

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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*God's desire
is to have
a dwelling
place on earth
constituted of Christ
and constituted
according to Christ.*

*Life-study of Exodus,
Message Eighty, p. 944*

Dear Listeners,

We return this month to *Life-study of Exodus* and particularly to the Christ revealed in the tabernacle. The tabernacle is one of those lesser-known items in the Old Testament that holds a wealth of spiritual insight. Witness Lee devoted more than one hundred messages to this topic in his *Life-study of Exodus*, conducted in 1979 and 1980. We might logically ask, “Can there really be so much to say about something as little known as the Old Testament tabernacle?” Inasmuch as God’s eternal purpose can be fully seen in the details of the tabernacle, the answer is an emphatic yes.

If you have been with us for our earlier life-study messages on Genesis or Exodus, you might have realized a distinctive characteristic of this ministry—that of seeing and bringing to light the very Christ of God and our salvation from the types and shadows in the Old Testament. Watchman Nee and Witness Lee saw that the Bible is fundamentally a book of Christ and that it unveils Christ. How we thank our Father God for such a ministry in this age that leads us to declare, as the Apostle Paul did, “. . . I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. . .” (Phil. 3:8).

To aid you in your own study of the tabernacle, we are offering our radio listeners a free copy of “Reference Guide to the Tabernacle,” a simple “road map” for our exploration of the wonderful aspects of Christ shining forth in the details of the tabernacle. To receive your copy, please call us toll-free at (888) 543-3788.

Our weekend listeners will be enjoying the riches in Acts and Hebrews again this month. And our new friends in Israel will go deeper into *Life-study of Genesis*.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS TRANSFORMATION?

The Bible clearly reveals that human beings are tripartite—that is, we were created by God with a spirit, a soul, and a body (1 Thes. 5:23). The Bible also reveals that God’s complete salvation is a salvation that includes our entire tripartite being. First, our spirit is regenerated. This means that our human spirit, the organ by which we contact, receive, and assimilate God, is born of God the Spirit to have the life of God. This is the meaning of being born again. Regeneration, or being born again, is instantaneous. At the coming of the Lord, our body will be transfigured from a body of humiliation into a body of glory, like the resurrected, glorified body of the Lord Jesus. This transfiguration of our body, like regeneration, will also be instantaneous. But there is a very crucial aspect of God’s salvation that, unfortunately, is neglected by many very serious students of the Word. This aspect is transformation.

(continued on page 2)

TRANSFORMATION

(continued from page 1)

It is important that we understand the basic truth concerning transformation.

Transformation is not a matter of the spirit or of the body, but of the soul—the mind, emotion, and will. Our spirit is regenerated, our body is transfigured, but our soul is transformed. Romans 12:2 says that we are transformed by the renewing of the mind. Second Corinthians 3:18 says that as we behold the Lord, we are transformed into His image from glory to glory. Transformation is an organic life process that brings about a metabolic change in our soul, to make our soul the expression of the Christ who dwells in our spirit. Transformation is not instantaneous but involves a long process beginning from the time of our regeneration. In transformation, the divine element spreads from our spirit into our soul, causing an organic and metabolic change. In this metabolic change, an old element is removed and discharged, and a new element is added to take the place of the old element. As the process of transformation is going on, the old natural element in our soul is discharged and a new divine element is added, causing our soul to be transformed from glory to glory. This results in a change in the constitution of the soul in that a divine element is now a part of our mind, emotion, and will. Furthermore, there is a change in the image within us so that our soul is more and more transformed into the Lord's image to express Him (Rom. 8:29).

God's goal in His economy is to have a corporate expression of Christ through God's redeemed, regenerated people. For this it is not sufficient that we merely be regenerated in our spirit. We need our soul to be gradually transformed from glory to glory, saturated and permeated with the element of God, so that we express God, shine forth God, and glow with God for the glorious expression of God in Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).

For further reading on this subject, please see the footnotes for the above referenced verses in the New Testament Recovery Version and Basic Principles of the Experience of Life, chapters seventeen and eighteen, by Witness Lee.

