

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 62, JUNE 2003

"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,

Next month we start *Life-study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians* on the radio. If you like to follow along with us in the printed edition, order your copy soon so you can receive it in time. We always encourage you to get into the printed life-studies because they are much more in-depth compared to what we can do on the radio in less than thirty minutes. In some cases, there are entire messages in the printed volumes that we cannot use in the radio program because of the quality of the original recording. Order your printed life-study volumes of Thessalonians; you will be glad you did.

Last month we announced the shortwave broadcast of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* into Europe and the Middle East. We need to alert you to an important correction. The 21:00 GMT time we announced was before the daylight saving time change. So the time the broadcast is heard is actually 20:00 GMT. We apologize for the error. Please pray for this crucial part of the world, particularly the Middle East. Pray that the Lord would fulfill His will through all of the rapidly changing current events. May the life-study broadcast be used in coordination with Him unto the accomplishment of His eternal goal, the building up of the New Jerusalem, His eternal habitation.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

EUROPE &
THE MIDDLE EAST

WJIE

7.49 SHORTWAVE

20:00 GMT

MON-FRI

WHAT IS THE BELIEVERS' ORGANIC UNION WITH CHRIST?

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). This simple picture of a vine and its branches mutually abiding in one another reveals the organic union between the Lord and His believers.

(continued on page 3)

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.

Thanks for the encouraging broadcasts provided over the Internet. They're greatly appreciated as "music to my ears" and a spiritual blessing to my soul and spirit. Most of my listening gets done while I'm at school and stuck in the computer lab. But there is an escape, and that is in our spirit! "He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit." [1 Cor. 6:17]. I usually try to listen to sections of the Bible that I am currently reading. Recently I listened to some sections in Daniel and Philippians. May Christ continue to make home in our hearts through faith. May the Lord continue to bless the radio broadcasts and the listeners.

London, Canada

I received with much joy the material that you sent me. God bless you. Living Stream Ministry always sends me publications that fill my spirit with delight. It is wonderful to receive the nutritious and healthful words from this ministry.

Bahia, Brazil

Thank you for the in-depth study of God's holy Word and for the life application. How I long for the penetration of the Holy Spirit in my innermost being, His leading, and my obedience. As the apostle Paul, I long to hear His "upward call" on that great day that Jesus appears. May Jesus' blessing envelop your hearts as you reveal Him to others. Philippians and Leviticus were very fresh and new.

Newberg, OR

Witness Lee wrote the words to many excellent hymns related to the mingling of the Spirit with our human spirit. Below is one such hymn detailing our experience of oneness with Christ in our mingled spirit.

8.6.8.6.

LLOYD

Cuthbert Howard

1 O Lord, Thou art the Spir - it now Who in our spir - it lives;
One spir - it have the two be - come, Which one-ness to us gives.

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| <p>2 Thy Spirit with our spirit, Lord,
The witness ever bears
That we the Father's children are
And of God's glory heirs.</p> <p>3 'Tis in our spirit Thee we touch
Thy riches to enjoy,
And as the Spirit Thou dost give
Thyself without alloy.</p> <p>4 'Tis in our spirit we may walk
And follow Thee away,
While, as the Spirit, Thou dost lead
And light impart each day.</p> | <p>5 In spirit, by Thy Spirit, Lord,
We live and worship Thee;
Thou, in our spirit, thru Thine own
Strengtheneth constantly.</p> <p>6 In spirit, with Thy Spirit, Lord,
We offer prayer to Thee,
While, as the Spirit, Thou in us
Groanest unutterably.</p> <p>7 We to our spirit would return
And there would contact Thine;
'Tis in the spirit we may share
Our heritage divine.</p> <p>8 What oneness, O my Lord, is this —
Two spirits intertwine!
Thy Spirit in our spirit lives,
And ours abides in Thine!</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

(Hymns, #745, published by Living Stream Ministry)

ORGANIC UNION WITH CHRIST *(continued from page 1)*

In the term *organic union*, *organic* refers to something of life, and *union* refers to a kind of relationship. Our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ results not in our having only an objective and distant belief in Him but in our being brought into a subjective relationship with Him in the divine life. This is the life union with our precious Lord that He spoke of in the picture of the vine and the branches. The apostle Paul portrayed this organic union by speaking of grafting in Romans 11. There he speaks of an inferior branch being grafted into a superior tree that the two may be joined together to share the same life. The branch is not artificially attached to the tree by lifeless means. Rather, the tree is cut to make a place where the branch

When we believe into the Lord Jesus, we are joined to Him and become one spirit, sharing His divine life and nature in a life relationship, or organic union, with Him.

can be grafted into it. The two are joined together and grow together by the life of the tree flowing into the branch and becoming the life of the branch. When we believe into the Lord Jesus, we are joined to Him and become one spirit, sharing His divine life and nature in a life relationship, or organic union, with Him (1 Cor. 6:17; 2 Pet. 1:4). Just as the grafted branch partakes of all the riches of the superior tree, we believers partake of all the riches of Christ.

