

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 13, MAY 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

In

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Life-Study of the Bible

CHANGE OF TIME:

SPRINGFIELD, MA
WACE 730 AM
8:00 A.M. SUNDAY

LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE
CAN ALSO BE HEARD ON MORE THAN
EIGHTY RADIO STATIONS IN
CHINESE AND SPANISH.
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Dear Listeners,

The month of May brings us to a transition. On May 24th we will conclude the first half of *Life-study of Exodus* and begin broadcasting *Life-study of Galatians*. We have seen how Exodus portrays God's full salvation. Thus far we have journeyed with the children of Israel out of captivity in Egypt, into the wilderness, and to Mount Sinai where God gave them the law, a portrait of Himself. The uplifted view Witness Lee ministered to us on the law will forever change how we view and understand God's intention in giving the commandments.

Why are we interrupting this marvelous unveiling of God's loving interaction with His people to jump to the New Testament book of Galatians? One reason is that the *Life-study of Exodus* is lengthy with more than one hundred and eighty messages, and spiritually speaking, we have come to the midpoint of the book. The more compelling reason, however, is that the focus of Galatians fits so well at this point. God's intention in giving the law was to reveal Himself and to draw His people into intimate fellowship. However, the children of Israel, like so many of God's people today, took the law in a way that caused an even greater separation from God. This is the precise background of the book of Galatians as the apostle Paul labored to bring the believers out of an outward religion of striving to keep legal requirements, back to the experience and enjoyment of Christ as life.

After completing Galatians in July, we will return to the second half of Exodus as it reaches its peak—the unveiling of the blueprint of the tabernacle, a type of God's eternal dwelling place with man.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS THE DIVINE ROMANCE?

Throughout the centuries, God has had a romance with man. God created man with the purpose of having a counterpart (Gen. 1:26). His intention in creating man was not mainly to have servants. If we read the Bible in a pure way, without any preoccupations, we shall realize that God's purpose in creating man was to gain a counterpart. God is not a fighter; He is a lover. He created man in the image of Himself as a lover. This means that He created man so that man would love Him. In eternity God was alone; we may even say that He was lonely. His desire for love could not be fulfilled by angels. Therefore, God created man according to His own being. God is loving, and He wants man to love Him. In this way there will be a mutual relationship of love between God and mankind, those created to be His counterpart.

The Old Testament indicates clearly that God came in to choose Israel to be His spouse. In Jeremiah 31:3 the Lord says, “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.” When God appeared to His people, He “dated” them and later even courted them. According to Ezekiel 16, God loved Israel when He saw her in the wilderness. Verse 8 describes this love: “Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the

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DIVINE ROMANCE

(continued from page 1)

time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea I swear unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou becomest mine.” By entering into a covenant with Israel, God betrothed her to Himself. . . .

When the Lord Jesus came, He came as the Bridegroom for the bride. Many Christians are familiar with John the Baptist’s declaration: “Behold, the Lamb of God” (John 1:29). However, not so many realize that John also referred to the Lord Jesus as the Bridegroom. In John 3:29 he says, “He who has the bride is the bridegroom.” This word is included in a chapter on regeneration (John 3:3-6). The goal of regeneration is to produce and prepare the bride for the Bridegroom. . . . As God incarnate, Christ came not only to be our Redeemer and Savior; He also came to be our Bridegroom. . . .

The Lord Jesus regenerates the church so that the church may be His bride (John 3:3, 5, 29-30). The Lord is the Bridegroom with the divine life and the divine nature. If we would become His bride, we must also have the divine life and the divine nature. . . . In John 3 we see that regeneration qualifies us to be Christ’s bride. Only after we have been regenerated with the divine life and have thereby received the divine nature can we, sinners, be taken by Christ to be His love. . . .

At the end of this age, Christ will come to marry His redeemed and to take her as His wife (Rev. 19:7). The present age is an age of “dating,” courtship, and engagement between God and His people. At the end of this dispensation, there will be a glorious wedding day, at which time Christ will marry His redeemed ones. This revelation of the marriage between Christ and His redeemed ones is a major revelation in the Bible.

At the very end of the Bible we see that God will enjoy a married life with His people in eternity and for eternity. For eternity in the new heaven and new earth, the New Jerusalem will be the wife of the Lamb (Rev. 21:9). This is the fulfillment of God’s romance revealed in the Scriptures.

From Life-study of Exodus, Message 55, pp. 645-648.