Excerpt from

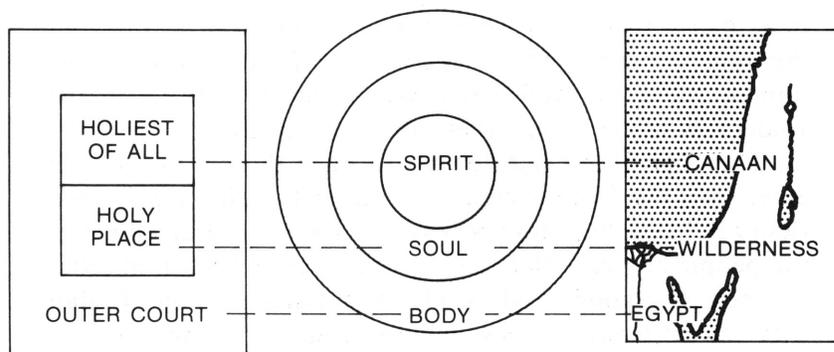
THE ECONOMY OF GOD

BY WITNESS LEE

In 1964 Witness Lee gave a series of messages that comprise the book The Economy of God. The following is an excerpt from chapter three entitled "The Residence of the Divine Spirit."

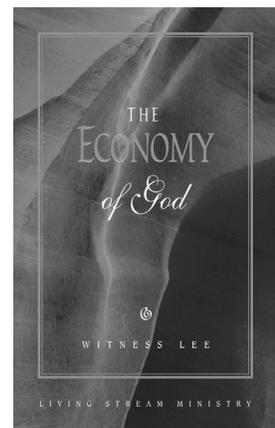
After the Israelites were delivered and saved from the land of Egypt, they were brought into the wilderness with the intention that they should go on into the land of Canaan. The land of Canaan was their land of rest, a type of the all-inclusive Christ. Christ is the good land of Canaan, and He is our Rest. If we are going to enter into the rest, we must enter into Christ. But where is Christ today? We answer that He is in our spirit. The Israelites, who were delivered out of Egypt, instead of going on into Canaan, wandered for many years in the wilderness. What does this typify? It means that many Christians after being saved are simply wandering in the soul. The reason the book to the Hebrews was written is that many Hebrew Christians were saved, but they were wandering in their soul. They would not press on from the wilderness into the good land—that is, into Christ who dwelt in their spirit. We must not continue to wander in our soul, but press on to enter into our spirit, where Christ is our rest.

Let us illustrate further by the following diagram:



In ancient times all the people of Israel had access to the outer court, but only the priests could enter the holy place. Furthermore, into the Holiest of all only one, the High Priest, could enter, and that only once a year. Moreover, of all the Israelites who were saved and brought out of Egypt into the wilderness, very few went on into the good land of Canaan.

Even though we may have been saved for years, we must ask ourselves whether we are presently a Christian living in the body, in the soul, or in the spirit. Are we now in Egypt, in the wilderness, or in the good land of Canaan? Ask the Lord and search yourself in order to be clear where you are. Frankly, many Christians are wandering all day in the soul, that is, in the wilderness. In the morning they have smiling faces, but by afternoon they are sorrowful with long faces. Yesterday, it seems they were in the heavens, but today they are down. They are wandering in the soul, the wilderness, without rest, circling in the same rut day after day. They may have been following the Lord for twenty years, but are still going in circles, just as the people of Israel, who wandered for thirty-eight years with no improvement and no progress. Why? Because they are in the soul. When we are in the soul, we are in the wilderness.



The Economy of God, pp 31-32.

RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of our broadcast *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners so that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All responses should be addressed to *Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; via fax (714) 765-8024; email radioresponses@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

I live in Omaha, Arkansas. I recently received The Hearing of Faith by mail. I really appreciated it very much. I enjoyed particularly that we can muse upon His Word. We can rise up early before the dawn and cry out to the Lord that we need His Word, and we can believe His Word and muse upon it all day long. Thank you.

J.C., Omaha, Arkansas

What a rich enlightenment these depths of Witness Lee and Watchman Nee attain. Glorious and victorious is He who made all of this possible. Praise God!

**D.M., Trois Rivieres,
Quebec Canada**

I have to tell you that the New Testament Recovery Version is my favorite. It's a massive blessing. I've read and have many different Bible translations. [The New Testament Recovery Version] is indispensable. It's absolutely awesome. It's exactly what I've been looking for. It takes you into the deep spirit of the Word, and there's just nothing out there like it. So I want to thank you very much for that. The footnotes are incredible. When I'm in my office, the only thing I listen to is the past teaching by Witness Lee on the internet. God bless

you, and God bless your ministry. I really appreciate it.

J.P., Reseda, CA

The brilliance of Witness Lee and his inspired commentaries and explanations of the mysteries of the Word continue to inspire and uplift me.

T.G., Denver, CO


IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE LORD
HAS REAWAKENED MY
ATTENTION AND MY
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT
HIS TRUE DESIRE IS. HE
WANTS CHRIST FORMED
WITHIN ME.


