

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 15, JULY 1999

"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

W E L C O M E S

BEAUMONT, TX
KOLE 1340 AM
8:00 A.M. SAT-SUN

CHANGE OF TIME:

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL
105.1 FM, 945 AM, 6.280 SHORTWAVE
9:00 P.M. MON-FRI

LOS ANGELES, CA
KSGF 96.3 FM
10:30 P.M. MON-FRI
7:30 A.M. SUNDAY
9:00 P.M. SUNDAY

Dear Listeners,

This month brings us to the satisfying conclusion of *Life-study of Galatians*. As promised, *Life-study of Galatians* has been a fitting insert between the two halves of Exodus. By the Lord's faithful shining through this ministry of His Word, He has drawn us into a nourishing and intimate enjoyment of our dear Lord Jesus. We, just like the Galatians, are so quickly deceived into leaving the grace in Christ in exchange for the bondage of living by ethics and religious tradition. How we all need to see Christ as the absolute replacement of the law with its slavery and bondage!

The Lord has granted to His Body a marvelous treasure in this ministry of the divine life in Christ through two faithful servants, Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. This is a ministry that has been unknown to many people for most of this century. We derive much joy and satisfaction from your calls and letters as so many of you are discovering the sweet enjoyment and fresh revelation of Christ day by day in these incomparable life-study messages.

On July 26 we will return to *Life-study of Exodus* at the point where the Lord continues His revelation to Moses on the mountain of God. The tabernacle, a most wonderful Old Testament type of Christ, will be the focus of the remaining messages in Exodus. As a help to get into the unparalleled view of Christ seen in the type of the tabernacle, we are planning a free offer for all our listeners. Listen for details in the final programs from Galatians. We will also tell you about it in next month's *Hearing of Faith*. Until then, "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen" (Gal. 6:18).

Living Stream Ministry Radio

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 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*

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GRACE

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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 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.

Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF GALATIANS

“But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Gal. 5:16

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.” Gal. 5:25

“For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation is what matters.

And as many as walk by this rule, peace be upon them and mercy, even upon the Israel of God.” Gal. 6:16-17

TWO KINDS OF WALK BY THE SPIRIT

. . . In our daily living as Christians, we need to have two kinds of walk by the Spirit [Gal. 5:16 and 25]. The first is a general walk, whereas the second is the walk according to a certain rule or principle for the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose. In the first kind of walk, we need to display the fruit of the Spirit, the virtues listed in 5:22 and 23. However, we are not here simply to exhibit such virtues as love, joy, and peace. We are here for the fulfillment of God’s purpose. Thus, we need to walk according to certain rules or principles for the fulfillment of this purpose. For God’s purpose, we need to have a walk that is orderly, a walk that is according to certain elementary rules or basic principles. Loving and being joyful are not basic rules or principles. These are simply different aspects of our daily life as Christians, not the characteristics of the walk which leads to the fulfillment of God’s purpose. This walk, the second kind of walk by the Spirit, requires that we walk according to basic principles and elementary rules.

We may use the daily life of a young sister who is a student to illustrate the two kinds of walk by the Spirit. On the one hand, this sister lives with her family at home. If she truly lives Christ, she will show forth the virtues of Christ to the members of her family. On the other hand, she needs to be a proper student at school and fulfill all the requirements leading to graduation. At home she needs to walk as a daughter and sister, but at school she needs to walk as a proper student. She needs to have both the general walk at home with her family and the more specific walk at school according to basic rules and elementary principles.

. . . As God’s sons, we need a walk by the Spirit to express Christ in all His virtues. We also need another kind of walk by the Spirit, the walk according to certain rules or principles, leading toward the goal for the fulfillment of God’s purpose. If we have the second kind of walk by the Spirit, we shall be not only sons of God, but also a new creation and the Israel of God. We need to live the new creation and as the new Israel of God. In order to live a new creation and live as the Israel of God, we need the second kind of walk. We need to walk orderly according to the elementary principles of God’s economy. . . .

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE NEW CREATION

According to 6:15 and 16, the second kind of walk by the Spirit is intimately related to the new creation. Verse 15 declares, “For neither is circumcision anything nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.” Verse 16 goes on to speak of walking by “this rule.” The rule here is that of being a new creation. This new creation is equal to the Israel of God, also mentioned in verse 16. . . .

The difference between the old creation and the new creation is that in the old creation God was not added to man, but in the new creation He is dispensed into His chosen people. No matter how good Adam might have been before the fall, God had not been added to Adam. Adam was good, but he did not have the divine element within him. He was simply the old creation, the creation without the element of God. . . .

The new Israel of God must be a new creation. For this we need God Himself to be wrought into us, to saturate us, and to make us one with Him. Then we need to live such a mingled life. By living the mingled life of the new creation, we shall be the Israel of God on earth today, His princes and victors executing His authority and representing His government. Today’s Israel of God is a miniature of the coming New Jerusalem, which will be the ultimate consummation of the new creation and of the Israel of God. May we all see this and walk according to it!

Life-study of Galatians, Message 42, pp. 375-380

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.

The Living Stream Ministry is the best so far that I've ever heard in radio ministry. Thank you so much for sharing God's revealed wisdom through this radio broadcast and through printed material. I am eagerly waiting for Life-study of Exodus, Volumes 1-4.

