience the cleansing of the blood, we have more anointing. Then the anointing brings us more into fellowship, the fellowship brings us more into the light, and the light causes us to see more of our defilement. Then we apply the blood more, we have more anointing, and we have more fellowship. Fellowship, light, realization of sin, cleansing, and anointing are a cycle. A car travels by the turning of its wheels, cycle after cycle. In the same way, a Christian grows by cycle after cycle of fellowship, light, realization of sin, the cleansing of the blood, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. . . . This cycle is the way to always keep and maintain the fellowship of life. Many positive things will result from this fellowship.

Sometimes we do not sense our wrongdoings because we are careless, but if we would pay attention to the inner fellowship, the fellowship will bring in light. Then in the light we will realize our wrongdoings and defilements. A brother may quarrel and fight and still not sense that he is wrong, but if he would quietly pay attention to the inner fellowship and have a little contact with the Lord, he will be in the light. In the light he will sense that he is wrong in his attitude, motive, intention, word, and even tone of voice. Then he will say, "O Lord, forgive me. I am wrong. Cleanse me, Lord." Following this cleansing, he has a fresher and stronger anointing, and in the stronger anointing he has deeper fellowship. In the deeper fellowship he has stronger light, and in the stronger light he realizes something further. The Lord may take him back to the previous year, and the brother will confess, "O Lord, forgive me. Last year on a certain day I was wrong with a certain person." Then after confessing and applying the cleansing of the blood, he has more anointing and is more in the fellowship. He senses that the Lord is so dear, pleasant, and sweet because he is much more in the fellowship than he has ever been.

. . . This is the way to grow more deeply in the Lord, and this is the way to go on day by day, just as the wheels of a car go on cycle by cycle.

*Basic Principles of the Experience of Life*, pp. 67-72

## THE HEARING OF FAITH

is a publication of Living Stream Ministry. All subscriptions are free. In addition to portions of ministry, this newsletter features broadcast updates and other items of interest. We hope that this newsletter will not only inform you of current news but will also nourish and refresh your spirit. Please be sure to read our reply card and feel free to use it to make comments or ask questions.

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According to the revelation of the Scripture, we believe that any ministry that comes from God should trust in God for all its needs. Therefore, we have made it our policy not to solicit donations or contributions. However, if any one of our listeners is led by the Lord to give, we will accept offerings as from the Lord and will use them for the furtherance of His truth.

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