

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 80, DECEMBER 2004

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

## In

T H I S

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You will  
make known to me  
*the path  
of life;*  
In Your presence is  
fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand  
there are pleasures  
forever.

*Psa. 16:11*

*Dear Life-study Listener,*

Each month, for more than six and one-half years now, we have brought you ministry excerpts on page four of this newsletter entitled, "The Path of Life." In *The Path of Our Growth in Life* Witness Lee talks about several important matters concerning the way of life. In "What is the Path of Life" we have included one of these important matters, living in the Lord's life by loving the Lord. Every lover and seeker of the Lord Jesus Christ will find enlightenment and inspiration in each excerpt.

We announced that we would begin the Life-study of First and Second Peter and Jude at the end of November. That has now been delayed until the end of the year, as we are reviewing five weeks from the book of Deuteronomy first.

On Saturday, November 6th, Bob Danker and Chris Wilde joined several hundred Life-study listeners in the United Kingdom for the annual radio listeners' seminar in London. Bob and Chris shared from the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee on the topic of the vision of the Body of Christ as a spiritual reality and the key role that this matter played in the ministries of both men. The Lord's abundant supply and rich presence always seems to accompany the radio listener seminars.

*Living Stream Ministry*

## WHAT IS THE PATH OF LIFE?

If someone desires to look into the Christian life, he must realize that the Christian life is basically a matter of life. All other matters, such as reading the Bible, preaching the gospel, and serving, are also wrapped up with life. Once this matter of life has been dealt with, all other matters are resolved. Life is the origin and foundation of everything. It is our way, our power, and our light. Life is everything to us. Since life is such a crucial matter, our most urgent need is to learn how to touch the way of life so that we may grow in life...

*(continued on page 3)*

And receive  
the helmet of  
salvation and  
the sword of  
the Spirit,  
which Spirit  
is the word of  
God,  
<sup>1</sup>by means  
of all  
prayer  
and  
petition,  
praying  
at every time in  
spirit.

Eph 6:17-18a

18<sup>1</sup> This phrase modifies the verb *receive* in v. 17, which tells us to receive not only the helmet of salvation but also the word of God. This indicates that we need to receive the word of God by means of all prayer and petition. We need to pray to receive the word of God.

The whole armor of God is composed of six items. Prayer may be considered the seventh. It is the unique, crucial, and vital means by which we apply the other items, making the armor available to us in a practical way.

Recovery Version of the Holy Bible,  
Eph. 6:18, note 1

## Highlights

FROM 'LORD...THOU SAIDST'

### THE WORD AND PRAYER

In every age and in every generation, the Lord has had His faithful servants to receive Him, to love Him, to proclaim Him, and to follow His way. Such men have always been characterized by a personal and intimate relationship with the Lord, an insight into His Word, and the

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of God is prayer;  
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the secret of prayer  
is the Word of God.*

grace to speak forth His truth. As we examine the lives and writings of these faithful ones, it is evident that their usefulness, their vitality, and their insight issued directly from personal, consecrated times of handling God's Word by prayer. They had discovered the intimate and vital relationship between God's Word and prayer.

For example, Martin Luther "spent a part of almost every day reading the Psalms, with which he mingled his own supplications amid tears and groans." George Whitefield's vigorous gospel preaching came out of a daily habit of spending hours kneeling and reading and praying over the Scriptures. R.A. Torrey considered it one of the rarest privileges of his life to read every chapter and every verse of the Bible on his knees. Surely a clear realization of this relationship between the Word of God and prayer is basic to our Christian life and practice. "The vital connection between the word and prayer," wrote Andrew Murray, "is one of the simplest and earliest lessons of the Christian life."

This relationship between the Word of God and prayer is twofold. On one hand, the key to the Word of God is prayer; on the other hand, the secret of prayer is the Word of God. By prayer, the Scriptures become a source of life, light, and nourishment. By the Word of God our prayers are enriched, strengthened, and established. These two portions from *The Necessity of Prayer* by E.M. Bounds point out both sides of the relationship:

The Word of God is the food, by which prayer is nourished and made strong.

The Word of God is made effectual and operative, by the process and practice of prayer.

Even as we review this twofold relationship revealed in the record of the Scriptures and confirmed in the biographies, journals, letters, and writings from church history, may we give ourselves freshly to times of praying and reading, and reading and praying, to times of pray-reading God's holy Word.

'Lord...Thou Saidst,' pp. 11-12, published by Living Stream Ministry. (Please consult Chapter 1 of this publication for quotation references not listed here due to space limitations.)

## THE PATH OF LIFE *(continued from page 1)*

The essential, indispensable thing to do is to love the Lord. Even though all the saved ones have received the Lord's life, those who do not love the Lord will not live in His life. The more a person loves the Lord, the more he will live in the Lord's life. If a person does not love the Lord, he will not be able to live in the Lord's life. John 15 says that the Lord is the vine and that we are the branches. It also says that we have to abide in Him. John chapters fifteen and sixteen speak about abiding (15:4-7) on the one hand, and about loving the Lord (16:27) on the other hand. Only when we

If a brother in the church in Ephesus had risen up to love the Lord in order to gain the Lord's life, he would have received the light of life to maintain the testimony of life. Once we leave our love for the Lord, we lose life and light. We are here not to preach a doctrine to people but to guide them to the path of life. Doctrine cannot enable people to live in the Lord's life. Only walking on the path of life can help people to live in the Lord's life.