Romans 6:3-5 speaks of our baptism into Christ and His death and our

having “grown together” with Him through baptism. From the time of our believing and being baptized into Christ, His life must continue to grow in us. Paul said that he labored to present every man full-grown in Christ (Col. 1:28) and that Christ’s Body grows with the growth of God (Col. 2:19). Through this growth of His life in us, Christ can be expressed through us branches who have been grafted into Him.

Our life relationship with Christ is an intimate one. The healthiest expression of our intimate relationship with Christ is a life full of fellowship with Him through unceasing prayer (1 Thes. 5:17). This contact with Christ cultivates our organic union with Him. He dwells in us (John 14:17; 17:23; Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 13:5) and we dwell in Him (John 15:4; 17:21; Rom. 8:1; 1 Cor. 1:30). Prayer strengthens our mutual indwelling, and by it we express our love for Him. The Lord Jesus promised that He and the Father would come to make an abode, to dwell, with those who love Him (John 14:23). By the apostle Paul’s word in Ephesians 3, we see the development of our organic union with Christ as He makes His home in our hearts through faith (v. 17).

By being grafted into Him, we share the divine life of Christ and are brought into a life relationship with Him. Then this life grows in us and we abide in Him and He abides in us. Thus, the term *organic union* to describe our life relationship with the Lord Jesus is both fitting and accurate.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of Galatians*, messages 8, 9 and 10 and *The Organic Union in God’s Relationship with Man*, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

The SPIRIT WITH OUR SPIRIT

IN THE SPIRIT WITH OUR SPIRIT, Witness Lee presents a deep, enlightening, yet wonderfully practical view of the believers’ experience of God in the New Testament. By presenting a complete, scriptural view of both the divine Spirit and the human spirit, Lee shows that genuine spiritual experience is not a matter of outward behavior or conformity to a set of rules and regulations. Rather, genuine spirituality comes from knowing the Spirit, who is with our human spirit.



by Witness Lee
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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.

THE ORGANIC UNION IN THE CREATION OF MAN

We need to realize how important and crucial our spirit is. The spirit of man is ranked with the heavens and the earth in the holy Word of God. In Zechariah 12:1 the prophet Zechariah said that God stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundation of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him. According to this verse three things in the universe are crucial: the heavens, the earth, and our spirit. The heavens are for the earth; the earth is for man to exist; and the spirit of man is for God, to worship God (John 4:24), to be regenerated by God (John 3:6b), and to be joined to God (1 Cor. 6:17) that man may walk and live in the organic union with God (Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:4b).

Our Need to Live and Walk by the Spirit

Although in the past we have received much teaching concerning our spirit, I am burdened about this matter again because I realize that out of one hundred saints, it is difficult to find one who lives in the spirit and walks according to the spirit. In Galatians 5:25 Paul said, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit," and in 5:16 he said, "But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh." In Romans 8:4 Paul said that the believers should not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit. According to these verses we all should walk by and according to the Spirit to the extent that we do everything according to the Spirit. Although this is clearly written in the Bible, we do not practice what the Bible says.

Through the years of my ministry I have contacted many different kinds

of people. Out of one hundred I have not found one brother or sister who does everything according to the Spirit. In doing their shopping the sisters may shop mainly according to the sales advertised in the

We all need to ask ourselves whether we live a life that is according to the Spirit or not.

newspapers, not according to the Spirit. They may forget the heavens and the earth and not care for the Spirit within them. After they buy certain items, they may turn from their mind to their spirit and regret and even repent for what they have done. Nevertheless, the next week they may do the same thing again, forgetting the Spirit as they do their shopping.

The husbands all love their wife, but when they lose their temper toward their wife, they forget everything. Temper is aroused mainly by the exchanging of words. If the husband and the wife do not exchange words, there will be no temper. A little word from the wife to the husband may ignite the fire of temper within the husband. Our attempts to limit, restrict, and exercise self-control over our temper do not work. Therefore, the best way to avoid our temper is not to speak. The way to shut off our speaking is to do everything according to the Spirit. After a wife speaks an unpleasant word to her husband, the Spirit within him may tell him to be silent and not to do anything until the tempest has subsided and the Spirit gives him the liberty to act.

We all need to ask ourselves whether we live a life that is according to the Spirit or not. Because I do not live fully according to the Spirit, again and again I must confess to the Lord and ask Him to forgive me for doing something not according to my spirit. We are not used to living according to the Spirit. Instead, we are very accustomed to living according to our mind, our emotion, or our will. In the meetings of the church we may behave somewhat according to the Spirit, but after the meeting is dismissed, we may forget the Spirit again and not live according to Him. This is the real situation in the church life.

The Organic Union in God's Relationship with Man, pp. 14-16, 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.

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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 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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