

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 law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5

In

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As newborn babes, LONG FOR THE GUILLESS MILK OF THE WORD IN ORDER THAT BY IT YOU MAY GROW UNTO SALVATION.

1 PETER 2:2

Dear Life-study Listener,

We are still in the midst of the Life-study of Peter's Epistles, and it has been refreshing for all of us to see God's economy from Peter's inimitable perspective. First Peter chapter one shows us a wonderful overview of the full salvation of the Triune God and its issues, including the Father's regeneration unto a living hope, the Spirit's application through the prophets' prophesying and the apostles' preaching, and Christ's redemption unto a holy life. After such a grand view in chapter one, Peter begins chapter two in a very practical way that touches why some believers have lost their appetite for God's word: "Therefore putting away all malice and all guile and hypocrisies and envyings and all evil speakings." Malice is like an evil root that moves through us in downward steps, and causes us to lose our desire for God's word, which results in evil speaking. Yet the solution is given in the next verse: "As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation." On one hand when there is malice in our being, it causes us to lose our desire or longing for the word; on the other hand the milk of the word heals us from the sickness of malice. So, may the Lord have mercy on us that we would constantly put away all malice and all evil speaking, that our appetite for His word would never diminish and we would "grow unto salvation."

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST?

God's heart's desire as revealed in the Scriptures is for Christ to be our center, our life, our reality, and our everything so that we can be His corporate expression. We call this marvelous Christ the all-inclusive Christ because He includes and embodies all the riches of God for our experience and our enjoyment.

Ephesians 3:8 speaks of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Once we receive Christ as our Savior and life, He comes into us with these unsearchable

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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.

I just want to share the testimony of how good God is. He has taken this abandoned mother of five who was in a horrible marriage and became a severe alcoholic—cleaned her up, and five years later she is a successful entrepreneur with a house-cleaning business. All five children, ages ranging from 11 to 30, have accepted Christ as their Savior. So, I do give Him praise and glory.

Tacoma, WA

Thank God for the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. Ever since I entered into this ministry, the Bible has become real to me. At first, I knew Christ as my Saviour, but now I have Christ as my life and inheritance, and also know how God has revealed to us the mystery which has been hidden in Him from the ages.

Thank you for sending me the HOF. I get nourished every time I read it. Please keep me always on your mailing list. Col. 3:11 says Christ is all and in all. I want to know more about this all-inclusive Christ. Thank you and may God be with your spirit. Amen.

Tema, Ghana

Highlights

FROM WATCHMAN NEE'S TESTIMONY

In 1936 Watchman Nee gave three testimonies concerning his personal experiences which have been compiled in the book Watchman Nee's Testimony. He spoke of his learning to serve the Lord, being dealt with by God, learning the lesson of the cross, living a life by faith, and many other matters. Below is a brief excerpt from the first testimony of his salvation and calling.

SAVED AND CALLED AT THE SAME TIME

I was saved in 1920 at the age of seventeen. Before being saved I experienced some mental conflict concerning whether or not to accept the Lord Jesus as my Savior and whether or not to become the Lord's servant. For most people, the problem at the time of salvation is how to be delivered from sin. But for me, being saved from sin and my life career were linked together. If I were to accept the Lord Jesus as my Savior, I would simultaneously accept Him as my Lord. He would deliver me not only from sin but also from the world. At that time I was afraid of being saved, for I knew that once I was saved I must serve the Lord. Of necessity, therefore, my salvation would be a dual salvation. It was impossible for me to set aside the Lord's calling and to desire only salvation. I had to choose either to believe in the Lord and have a dual salvation or forfeit both. For me to accept the Lord would mean that both events would take place simultaneously.

FINAL DECISION

On the evening of April 29, 1920, I was alone in my room. I had no peace of mind. Whether I sat or reclined, I could find no rest, for within was this problem of whether or not I should believe in the Lord. My first inclination was not to believe in the Lord Jesus and not to be a Christian. However, that made me inwardly uneasy. There was a real struggle within me. Then I knelt down to pray. At first I had no words with which to pray. But eventually many sins came before me, and I realized that I was a sinner. I had never had such an experience in my life before that time. I saw myself as a sinner and I also saw the Savior. I saw the filthiness of sin and I also saw the efficacy of the Lord's precious blood cleansing me and making me white as snow. I saw the Lord's hands nailed to the cross, and at the same time I saw Him stretching forth His arms to welcome me, saying, "I am here waiting to receive you." Overwhelmed by such love, I could not possibly reject it, and I decided to accept Him as my Savior. Previously, I had laughed at those who believed in the Lord, but that evening I could not laugh. Instead, I wept and confessed my sins, seeking the Lord's forgiveness. After making my confession, the burden of sins was discharged, and I felt buoyant and full of inward joy and peace. This was the first time in my life that I knew I was a sinner. I prayed for the first time and had my first experience of joy and peace. There might have been some joy and peace before, but the experience after my salvation was very real. Alone in my room that evening, I saw the light and lost all consciousness of my surroundings. I said to the Lord, "Lord, You have really been gracious to me."

Watchman Nee's Testimony, pp. 15-16, by Watchman Nee

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST *(continued from page 1)*

riches. In 1 Corinthians 1:9 Paul tells us that we were called into the fellowship of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, that is, to participate in, experience, and enjoy Christ as everything to us. Then in Colossians 1:12 Paul tells us that the Father has qualified us for a share of Christ as our allotted portion. This again shows us that Christ is our portion

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for our experience and enjoyment. He is the all-inclusive One that we need to pursue and experience day by day. In Philippians the apostle Paul aspired to magnify such a Christ, to live Christ, to be found in Christ, to gain Christ, and to pursue Christ so that this Christ could be everything to him.