Everyone who wants to live in the Lord's life has to love the Lord. This

*Everyone who wants to live in the Lord's life has to love the Lord. This love is not a love of adoration but a love of romance like the love that is spoken of in the Song of Songs.*

love the Lord will we allow Him to abide in us. The degree to which we love the Lord determines the degree to which we will live by His life.

The epistle that the Lord wrote to the messenger of the church in Ephesus in Revelation 2 says that the Lord had one thing against the church in Ephesus—she had left her first love (v. 4). She was irreproachable in her works, but she was short of love. Eventually the Lord said that unless she repented, He would remove her lampstand out of its place (v. 5). As a result, she would not be given to partake of the fruit of the tree of life (v. 7). The lampstand is a matter of light, and the tree of life is something related to life. Every time we leave our love for the Lord, we lose light and life.

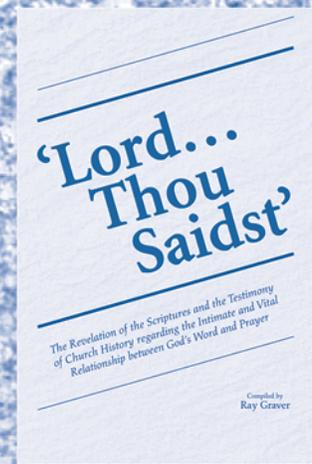
love is not a love of adoration but a love of romance like the love that is spoken of in the Song of Songs. Without such a love, we will have nothing to do with the path of life. For us to live in the Lord's life, we have to love the Lord and even be deeply in love with Him. Our love for the Lord enables us to receive His life and light. If we find that we do not love the Lord, we have to pray, "Lord, up to this moment I still do not love You. Although I know that I have Your life, I do not have any love for You. I do adore You, but I do not love You. I cannot sense Your freshness, Your beauty, and Your loveliness. O Lord, save me and grant me Your love."

*The Path of our Growth in Life*, pp. 7-9, by Witness Lee

## 'Lord... Thou Saidst'

*THE REVELATION  
of the scriptures  
and the testimony  
of church history  
regarding the  
intimate and vital  
relationship between  
GOD'S WORD  
AND PRAYER*

'Lord...Thou Saidst'  
ISBN 0-87083-046-5



Available at Christian Bookstores through Anchor, Appalachian, Riverside, & Spring Arbor Distributors.

Published by Living Stream Ministry  
2431 W. La Palma Ave. • Anaheim, CA 92801  
1-800-549-5164 • [www.lsm.org](http://www.lsm.org)

# 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.*

## EARLY RISING

The early morning is the time for us to gather the manna (which is Christ). What does it mean to eat the manna? It means to enjoy Christ, to enjoy God's Word, and to enjoy His truth early in the morning every day. After we eat the manna, we have the strength to journey in the wilderness. The early morning is the time to gather the manna. One will not be fed spiritually or be satisfied if he spends his early morning on other things.

We have mentioned already that we should have two Bibles, one with

*During this early morning hour of gathering manna, you should learn to mingle prayer with God's Word.*

marks and notes in it to use in the afternoon and the other with nothing in it for "eating manna" early in the morning. In the early morning, do not read too much and do not take many portions of the Word. Instead, read a single portion of the Bible carefully, always mingling your reading with unceasing communion with God and singing. This does not mean that you should fellowship with God first, praise second, and then read the Bible last. You have to blend all these things together. At the same time you should also pray. Come to God's presence and open

His Word. As you read, you may be convicted to confess your sins. As you read certain portions, you may be touched by His grace to offer up thanksgiving. You can also pray to God concerning what you have read in the Word. You can say, "Lord, this is truly what I need. This portion, this verse, this word, truly exposes my lack. Lord, fill up this lack of mine." When you find a promise, you can say, "Lord, I believe in this promise." When you find grace, you can say, "Lord, I take this grace." You can also intercede. While you are reading, you may remember the condition of those who fall short of what this portion says. You should not accuse or criticize them. Instead, you should pray, "God, fulfill this word in me. Fulfill this word also in my brother and sister." You can confess your sins and the sins of others. You can pray for yourself and for others. You can believe for yourself and for others. You can give thanks for yourself and for others. Your Bible reading in the morning should not be too long; it should not cover too much. Two, three, four, or five verses are sufficient. You can dwell on them for an hour. As you read these verses word by word, pray over them, and commune with God through them, you will be filled....

Hence, during this early morning hour of gathering manna, you should learn to mingle prayer with God's Word. You should learn to mingle praise and fellowship with God's Word. One moment you may be on earth, but the next moment you are in the heavens. One moment you may be in yourself, but the next moment you are in God. If you

maintain this practice before God every morning, you will be filled after some time, and God's word will dwell in you richly. Such reading of God's Word, such gathering of manna, is indispensable to us. Many brothers and sisters are weak and unable to take the wilderness journey. We need to ask them, "Have you eaten anything?" They cannot walk because they have not eaten enough. Manna is gathered in the early morning. This is why we need to rise up a little earlier. We will not have any manna if we are late. We have to rise up early in the morning to labor in God's Word.

*Messages for Building Up New Believers (1), pp. 169-171, by Watchman Nee*

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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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