For further reading on this subject, please see Life-study of Romans, Message 1; Life-study of Song of Songs; and Crystallization-study of Song of Songs, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF EXODUS

In Life-study of Exodus, Witness Lee gave many rich messages on the law as God’s living word. The following excerpt is from a message entitled “How the Old Testament Seekers of God Enjoyed His Law (2).”

If we read Psalm 119 carefully, we shall see that the psalmist considered the law of God as God’s word. Like all the other psalms, this psalm was not written according to doctrine or theology, but according to the deep sentiment and aspiration of the psalmist. . . .

In a number of verses the psalmist says that he mused upon God’s word (15, 23, 48, 78, 99, 148, Heb.). In each of these verses the King James Version uses the word *meditate*. However, in Psalm 55:17, the King James Version translates the same Hebrew word as *pray*. This Hebrew word is also used in Genesis 24:63, where we are told that Isaac went out in the field to meditate, or, as the margin says, to pray. Psalm 143:5 also uses this word: “I remember the days of old; I ponder all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands” (Heb.). Rich in meaning, the Hebrew word for muse, or meditate, implies to bow down, to converse with oneself, and to utter. According to the Old Testament, to meditate on the Word of God is to enjoy it by musing upon it.

To muse upon the Word is to “chew the cud,” like a cow eating grass (Lev. 11:3). As we muse upon the Word of God, we should “chew the cud.” If we take in the Word too quickly, we shall not have very much enjoyment. But if we “chew the cud” as we take in the Word, our enjoyment will increase.

When we muse upon the Word of God, enjoying it and even chewing it as a cow chews the cud, we shall spontaneously pray. Prayer is also included in musing upon the Word. Furthermore, we may converse with ourselves or begin to praise the Lord. We may be so inspired by the Word that we want to shout our praises to the Lord.

“ To muse upon the Word of God is to enjoy His Word as His breath. ”

Usually musing upon the Word will be slower and finer than pray-reading the Word. For example, in our musing upon Exodus 20:2 we may say to ourselves, “Remember that Jehovah is your Lord. He has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Now you are out. Amen! O Lord, I worship You for bringing me out of bondage!” In all our musing upon God’s Word, talking to the Lord or conversing with ourselves, we should be spontaneous and full of enjoyment. We may bow down to worship the Lord, ponder the Word, remember, or give ourselves a rebuke. All this is included in the practice of musing upon the Word of God. Any genuine seeker of the Lord who muses upon the Ten Commandments in a living way will enjoy the Lord, worship Him, pray, converse with himself in the Lord’s presence, and also praise the Lord. Surely one who takes the law of God in such a way will not apply it as dead letters, but will take it as God’s living word.

To muse upon the Word of God is to enjoy His Word as His breath. It is to contact God in the Word and to have fellowship with Him, to worship Him, and to pray to Him through and with the Word. By musing upon the Word of God in this way, we shall be infused by God, breathe Him into us, and receive spiritual nourishment. . . .

The psalmist waited for the Lord’s word, hoped in it, and arose before dawn to cry out to the Lord that he needed His word. Then he mused upon the Word, worshipping the Lord, praying to Him, and receiving His supply. He also spoke to himself and instructed himself with the Word of God. All this is part of musing upon the Word of God.

Life-study of Exodus, Msg. 57, pp. 669-672, by Witness Lee

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 listen to your Living Stream radio program on WACE, Chicopee, Massachusetts, every day. Wonderful, is my comment. It is like receiving a gift every day, a gift to be shared.

W.T., Ludlow, MA

I cannot begin to commend your program highly enough. I can honestly say that aside from when I was initially born again, nothing has so profoundly changed me. The programs and writings of Brother Witness Lee have led me into a much deeper and more profound relationship with my dear Lord and Savior. Other people's ministries by comparison seem shallow. I find that no longer do I want to waste my time watching television at night. Instead, I prefer to spend time with my Lord as I devour Brother Lee's books. What a wealth of spiritual insights the Lord granted him! And how He has used these insights to draw me closer and closer to Himself. I praise God that you were led to air the broadcast in the Houston area. I try never to miss a day.

