

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 69, JANUARY 2004

"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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Life-Study of the Bible
with Witness Lee

THE RADIO PROGRAM OF LIVING STREAM MINISTRY

Listen

TO ALL THE
LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE
PROGRAMS ON THE
INTERNET:

www.lsmradio.org

Dear Life-study Listener,

This month we are in the midst of broadcasting *Life-study of 1 & 2 Timothy* over stations around the country and even throughout the world. The apostle Paul began these crucial Epistles with a charge not to teach differently from God's economy (1 Tim. 1:3-4). When you consider the importance of God's economy, Paul's stress upon it here, and its being the governing principle of our entire life-study of the Bible, you may wonder why we waited so long (we have completed more than 1,400 life-study programs) before addressing it. As you listen, we hope you agree that we saved the best for now.

If you cannot hear the life-study program on a radio station in your area, we want to remind you that our Internet Web site, www.lsmradio.org, has an option called "Today's Broadcast." Also, under the link "Broadcast Archives" you can listen to any program we have produced over the past seven years. In fact, over the last few years the response to *Life-study of the Bible* radio program has been the greatest from the Internet. Some have told us how they come together in small groups and listen together to the Internet broadcast to enrich their group study time. Others have said that it has enhanced their personal time with the Lord. There are believers in Christ today who can only see the evils related to the Internet. However, God has surely used this technological development for the benefit of His lovers and seekers to fulfill His economy.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS PRAY-READING THE WORD?

The record of Daniel's prayer for Israel in Daniel chapter nine contains a prayer secret that is very precious to God's heart. In fact, after his prayer, Daniel was called preciousness itself (v. 23). So we need to pay attention to what the Spirit is showing us here. When we read Daniel chapter nine, we can see that the Scriptures were the basis of Daniel's prayer (v. 2; Jer. 25:11-12;

(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.

I'm very happy to fellowship with you about my experience of listening to the radio programs through the Internet.

I'm an undergraduate student of the Federal University of Minas Gerais in the Control and Automation Engineering course. While attending to my tasks in college I usually spend some time to hear the messages provided by Living Stream Ministry. I'm finishing the life-study messages on Ephesians and what I have to say about them is that the messages have supplied me with the life of God in those moments of difficulties in the college. Some days it is the unique time I have with the Lord, since there are a lot of things to do here. Thank you so much.

Belo Horizonte, Brazil

I have been listening to this program for more than five years. It causes me to turn to my spirit and enjoy the Lord more. Having the radio ministry in my car as I drive is a way to redeem the time in Houston traffic. "And who is sufficient for these things?" This ministry is from God and unto God, bearing the fragrance of Christ.

Houston, TX

AND RECEIVE
THE HELMET OF SALVATION
AND THE SWORD OF
THE SPIRIT,
WHICH SPIRIT IS THE
WORD OF GOD,
*by means of all prayer
and petition,* PRAYING
AT EVERY TIME
IN SPIRIT.

EPHESIANS 6:17-18

VERSE *and* FOOTNOTE

FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT RECOVERY VERSION

*Titus 3:5—Not out of works in righteousness
which we did but according to His mercy
He saved us, through the washing of ¹regeneration
and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.*

¹The Greek word for *regeneration* is different from that for *regenerated* in 1 Pet. 1:23. The only other place the word is used is Matt. 19:28, where it is used for the restoration in the millennium (see note 1 there). Here it refers to a change from one state to another. Being born again is the commencing of this change. The washing of regeneration begins with our being born again and continues with the renewing of the Holy Spirit as the process of God's new creation, a process that makes us a new man. It is a kind of reconditioning, remaking, or remodeling, with life. Baptism (Rom. 6:3-5), the putting off of the old man, the putting on of the new man (Eph. 4:22, 24; Col. 3:9-11), and transformation by the renewing of the mind (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23) are all related to this wonderful process. The washing of regeneration purges away all the things of the old nature of our old man, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit imparts something new—the divine essence of the new man—into our being. In this is a passing from our old state into a wholly new one, from the old creation into the status of a new creation. Hence, both the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit are working in us continually throughout our life until the completion of the new creation.

PRAY-READING THE WORD (continued from page 1)

29:10-14) and were also the content of his prayer (v. 4; Deut. 7:21, 9; and v. 15; Deut. 7:8, 9:26). Twice Daniel referred to what was written in the law of Moses (vv. 11, 13). Daniel's desire to pray and the utterance of his prayer came from the Scriptures he held in his hand. Daniel was practicing then what we now refer to as *pray-reading the Word*.

While the term *pray-reading* may be new to some believers, it is not difficult to grasp, since both prayer and reading the Word of God are essential practices of every true believer. Yet to take the Scriptures before the Lord in prayer as seen in the example of Daniel may not be a common practice of many of the Lord's children.