G.B., Montreal, Quebec, Canada

I have only heard your program a few times on WDCX, but it touched my heart as the deepest Spirit-filled teachings I had ever listened to. My deepest desire is to hear more of the teachings of Witness Lee. I thank God for bringing me to hear these teachings on station WDCX.

M.D., Toronto, Ontario, Canada

As I listen to your program, I am encouraged to go forward in faith. Your commentary has brought additional light on the subjects I have listened to so far. I first heard you in 1998. Since then I have not missed a lesson, except when I really could not

help it. Financially I am poor, and healthwise I am poor. Nevertheless, I long to grow and be rich in Christ Jesus, and your ministry of teaching is helping me. Thank God and thank you!

Thank you for the free book entitled, The Triune God to Be Life to the

I am so thrilled to be able to absorb all you have by God's help. You outline and explain in detail God's great purpose and plan for His children. Keep going, my brethren, until His return which we long anticipate.

C.L., Toronto, Ontario, Canada



AS I LISTEN TO YOUR PROGRAM, I AM ENCOURAGED TO GO FORWARD IN FAITH.



After my mother had sent me the book of yours, The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man, studying God's Word was not the same. A lot of questions I had often wanted to ask were answered. Now every time I open the Bible it seems to come alive with new life. It is true that the

Tripartite Man. I am reading it over and over again to some of my grandchildren and to a friend who loves the Triune God. I would appreciate it if you sent me some more of your other free offers. Not only because they are free, which helped me to obtain the book in the first place, but because mostly my spirit is at rest with Witness Lee's commentary on the Bible.

Word is life and the truth will set you free! Thank you deeply and I pray for you.

E.W., Huntsville, TX

Y.A., Montreal, 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 EXERCISE OF OUR SPIRIT

Now that we have seen the importance of our spirit, we want to see the exercise of our spirit. We must build up a habit of exercising our spirit. When I rise up in the morning, the first thing I spontaneously say is "O Lord." To call on the Lord by saying, "O Lord" is a habit of exercising our spirit. To say "O Lord" as soon as you rise up in the morning makes a big difference. If you rise up in the morning without saying anything, you may pray in a routine way without really touching the Lord. This is because there is not exercise of your spirit. We have to build up a habit of saying, "O Lord." When we say, "O Lord," we touch the Lord. This is the habit of exercising our spirit.

At times we may be in a hard situation. We may be sick or we may have lost our job. At that time, we should exercise our spirit. We should force ourselves to say, "O Lord Jesus!" The word *exercise* implies forcing. To exercise is always a forced matter. When the Olympic athletes are exercising to practice or compete, they must have a strong will. They force themselves to exercise. If we Christians want to be strong and want to grow in the Lord, we must force ourselves to use our spirit.

Let us suppose that a problem comes into your family life. It may be a problem between you and your spouse, between you and your children, or between you and your parents. If you do not exercise your spirit at that time, your entire soul with your mind, will, and emotion will become prevailing. Then the soul will overcome and subdue you, conquering your spirit. This can even cause you to lose your temper in a bad way. Therefore, whenever you are in a hard situation, you have to force yourself to exercise your spirit. To force yourself to exercise, or to use, your spirit makes you a different person. . .

Second Timothy 1:6-7 indicates that we need to fan our spirit into flame. In these verses Paul said, "For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of

sobermindedness." Some might think that these verses do not say that we should fan our spirit but that we should fan our gift. But if you get into these verses, you will see that the fanning of our gift into flame is the fanning of our spirit into flame. Paul tells us in verse 6 to "fan into flame the gift of God." Then in verse 7 he says, "For God has not given us a spirit. . ." Our God-given spirit is what we must fan into flame. We have to fan our spirit. . .

If you want to fan your spirit into flame, you need to open up your mouth, open up your heart, and open up your spirit. You need to open these three layers of your being. You have to use your mouth to say, "O Lord Jesus." But then you have to go deeper by using your mouth with your heart to say, "O Lord Jesus." Then you need to go even deeper by using your heart and your spirit to say, "O Lord Jesus." This is to open up your spirit from deep within. Then the fire burns. If you are down, you should call, "O Lord Jesus" again and again from deep within with the exercise of your spirit. Then you will be up. . .

Paul had the revelation of this and also the experience. Verses 6 and 7 of 2 Timothy 1 are marvelous. These verses show us that we saved ones have the capital to live the Christian life and the church life. This capital is the God-given spirit. This God-given spirit, according to God's ordination, is surrounded by the power of our will, by the love of our emotion, and by the sobermindedness of our mind. These three helpers are surrounding our spirit, not to depress us, but rather to uplift us and help us. . .

. . . We should always believe and declare and claim that we are strong. We are full of love. We can love our enemies. We are well able to love everybody. We are very clear. Our sky is crystal clear. You have to believe because you have this capital. This is your capacity. You should claim and declare, "I am strong! I am loving! I am clear!" You are blessed if you say this. This is the way to exercise your spirit. This is to fan your spirit into flame. Then you will pray. The more you pray, the more you are fanning, and the more burning there will be within you.

. . . Today there are many things that are like cold water, trying to quench our inner flame. Sometimes a telephone call comes with bad news. Then someone comes to you with more bad news. Things will happen in our environment which can quench us. At that time, we have to fight. We have to declare the facts. We have to fan our spirit into flame. Then we will be the highest persons, the super persons.

The Spirit with Our Spirit, pp. 79-82, 84, 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 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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