The Scriptures also reveal that as the all-inclusive One, Christ is the reality of all the necessities of our human life. John 20:22 says that Christ breathed Himself as the Spirit into the believers. He is our air for us to breathe. In John 6:35, Christ revealed Himself as the bread of life, and in verse 57 He tells us that we need to eat Him so that we can live because of Him. This shows us that Christ is our spiritual food. In John 4:10 and 14 and in John 7:37-39, we see that Christ is the living water for us to drink. In John 8:12, the Lord tells us that He is the light of the world, and if we follow Him, we will have the light of life. Galatians 3:27 says that we need to

put on Christ, showing us that Christ is our clothing. In John 15, the Lord tells us that we need to abide in Him. This shows us that Christ is our dwelling place, our home. In Matthew 11:28 the Lord tells us to come unto Him, and He will give us rest. All these verses show us that Christ is all-inclusive. He is our real air, food, water, light, clothing, home, and rest for our enjoyment. Not only so, this all-inclusive Christ is the reality of all the shadows in the Old Testament for our enjoyment today (Col. 2:16-17).

It is very significant that in John 8:58 the Lord Jesus reveals that He is the great I AM. He said, "Before Abraham came into being, I AM." Christ is the very God as the great I AM, the One who was, the One who is, and the One who will be. We might say that after Christ came into us, it is as if He is a blank check within us. We can write that check out for whatever we need. In John 14:6, He says "I am...the life," so if we need life, He is our life. In John 8:12, He says "I am the light," so if we need light, He is our light. Whatever we need, He is. He is everything to us for our enjoyment.

God wants us to enjoy the all-inclusive Christ with all His unsearchable riches. When we enjoy the riches of Christ day by day, this will make us corporately His fullness for His expression in this universe, so that God can be expressed in glory forever and ever, first as the Body of Christ, and consummately as the New Jerusalem for eternity.

For further reading on this subject, please see the footnotes for the above referenced verses in the New Testament Recovery Version and The All-Inclusive Christ by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Blessed
ARE THE PURE IN HEART
FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.
Matthew 5:8



*THE PURE IN HEART
HAVE A HEART SO PURE
THAT THEY JUST WANT
GOD AND NOTHING
OTHER THAN GOD. If
Christians are willing to allow
God to work in them, the first
thing they have to do is to turn
their heart to God. God does not
have the way to work on many
people because their heart is not
set on Him. We cannot say that
they do not want the Lord. They
really do want the Lord, but they
also want something other than
the Lord Himself... Their inner
being is very complicated, but
love should be very simple.*

Witness Lee
The Pure in Heart, p. 12
ISBN 0-7363-1339-7

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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 APPLY CHRIST AS OUR LIFE

If we are going to apply Christ as our life, we must know what Christ is. When some people heard that Christ was the bread of life and that He could be their food, they said, "This word is hard; who can hear it?" (John 6:60). They could not

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understand how this man could give Himself as bread to them and be eaten by them, so they left Him. However, the Lord told the disciples, "It is the Spirit who gives life;...the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (v. 63). In order to apply Christ as our life, we must understand the relationship between the word and the Spirit.

We have the written Word, the Bible, in our hand and Christ as the Spirit in our spirit. In other words, we have the Holy Scriptures outwardly and the Holy Spirit inwardly. Whenever we contact the written Word not merely with our mind but with our spirit, the word spoken to us by the Lord becomes the Spirit to us.

Outwardly, the written Word is still the Word, but when we receive the written Word with our spirit, the word received by us becomes the Spirit in us. When we speak what we have received to someone else, the Spirit in us becomes the word again, and when that person receives the word, the word becomes the Spirit in him. We must always contact the Word by exercising our spirit. When we contact the Word with our spirit, we receive the word, and the word becomes the Spirit in us (Eph. 6:17-18). Because this very Spirit is life to us, we feel living, refreshed, satisfied, and strengthened. We sense that we are alive because we have the life supply. This life also becomes light to us (John 1:4). Because we not only have the life but are also in the light, we sense that we are clear. When we have the word, we have the Spirit; when we have the Spirit, we enjoy life; and when we enjoy life, we experience the light. This is the way to walk in Christ, live by Christ, and apply Christ in everything. We must not merely listen to messages and learn doctrines. Instead, we must learn how to contact the written Word with our spirit. When we contact the Word with our spirit, we receive the word into us, and the word becomes the living Spirit within us. This living Spirit then becomes life to us, and we sense that we are satisfied, strengthened, refreshed, and living. We also sense that our whole being is in the light.

We need to realize our need to apply Christ in our daily life. We need to practice contacting Christ and applying Christ day by day and moment by moment. If we are

going to be real Christians, we must exercise to experience, apply, appropriate, and enjoy Christ as our spiritual portion all the time. If we have this kind of experience, we will become the increase of Christ, and when we become the increase of Christ, we will see the oneness of the increase of Christ (John 3:29-30). In the Gospel of John there are three main points—life, the increase, and the oneness. Christ as the embodiment of God is life to us, and when we enjoy and experience Him as our life, we become His increase, which must be one.

Experiencing the Mingling of God with Man for the Oneness of the Body of Christ, pp. 13-15 by Witness Lee

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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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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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