I have been a Christian since 1954. I have felt there was something more than I was getting in my church. The Lord is working in my life, working Himself into my life. I can't get enough of Him. The radio ministry is part of that changing in me. I plan to be in my car at radio time because my apartment radio doesn't pick up AM stations.

M.W., Houston, TX

God bless and keep your endeavors to spread the good news of our Lord and

Savior Jesus Christ. I really enjoy your broadcast. I find the messages insightful and deep in its truths. I only hear the weekend edition of Life-study of the Bible and was curious to know whether the weekday broadcast airs on the radio in the south Florida area. If so, information for what stations and at what times would be greatly appreciated. I'm bilingual and can understand Spanish broadcasts as well.

A.R., Fort Lauderdale, FL

[Our Spanish broadcast can be heard in the Miami area every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 A.M. on station WVCG 1080 AM.]

I really love this ministry. I've been listening to the messages. I thought, I have to get these to have it and reread it and let it permeate my thoughts and my mind. It's so new to my ears and to my heart. I'm just taking so much of it in. It's almost as if the Lord has reawakened my attention and my understanding of what His true desire is. He wants Christ formed within me.

**D.R., Brossard,
Quebec Canada**

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 EXPERIENCE LIFE

THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE

Romans 8:2 says, "For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death." This verse speaks of four matters: a law, the Spirit, life, and Christ Jesus. The law is of the Spirit, the Spirit is of life, and this law has freed us in Christ Jesus. Christ is the Spirit, the Spirit is life, and with this life there is a law.

With any kind of life there is a certain law. A kind of law always accompanies a life. With the physical life there are many laws. After we eat a meal, there is a law within our body, especially in our stomach, to carry out the digestion. This is an automatic, unconscious action. If something operates unconsciously in us, it is a law. When we have trouble with our stomach, we are conscious of our digestion, but if we are normal and healthy, there is no consciousness of digestion. Rather, there is an automatic working in our stomach, which is a law. . . .

There is always a law within us. We have Christ in us, Christ is the Spirit, and this Spirit is the Spirit of life, even life itself. Within this very life there is a law. In order to know how to experience life, we must know that this very life within us has a law, which is called the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. With such a law it is so easy to experience life.

THE SENSE OF LIFE

Verse 6 goes on to say, "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace." This verse speaks of death on the one hand and of life and peace on the other. How can we know whether or not we are in the spirit? It is simply by checking whether or not we have life and peace. If we have life and peace, we are in the spirit. If we do not have life and peace, we have death, which proves that we are not in the spirit. . . .

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 one of our listeners is 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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Therefore, the way to experience Christ as life is simple. Romans 8:2 and 6 give us the way. Christ as the Spirit within us has a law. When we are in life, this automatic law always regulates us to sense peace, joy, happiness, comfort, and ease. When we are not in the Spirit of life, this law regulates us to feel that we are in darkness, that we are weak and do not have peace and rest. We must simply go along with the inner feeling, which comes automatically with the law of the Spirit of life. If we are about to say something that is not in the spirit, not in life, right away the automatic law spontaneously regulates us within. This is something within Christians that is wonderful yet mysterious.

How can we know that we are saved? We have been regenerated with a new heart and a new spirit, and the Triune God as life dwells within us. Our longing heart that loves the Lord is a strong proof that we are saved. In addition, with the Triune God dwelling within us, there is a natural, automatic, regulating law, living and spontaneously regulating us. If we have no law regulating us, it is doubtful that we are saved. When I was young, before I was regenerated, the more I quarreled with others, the more I felt self-glorified. Now after having been regenerated, there is something different within me. The more I quarrel, the more I am sorry. How do we know that we are saved persons? It is simply by the inner, living, automatic, spontaneous regulation. Even when we make a small mistake, something within regulates us. It is a law which is delicate and tender, yet deep and strong. Do not despise this law.

We have a spontaneous regulating law within us. This is the simple way to experience life. Sometimes, simply because we do not have this knowledge, we may go to the Lord and pray that He will help and strengthen us. However, if we neglect this law, no matter how much we pray we will still not be strong. Within us is an automatic law working spontaneously, and this law is unlimitedly powerful.

Praise the Lord, the Triune God as life is within us, and with this life is the automatic law which spontaneously regulates us! If we are in life, this law regulates us to sense life and peace, and when we are not in this life, this law regulates us to sense that we are in death, weakness, and darkness without joy, comfort, satisfaction, and all the items on the positive side. This is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. We should simply receive it and apply it day by day. Then we will realize how powerful the law of the divine life is.

Basic Principles of the Experience of Life, pp. 39-43, by Witness Lee