

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 37, MAY 2001

"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

In

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Dear Life-study Listener,

We mentioned before in the *Hearing of Faith* that we would begin conducting seminars in areas where we receive a fair listener response. This year, we have conducted seminars in northern California and in London, England. These times have been joyous as we met some of you face to face and heard your testimonies. At each seminar, Chris Wilde, our radio program host, joins a life-study guest speaker to record an actual radio session.

We have scheduled three seminars for the immediate future: Washington DC, June 2; Tampa, Florida, June 3; and Kansas City, June 9. All recipients of this newsletter will receive an invitation with specific details of the seminar in their area. If you are not in one of these three areas but would like to be included in our planning for future seminars, please let us know by writing to us using the enclosed reply card or telephoning us.

After *Life-study of Numbers*, we will broadcast a short review of programs from *Life-study of Revelation*, and then we will cover *Life-study of Luke*. Many of you like to follow the radio program with the printed volumes. We strongly encourage this since the printed version of the life-study is a more in-depth study than what we can have on the broadcast. It includes many Scripture references for your further study. If you are interested in ordering *Life-study of Luke* in printed form, please see the enclosed form. For the audio version, call (888)543-3788.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

KANSAS CITY, MO

KEXS 1090 AM
11:30 A.M. MON-FRI

PITTSBURGH, PA

WWNL 1080 AM
8:00 A.M. SUNDAY

WHAT IS THE FLESH?

In our Christian fellowship and study of the Bible, we generally prefer to dwell only on positive matters concerning the Spirit. But the apostle Paul, while writing so much concerning the Spirit, warns us concerning a negative matter, the flesh. For example, in the last four chapters of Galatians, he contrasts the flesh with the Spirit; here he clearly identifies these two as the only possible choices for our daily walk (5:16). Although it may not be a

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RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

We invite you to share your comments with us and other listeners so we all may be encouraged in the Lord. Responses should be addressed to *The Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 or radio@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

As you know, I received the cassette of Life-Study of Matthew by Witness Lee a short time ago. I have been feasting ever since. As I was finishing tape eleven of this study, I wanted to write you to share what a spiritual strength and joy it is to eat the truths that our Lord Jesus has given unto our Brother Lee. There are so many things or nuggets I have never heard before, and I see in my own life why Jesus has been leading me as He has. This tape eleven of the Matthew series causes me to see so clearly now, and my heart is full of love and gratitude to Jesus Christ for His love and patience all of this time with me. I praise Him and love Him for never letting me go. How I desire to please Him and follow hard after Him. I have such a desire to help others receive the truth. Truly, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." I have only just begun to skim the surface of Life-Study of Matthew on cassette, and I have been so helped and fed so far that I can't imagine what it will be as I keep going. Will I be able to hold it all without bursting?! If not, it will just flow out of my belly as rivers of living water as the Word says. Hallelujah!

Corpus Christi, TX

I have enjoyed the Hearing of Faith newsletter, and I pray that many more people may receive it. Even though many do not get the radio broadcast in their area, the newsletter encourages so many in Christ. May the radio broadcast continue by His grace.

Odessa, TX

Excerpt from

THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S WORD

BY WATCHMAN NEE

The book The Ministry of God's Word contains messages given by Watchman Nee between 1948 and 1949. The excerpt below is from chapter nine entitled "Knowing God's Word through Christ."

A minister of God's word is one who has received the revelation of Christ. This means that it has pleased God to reveal His Son in him. One must not only be able to speak the word with his mouth but must know in an inward way that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the living God. This statement only takes a few minutes to memorize, but the Lord said, "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in the heavens" (Matt. 16:17). The knowledge of Christ is a matter not of words but of revelation. A minister of the word is one who receives mercy from God to have a revelation concerning God's Son. He is a man to whom God has chosen to reveal His Son; he has a basic revelation that enables him to know who Jesus of Nazareth is. When a man has seen the Son of God, all holiness, righteousness, light, and life pass away under such a vision, and only Christ remains.

Nothing in this universe can compare with Christ. No spiritual thing can compare with Christ. Christ is all and in all. Apart from Christ, one cannot find life, light, holiness, or righteousness. Apart from Christ one cannot find anything. Once God brings a man into the revelation of Christ, he will realize that there is nothing outside of Christ. Christ is everything. He is God. He is the Son of God and the Word of God. He is love, holiness, righteousness, salvation, redemption, freedom, grace, light, and work. Christ fills all....

... Every minister of Christ must have the revelation of Christ. He cannot supply others with what he has not seen himself. He cannot minister to others a Christ that he does not know. He cannot supply others with a fragmented knowledge of Christ. Such a "fragmented" Christ cannot constitute the basis of ministry. A ministry is not built on the basis of a fragmented knowledge of Christ.... A man must be brought on by God to the point where he knows God's Son face to face in the deepest part of his being. To him, Christ must be the One who transcends all, is all, and fills all. Only then can he minister such a Christ to others. From that day forward, he can minister Christ to others. From that day forward, the Bible becomes a living book to him.

The Ministry of God's Word, pp. 133-134

THE FLESH

(continued from page 1)

popular topic, it is supremely important for believers to understand the biblical view of the flesh.

The term *flesh*, on the most obvious level, refers to the physical body, man's literal flesh and blood. But the flesh is more than just the physical body. In Genesis 6:3 God said, "My Spirit will not strive with man forever, for he indeed is flesh." Here God made a profound contrast between His Spirit and mankind as flesh, declaring that created man had become simply flesh. This indicates that *flesh* refers to man corrupted by the fall to such an extent that man's entire created being, not just his physical body, is flesh.

