

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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The grace
OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST
BE WITH
YOUR SPIRIT,
BROTHERS.
AMEN.

GALATIANS 6:18

Dear Life-study Listener,

For all of our Internet listeners we have great news. Recently we installed a second server in order to provide a second stream to you. Now when you go to the broadcast archives at www.lsmradio.org, you will see two options: RealAudio and Windows Media. In the past we had only RealAudio, but due to the increased demand for the *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* program on the Internet, we added a Windows Media server. We received many e-mails from you when there were technical difficulties with the RealAudio server, but now that we have a second server we expect you will not have that reason to write us as much. But please e-mail us anyway, even though there's not a problem, to let us know you are enjoying the programs on-line. It's always an encouragement to us to hear from you. If you can include a specific comment regarding your enjoyment, we may include it with our listener comments in this newsletter for the encouragement of others.

Next month we will begin broadcasting the life-study of John's Epistles. So if you like to follow the broadcast with the printed life-studies in hand, we encourage you to order your copies now so we can ship them out to you in sufficient time.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS GRACE?

The word *grace* is used more than one hundred times in the New Testament, indicating it is one of the most important words in the Scriptures. According to Ephesians 2:8, grace is the agent by which God saves us, "for by grace you have been saved." We cannot save ourselves; only God's grace can save us. But what is this grace that saves us? Some Christian teachers define grace as God's unmerited favor. According to this definition, in saving us God bestows favor

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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.

Thank you so much for this Christ-centered ministry! I was somewhat disappointed when the radio station I was listening to discontinued your program. But now I listen on the Internet, and it has turned out to be much better as I can now access any book at any time. With so much "people-centered" ministry proclaimed today in most ministries, it is so refreshing to be able to access a ministry that preaches Christ and exalts Him.

Duncanville, TX

Seeing the Lord's recovery in this age is like waking up from a long dream and realizing that nothing is as I've always thought it to be. I praise the Lord Jesus every day that not only has He opened my eyes and allowed me to see His move in this age, but He has blessed me with the vision of His precious Body. How amazing it is to actually be one of the many members of His precious Body.

Woodville, TX

Just a note to say that I have learned so much from Witness Lee. Now I feel like I have life! Before the Holy Spirit led me to the studies of Witness Lee and Watchman Nee, my life was so lacking spiritually. I had knowledge but no life! The Holy Spirit has led me to teach Bible study at my church with the works of Brothers Witness Lee and Watchman Nee. Thank God we have life! Christ is living in us as our life! I thank the Father for Life-study of the Bible. I just completed Genesis and now I am listening to Matthew. Thank you for all you do.

Cairo, GA

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF FIRST JOHN

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

1 John 1:7

When we live in the divine life, we are under its enlightenment, and it exposes, according to God's divine nature and through His nature in us, all our sin, trespasses, failures, and defects, which contradict His pure light, perfect love, absolute holiness, and excelling righteousness. At such a time we sense in our enlightened conscience the need of the cleansing of the redeeming blood of the Lord Jesus, and it cleanses us in our conscience from all sins so that our fellowship with God and with one another may be maintained. Our relationship with God is unbreakable, yet our fellowship with Him may be broken. The former is of life, whereas the latter is based upon our living, though it is also of life. One is unconditional; the other is conditional. This conditional one, our fellowship with God, needs to be maintained by the constant cleansing of the Lord's blood.

The blood of Jesus the Son of God cleanses us all the time.

In verse 7 John says that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. The tense of the verb "cleanses" in Greek is present and continuous. This indicates that the blood of Jesus the Son of God cleanses us all the time, continuously and constantly. Cleansing here refers to the instant cleansing of the Lord's blood in our conscience. Before God, the redeeming blood of the Lord has cleansed us once for all eternally (Heb. 9:12,14), and the efficacy of that cleansing lasts forever before God, needing no repetition. However, in our conscience we need the instant application of the constant cleansing of the Lord's blood again and again whenever our conscience is enlightened by the divine light in our fellowship with God. This instant cleansing is typified by the purification of the ashes of the heifer for a water of separation (Num. 19:2-10).

In verse 7 John specifically says that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. The New Testament speaks of sin and also of sins. "Sin" usually refers to indwelling sin, which is dealt with in Romans 5:12 to 8:13. "Sins" refer to sinful deeds, the fruits of indwelling sin, which are dealt with in Romans 1:18 to 5:11. However, the singular sin in 1:7 with the adjective "all" does not denote indwelling sin; rather, it denotes every single sin we have committed since we have been regenerated. The sins we commit after regeneration defile our purged conscience and need to be cleansed away by the blood of Jesus in our fellowship with God.

Life-study of First John, pp. 67-68

GRACE *(continued from page 1)*

on us that we do not deserve. Although God does favor us in His salvation, in the revelation of the New Testament, grace is much more than undeserved favor from God.

In the Bible grace is referred to as the grace of God (1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:12; 8:1; 9:14) and the grace of Christ (2 Cor. 8:9; 12:9; 13:14), and the Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of grace” (Heb. 10:29). Thus, grace is related to God, to Christ, and to the Spirit—to the Person of the Triune God. In the New Testament a phrase such as *the love of God* often means not merely that love is something that belongs to God but that God Himself is love (1 John 4:8). Similarly, the phrase *the word of God* means that the word is God (John 1:1). Thus, *the grace of God* means that grace is God, *the grace of Christ* means that grace is Christ, and *the Spirit of grace* means that the Spirit is grace. Based on this, we can conclude that grace is God, Christ, and the Spirit—the Triune God Himself.

