

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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"NOW THEREFORE THUS SAYS JEHOVAH OF HOSTS, CONSIDER YOUR WAYS."

HAG. 1:5

"RETURN TO ME...AND I WILL RETURN TO YOU."

ZECH. 1:3b

Dear Life-study Listener,

This month we finish our broadcast on *Life-study of Zechariah* and start a review of *Life-study of Galatians*. In the book *The Recovery of God's House and God's City*, Witness Lee said of Zechariah, "No other book of the Old Testament tells us so much about Christ as this one. Even Isaiah cannot compare with Zechariah. Isaiah has sixty-six chapters, and Zechariah has only fourteen, yet Zechariah tells us more concerning Christ than Isaiah" (page 47). If you are following the broadcasts in your area or on the Internet, we hope you have been able to enter into this wonderful and mysterious revelation of Christ. In case it's easier for you to listen by tape, we have a new Web page, www.lsmradio.org/ordering.html, which lists all of the radio program tapes available for purchase.

One reason we come back to Galatians this month is that it is one of four New Testament books, which we refer to as the *heart* of the divine revelation. This cluster of books—Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians—is indispensable. Of course we couldn't do without any book of the Bible, but in the divine revelation some books take a more prominent role. The apostle Paul said, "To write the same things to you, for me it is not irksome, but for you it is safe" (Phil. 3:1). In the same principle, we believe it is safe for all to hear the life-study programs from this "heart" book again.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS?

The golden lampstand is an important symbol in the Bible. It is mentioned in Exodus 25, 1 Kings 7, Zechariah 4, and Revelation 1. In Exodus only one lampstand was placed in the tabernacle to give light in the Holy Place. This unique lampstand symbolizes Christ as the embodiment and expression of the Triune God. The substance of the lampstand was pure gold, which

(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.

Thank you for regularly sending me these newsletters. As they contain messages not normally found in other Christian tracts, helpful messages for practical application, I find them attractive and easy to mail to my distant friends and relatives. Often I feel I could mail them to more than one person each time! May the Lord bless your ministry.

Ardmore, PA

Praise the Lord for the Hearing of Faith. I was so supplied by the article on pray-reading! I now have a clear progression of verses that show that God's Word is Spirit to be received by me as life. May this ministry supply the Lord's seekers to receive Him as Spirit and life!

Riverside, CA

We are thankful for the continued work of our brothers Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. The revelations of the Lord in them are so vital to the growth of the true church. Thank you for carrying on the work and for opening the doors for us to have fellowship with others who also appreciate this ministry.

Milford, IA

I am so happy the Lord led me to this ministry. I have been listening for several months on the Internet. I have been feeding off of it so much. My life has changed.

Floofmoor, IL

Excerpt from

THE RECOVERY OF GOD'S HOUSE AND GOD'S CITY

BY WITNESS LEE

STIRRED UP, RISE UP, GO UP

In Ezra 1 there are many "ups." Here in this chapter there are at least five "ups." First, God stirred up their spirit (Ezra 1:1, 5). Our spirit needs to be stirred up. We should not be emotional, thoughtful, or determined, but we must be stirred up in our spirit. This is the first "up." Then we must rise up (Ezra 1:5). After being stirred up in the spirit, we must rise up. This is the second "up." Then after rising up, we must go up (Ezra 1:3, 5). Everyone who is being recovered is going up, not down. When we are being recovered, we simply have the feeling that we are up! To go back to the house means to go up.

All the vessels in the temple are the experiences of the various aspects of Christ.

BRING UP, BUILD UP

Then there is another up. Do not simply go up by yourself. You must bring up something of gold and something of silver (Ezra 1:11). These are the experiences of Christ. All the vessels in the temple are the experiences of the various aspects of Christ. The people of God were scattered and all the spiritual experiences were carried away. That was a shame to them and to God. Nebuchadnezzar put all the vessels in the temple of his idols. What a shame to God! Even today, some dear Christians have real experiences of Christ, but they are in Babylon. They have the experiences of Christ in the place of captivity, and in the place of idols. The experiences are right, but the place is wrong. The vessels are right, but they are the vessels of the temple of God in the temple of idols. So we must bring them up.

Ezra is not a long book. But it takes time to tell us all the numbers of the vessels. There were 5,400 vessels. When we are recovered, we must bring up some of the experiences of Christ. There are the vessels of gold and the vessels of silver. In typology silver refers to Christ's redemption, and gold refers to God's divine nature. Our experiences while we are going up must be the experiences of Christ and His redemption and of God and His divine nature. We must go up to bring up something of Christ and of God. We should not go up with our hands empty. At least we should have one vessel of gold and one vessel of silver.

The Recovery of God's House and God's City, pp. 10-11

GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS *(continued from page 1)*

symbolizes God the Father in His divine nature. This gold was beaten into the form of a lampstand, which symbolizes God the Son, who is the embodiment of God the Father (John 14:9-11a; Col. 1:15; 2:9). The seven shining lamps symbolize God the Spirit as the seven Spirits of God (Rev. 4:5; 5:6) for the expression of the Father in the Son. Thus, the three attributes of the lampstand—its substance, its shape, and its shining expression—symbolize the three of the Divine Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

The description in Exodus 25 portrays the lampstand as a living, growing tree. The lampstand had a central shaft with three branches on each of its two sides. At the intersection of each pair of branches with the shaft there was a calyx (the leafy green part of a flower). Furthermore, along the length of the shaft and along each branch there were cups made like almond blossoms, with calyxes and blossoming buds. This picture gives the impression that the shaft grows upward and the branches grow out of the shaft. Since the lampstand is a portrait of the Triune God, who is embodied in Christ, the life in the lampstand must be the divine life, the eternal life, the life of God, which is in Christ (John 1:4; 1 John 5:11-12) and even is Christ Himself (John 14:6). The lampstand had seven lamps, one at the end of the central shaft and one at the end of each of the six branches. The shining of the seven lamps signifies the testimony, the expression, of the Triune God, which results from the growth of the divine life. The function of the lampstand is to express the Triune God by shining out the divine light of life.