Paul confirmed the age-old struggle between the Spirit and the flesh: "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these oppose each other" (Gal. 5:17). God's Spirit dwells in our spirit (Rom. 8:9). For a believer to walk by the Spirit means he walks by this mingled Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17) and is regulated by the law of the Spirit of life (Rom. 8:2). This is to walk by the indwelling resurrected Christ who is our life (Rom. 8:9, 10). Thus, we spontaneously fulfill the law (Rom. 8:4).

For a believer to walk by the flesh means that he walks by the fallen self that is constituted with sin and death. Since the flesh is the consummate expression of fallen man, it is powerless to keep God's commands (Rom. 8:3, 8). In effect, to live and walk by the Spirit is to express Christ, and to live and walk by the flesh is to express fallen Adam.

We should not think the flesh is only inclined toward doing evil. The Galatian believers were exerting their flesh to keep the Old Testament law (Gal. 3:2, 3). If we do this, the inevitable result is failure since God's law fully tests and ultimately exposes the fallen flesh. The reason for this failure is that all works of the flesh—whether good or evil—are lifeless and therefore fruitless. It is possible, then, for believers to be distracted from God's plan and the enjoyment of the Spirit by their self-effort to please God by the sweat of fallen human energy.

*As we enjoy the Lord,
we effortlessly bear the fruit
of the Spirit.*

The living expression of Christ, which fully satisfies God's righteous requirements, is produced solely by the believers' enjoyment of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:2). Therefore, our primary objective every day should be to have a personal, intimate, living, and organic relationship with the Lord who indwells us as the Spirit. Such a walk by the Spirit effectively counteracts the flesh (Gal. 5:16). As we enjoy the Lord, we effortlessly bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Spiritual Man*, by Watchman Nee and *The Flesh and the Spirit* by Witness Lee, both published by Living Stream Ministry.

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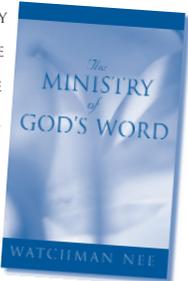
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EVEN THOUGH GOD IS PLEASED TO ALLOW US TO SPEAK HIS WORD, THE GREATEST MEASURE OF OUR USEFULNESS AS A MINISTER OF THE WORD IS NOT THE AMOUNT OF OUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE OR EVEN THE ABILITY TO ELOQUENTLY PRESENT THE TRUTH; RATHER, IT IS THE DEGREE TO WHICH OUR FEELINGS, THOUGHTS, OPINIONS, AND CHARACTERISTICS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY DEALT WITH BY THE LORD.



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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.

UNCEASINGLY PRAYING

What does it mean to "unceasingly pray"? We must understand and realize that we have a spirit within us, which is our spiritual breathing organ. The reason we do not want to pray or cannot pray is that we basically do not use our spirit. To pray, we must use our spirit. Whenever we use our spirit, we are enlivened. The first function of our spirit is to pray. Your spirit prays automatically even without your prompting. Hence, in order to pray

*Today we must exercise
our spirit to pray.*

unceasingly, you must not interrupt your spirit's activity. Instead, you must allow your spirit to be active all the time.

The spirit's activity is to pray to the Lord. Even without opening my mouth to make a sound, my spirit automatically "breathes" in me to have fellowship with the Lord. Sometimes I may feel deflated; at that time I need to take a deep breath and call, "O Lord Jesus!" I may not make a sound, but still I am breathing in the Lord. We all should practice this kind of inaudible yet uninterrupted prayer.

When I was newly saved, I felt that it was very hard to pray unceasingly. Sometimes I stopped what I was doing in order to pray. Others thought it was strange and wondered why I would stop in the middle of my task and go away to pray. At that time I did not know what it meant to exercise my spirit; I never even heard of

such an expression. It was not until later that I realized that there is no need for us to put aside the task at hand in order to devote ourselves to pray. To pray unceasingly means that we should always exercise our spirit to contact the Lord...

At the time we were saved, our spirit was made alive. However, we still did not become accustomed to exercising this organ, and even when we prayed, we did not use it very much. In that period of time we had two kinds of prayer. One kind was that we closed our eyes and prayed in a routine way to the heavenly Father for several matters and

then asked Him to give us peace. Another kind was when a great calamity came upon us. At such a time, even a Christian who does not know how to pray will be able to cry out, "O Lord Jesus, rescue me!" When we are so hard pressed, our spirit is stirred even though we may not know how to use it. This kind of prayer is a genuine prayer because our spirit truly has been exercised. All of us need to be reminded that we should not wait until a calamity comes to call on the Lord. Today we must exercise our spirit to pray. We should not pray from our mind or only because of an outward circumstance.

Forty years ago, by the Lord's mercy, I learned to practice praying by exercising my spirit. Now I can say that I am accustomed to using my spirit. Just as we walk when our feet move, so we pray when our spirit moves. Hence, we all need to exercise

our spirit that it may become living and strong. The secret to our abiding in the Lord and enjoying His life is that our spirit is living. Just as our eyes are our seeing organ, so our spirit is our praying organ. The function of our eyes is to see, and the function of our ears is to hear. Likewise, the function of our spirit is to pray. God created such a spirit for us. Therefore, we need to practice using our spirit that our spirit may be living.

Abiding in the Lord to Enjoy His Life, pp. 36-37,
by Witness Lee

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.

Living Stream Ministry
P.O. Box 2121 • Anaheim, CA 92814
Phone: (714) 765-8020
Fax: (714) 765-8024
Email: radio@lsm.org
Web site: www.lsm.org/radio

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 of our listeners are 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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