Second Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed." This helps us understand what the substance and essence of God's Word is. Since John 4:24 tells us that God is Spirit, it follows that whatever is breathed out of God must also be Spirit. Thus, the essence of God's Word is Spirit. This fact is confirmed in John 6:63 where the Lord Jesus explained to His disciples, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." We must understand that the Spirit is the very substance of the Word of God, and if we realize this, we will see our need to touch the Spirit as we come to the Word. In Ephesians 6:17-18, Paul instructed us to "receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the Word of God, by means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit." According to Paul's thought, the Word of God should be received by means of all prayer. If we take the printed words of the Bible as mere knowledge or doctrine, we will miss the main function of the Word, which is not just to give us

knowledge about God but even more to impart God Himself into us as life. When the devil came to tempt the Lord Jesus, He answered him saying, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4) The Lord's word confirms that God's Word is for us to receive as our life supply.

In John 5:39-40, the Lord Jesus told the Jews who were seeking to kill Him, "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that

*God's Word
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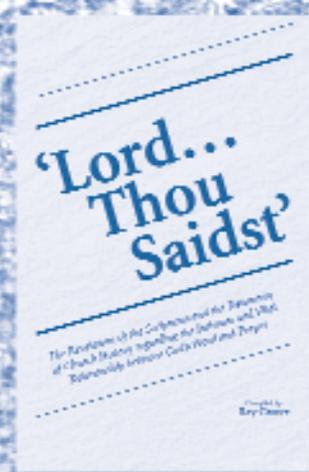
testify concerning Me. Yet you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life." May we be those who receive the Word by prayer and in so doing come to Christ Himself as the Spirit who gives life.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Pray-Reading the Word; A Time with the Lord; and A Living of Mutual Abiding with the Lord in Spirit*, chaps. 6-8, by Witness Lee, and *'Lord... Thou Saidst,'* published by Living Stream Ministry

'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

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 BEST WAY TO EAT CHRIST BEING TO PRAY-READ

The best thing to do is to have a daily reading of some portions from the Old Testament and some from the New Testament in sequence. Begin with the first chapter of Genesis in the Old Testament and with the first chapter of Matthew in the New Testament. Obedient children eat whatever their mother serves, and they grow to be healthy. But those who are choosy in their eating are usually not healthy. I hope that you will receive my little word of exhortation.

I am telling you my experiences over scores of years. I am speaking to you not according to theology or to the teaching of Bible teachers. Rather, I am speaking to you according to the Word of God and from my experience. You all must know that the Word of God and the Spirit of God are two great means. God gives Himself to us by means of His Spirit and His breathing out. He breathes out and we must breathe in. We breathe in by praying. The best and surest prayer is to use the Lord's words as your prayer. You do not need to study hard as to how to pray; the entire Bible is your prayer book. You can read a sentence or a verse, and then you can pray these words. This is the best prayer.

When you pray, neither be too rigid nor always fluctuating. First you must use your spirit. Contact the Lord with your spirit, and ask Him to cleanse you with His precious blood. Whenever you contact the Lord with your spirit, you will feel the need for His blood to cleanse you. You may not feel that you have sinned, but you are still defiled because you are still in the old creation, in the flesh, and in the self. Even though we have not sinned, and even though we have not done anything wrong or thought anything wrong, we are still the flesh.

Since we are the flesh, we need the cleansing of the blood. As those who are of the old creation, we are filthy. Therefore, every time you come to contact the Lord by reading His word, first you must pray, "O Lord, cleanse me with Your precious blood." The types in the Old Testament show us that whenever anyone went before God, he had to offer the sin offering and the trespass offering. Therefore, when you come to the Lord, you need to take Him as your sin offering and trespass offering, asking Him to cleanse you with His blood. Once you are cleansed, you will be enlivened in your spirit by the Spirit of the Lord.

When your spirit is made alive, you must learn not to speak according to your thought and your mind but according to your spirit. This does not mean that you do not use your mind any more. On the contrary, the more you use your spirit, the sharper your mind will be and the clearer and wiser your thoughts will become. Therefore, begin with your spirit; that is, touch the Lord from the deepest part of your being. Read and pray by means of His words. Just read and pray, pray and read, without trying too hard to be different or original or loud. When you are truly inspired, you may say, "Amen, O Lord, how good it is! How I praise You!" This kind of pray-reading will cause the word of God to be impressed into your whole being as your supply.

Paul said, "All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). When we pray-read in this way and get the Lord's words into us, some of the words become a conviction to us, some become a teaching, some correct us, and some

instruct us in righteousness. As a result, we who are men of God are made complete, fully equipped for every good work. This is different from reading the books of Confucius and Mencius and accepting their teachings on ethics and morality. Rather, we pray by means of the Word of God and the Spirit of God to take in God Himself, who is in His words and in His Spirit. In this way, His words in us not only become a supply to us, but they also convict and teach us from deep within. This is the proper way to read the Lord's Word. May the Lord give us grace and strength and lead us to practice this every day.

A Living of Mutual Abiding with the Lord in Spirit, pp. 81-82, 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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