At the end of the Bible, in Revelation 1, there are seven golden lampstands. As indicated in verse 20, the seven lampstands symbolize

seven local churches. According to verse 11 these seven churches were in seven cities, respectively, one local church in each city. This picture shows that each local church is a lampstand, just as Christ is. The lampstand in the Old Testament was only one, whereas the lampstands in the New Testament are

The function of the lampstand is to express the Triune God by shining out the divine light of life.

many. The seven lampstands in Revelation 1 are the multiplication of the one lampstand in Exodus 25. This signifies that the local churches are the reproductions of Christ. They and Christ are the same in nature (gold), in form (a stand), and in function (shining). Because of this, the lampstands are also identical to one another; there is no way to distinguish one from the other. As portrayed in the picture of the lampstand, in order for the local churches to be the reproductions of Christ, the believers in the churches need to experience Christ as their life and allow Christ to grow within them. As Christ grows in His believers, He transforms them inwardly into His image, His form (2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:29). Ultimately, this growth and transformation through the divine life of Christ in His believers causes the local churches to shine forth the divine light, both individually in their respective localities and collectively in the universe, as the testimony of Jesus.

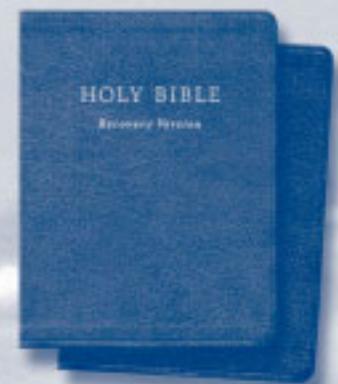
For further reading on this subject, please see *The Ultimate Significance of the Golden Lampstand* and *The Church, the Reprint of the Spirit*, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

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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.

CONSECRATION BEING THE BEGINNING OF ALL EXPERIENCES

After someone is saved, if he wants to have a rich experience of the Lord, the first step he needs to take is consecration. If a person does not give himself to the Lord after his salvation, he will have no way to take the Lord's way. For our prayers to be answered, faith is of vital importance; however, those who have never given themselves to the Lord cannot have much faith. Only those who truly consecrate themselves to the Lord have adequate faith. After we have absolutely consecrated ourselves to the Lord, faith comes. Faith comes from consecration. Moreover, if a person desires to belong to the Lord completely, he must fully consecrate himself to the Lord. No one can be holy without consecrating himself to the Lord. A person will have no way to overcome if he has not consecrated himself to the Lord. Furthermore, one can see hardly any light unless he consecrates himself to the Lord. How well we walk before God altogether hinges on our consecration. Man's heart always turns to the world, but only when man turns to God will God shine on him with His light.

Suppose there is a light behind me. If I do not turn around, I will not receive its shining because light shines in a particular direction. When a man's heart is turned to things other than God, it is impossible for God to shine on him. Some pray that God would shine on them, but still they do not receive any light. Some may even wonder why others always receive light, but they never receive any light. This is solely because they are turned away from God. Whenever they turn around, God's light will have a way to shine on them. "Whenever their heart turns to the

Lord, the veil is taken away" (2 Cor. 3:16). If a Christian does not have light within him, this shows that inwardly he is still somewhat turned

*Consecration
is to turn our
whole being around.*

away from God. Since he is turned away from God, he needs to turn around. What is consecration? Consecration is to turn our whole being around. When our heart is in the world, we spontaneously are facing the world; hence, we need to turn. Whenever our heart is facing the Lord within, immediately our inner being will be enlightened, and we will know what is the will of God and what is not the will of God.

Moreover, for a Christian to be spiritual, he also must consecrate himself to the Lord. We may use an illustration: A cup can be placed outside for half a day while the rain is very heavy, but the cup is not filled with even half a drop of water. Why not? The reason the cup is not filled up is because it is upside down. Although the rain is pouring down, the cup does not have one drop of water. All children of God should be filled with the Holy Spirit, and it should be easy for them to receive the filling of the Holy Spirit. However, some people always ask for the filling of the Holy Spirit yet never receive it. What is the reason for this? If we turn the cup right side up, it will be filled with water right away. If we are not willing to turn our heart to face toward God but instead are always

facing "downward," facing toward the world, then it is impossible for us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is absolutely impossible for a person whose heart is totally toward the world to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to receive the grace of God. However, as soon as he turns his heart toward God, he will immediately be filled with the Holy Spirit. All the experienced ones can testify of this. Furthermore, a person also must be consecrated if he wants to fellowship with God and have His presence all the time. Anyone who is not consecrated cannot have fellowship with God; neither can he have the presence of God.

The Pure in Heart, pp. 51-53, 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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