Furthermore, John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us...full of grace,” and verse 17 says, “For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.” The law was something given—the law and its giver were separate. But grace *came* with Jesus Christ, the incarnated God—grace and Christ are inseparable. Thus, grace is a living person, Jesus Christ Himself, who is the embodiment of the Triune God (Col. 2:9). First Corinthians 15:10 and Galatians 2:20, considered together, are further proof that grace is Christ Himself. In the former Paul wrote, “Not I but the grace of God which is with me,” and in the latter he said, “No longer I...but...Christ who lives in me,” indicating that the grace that was with the apostle was the very Christ who lived in him.

Moreover, 2 Timothy 4:22 says, “The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.” This again identifies grace with Christ, the Lord. Thus, the very grace given to us by God is the very Lord who is with our spirit. Galatians 6:18, Philippians 4:23, and Philemon 25 all confirm that the grace of the

Grace is God in Christ as the Spirit dwelling in our spirit to be everything to us for our enjoyment.

Lord Jesus Christ, which is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, is with our spirit, that is, in the deepest part of our being.

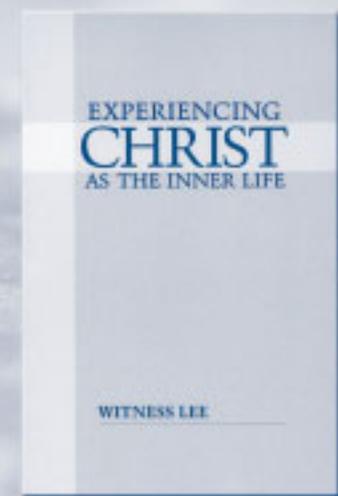
Based on the full revelation concerning grace in the New Testament, we may define grace in this way: grace is God in Christ as the Spirit dwelling in our spirit to be everything to us for our enjoyment. On the day of our salvation, when we believed in the Lord Jesus, we received Him into our spirit as grace (John 1:12). This grace, which is the living person of Christ, is what saves us. Day by day, and even moment by moment, we can experience and enjoy this wonderful, saving grace.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Law and Grace of God in His Economy*; *Life-study of Genesis*, Message 63; and *Life-study of Galatians*, Message 11, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Experiencing Christ AS THE INNER LIFE

The real meaning of knowing Christ as our inner life is a mystery to many believers. We may know the words, but we very well may not know the proper way to experience Christ as the inner life. As we progress through these chapters, let us pray to receive a definite and much needed vision by which we can both see and experience the central matter of the Christian faith, the Scriptures, and the Christian life—Christ as our inner life.

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 WAY TO DEAL WITH, CONTACT, AND ENJOY THE TRIUNE GOD

It is wonderful that we have this divine person dwelling within us. The very Triune God of this universe is within us, and He will never leave us. The question now is how to deal with Him. How do we deal with, contact, and enjoy this wonderful One who is dwelling within us? How do we take Him as our life and everything in a practical way in our daily life? The Triune God being within us is not a matter of doctrine; it is very real and practical. Thus, we must consider how we should deal with, contact, and enjoy Him within us.

Loving Him

The first thing we must do is love the Lord. In the Gospel of John the Lord did not ask us to do many outward things. Rather, He asked us to do two things—to believe into Him and to love Him. After He had risen from the dead, the Lord asked Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" Then the Lord asked Peter two more times, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" (21:15-17). I believe that the Lord is asking us this question today. Do we love the Lord? It is a pity if we do not love Him. We all must love the Lord. I believe that within every believer there is a longing to love the Lord. Even backsliding believers have this longing and have some love for the Lord within them. We all have such a longing and such a love in our heart. Our love for the Lord may be very small, but even though we may have only a little love for Him in our heart, this is sufficient. This small amount of love is like a seed that will

eventually grow. All of us must love the Lord. I have traveled to many places on this earth, and I have observed that every Christian has something within him that is calling and even demanding that he love the

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Lord. Each of us has such a sense within—something urging and demanding that we love the Lord. We must take care of this feeling and respond to this inner voice. We need to answer this call and tell the Lord, "Lord, I must love You, and I do love You, but my love for You is very small. Cause me to love You more." We all must pray to the Lord concerning our love for Him.

Consecrating Ourselves to Him

In addition to loving the Lord, we must consecrate ourselves to Him. At least once in our life we must consecrate ourselves to the Lord in a definite way. We all must pass through this crisis. If we have never consecrated ourselves to the Lord in a definite way, we must do so now. We must go to the Lord and tell Him, "Lord, I have been bought by You. You have purchased me with Your precious blood, and I have been ransomed and redeemed by You. Lord, I am Yours. I belong to You, so

I hand myself over to You. Because I love You, I offer myself to You." Many of us may have done this before, but if some years have passed since the last time we consecrated ourselves to the Lord, then we must do it again; we must renew our consecration. After we have consecrated ourselves to the Lord, the Lord will have the ground to operate in us. The Lord will have the ground within us, and He will begin to move and speak in us. In addition, we will have the ground to contact the Lord and to enter into fellowship with Him.

Contacting the Lord, Being Filled in Spirit, and Having Proper Christian Meetings for the Accomplishment of God's Eternal Purpose, pp. 18-19, 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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