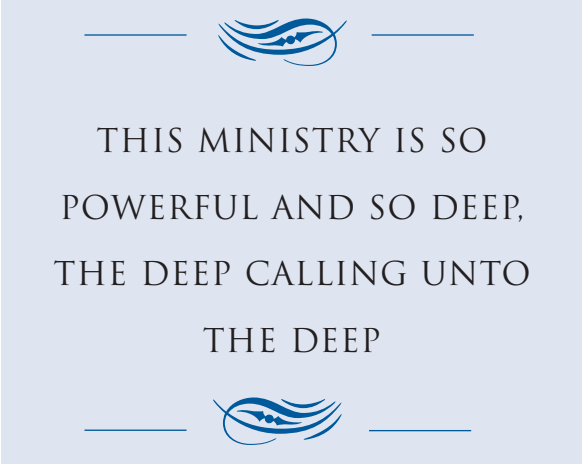
May the Lord continue to bless Living Stream Ministry, as well as all of you individually.

C.S., Cypress, TX

I am enjoying this radio broadcast to the uttermost. Whenever I miss a message, I feel as if I have lost a great treasure. I am so thankful to the Lord that He made it possible for this unique ministry to come on the air. May God richly bless

this ministry and keep it on the air until all the seeking believers who hear are fully transformed into precious materials for His building, His habitation.

B.O., Texas City, TX



THIS MINISTRY IS SO
POWERFUL AND SO DEEP,
THE DEEP CALLING UNTO
THE DEEP

This ministry is so powerful and so deep, the deep calling unto the deep. What I've enjoyed the most is the revelation of God imparting His life into His people that they may become His corporate expression. This vision is wonderful! Oh, how we desperately need God's life to spread from our spirit into our mind, will, and emotions. Only this ministry has God blessed with this vision. I am truly blessed to be a part of it. Praise the Lord! I truly thank Him for His mercy! Amen!

S.B., Miami, FL

Below are responses to an article about pray-reading the Word of God under "The Path of Life" column in issues 9 and 10 of this newsletter.

It's amazing. It taught me how to pray in spirit, any time of the day, by using the Word of God only. I don't have to try to

come up with my own elaborate prayers. All I've got to do is read the Bible. You repeat what you just read in the Bible and come out with the same prayer, the same words, and you have prayed the most wonderful prayer.

P.F., Montreal Nord, Canada

I am truly blessed by the material I just received, especially "The Path of Life." I have started to pray-read, and it's very exciting. Keep up the good work. God bless you more and more.

M.K., Ville La Salle, Quebec, Canada

I read that to my husband, and he really liked it. It reminds me of when God breathed into Adam.

Every word is living. It talked about praying the word as a prayer. Every time you read the word, you take every word, and it comes out as a prayer. Sometimes we think it's just words, but we don't realize that every word is life and has life in it. It's beautiful, and I like it a lot. I have been thinking on it because it is the key. You took it out of 2 Tim. 3:16, "All Scripture is God-breathed." I have been meditating on it since I read it yesterday. I read last night, thinking how every word is life-giving, and every word has power.

C.L., West Vancouver, B.C., 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.

KNOWING THE HUMAN SPIRIT

THE MIND, THE FLESH, AND THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:6 says, "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace." . . . The mind represents the self, the body is the flesh, and our spirit contains the Spirit (Rom. 8:16). In our spirit is the Triune God (Eph. 4:6; Gal. 2:20; John 14:17) as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17; 2 Tim. 4:22; 1 Cor. 6:17). Within us there are three parties: Satan as sin is in our flesh (Rom. 7:17, 18, 20), God is in our spirit, and the self is in our soul represented by our mind. To set the mind on the flesh means to take sides with the flesh, to cooperate with the flesh, to stand with the flesh. To set the mind on the flesh is death. To set the mind on the spirit means to take sides with the spirit, to cooperate with the spirit, to stand with the spirit. To set the mind on the spirit is life and peace.

DISCERNMENT BY SENSING

The way to know life and peace is by sensing life and peace. When you take sides with the spirit, cooperate with the spirit, walk in the spirit, and do things by the spirit, you sense life and peace.

An example may help to illustrate what the sense of life is. When I was a young boy, I attended a feast. On the table there were two kinds of white, fine powder: refined sugar and refined salt. I put a lot of salt on a certain food, thinking that I was using sugar. When I put the food into my mouth, I suffered. I sensed that the powder I used was not sugar, but salt. Though my eyes could not discern the difference between the sugar and salt, my taste could. This is the way to discern the spirit—by sensing.

THE SENSE OF LIFE

The first item of the sense of life is satisfaction. How do you know there is life within? There is satisfaction. You are satisfied and you sense the satisfaction. Then following satisfaction you have the sense of strengthening. When you are taking sides with the spirit, you also have the sense of refreshment. The sense of being watered is another sense of life. A person who is setting his mind on the spirit also senses enlightenment and the anointing (1 John 2:20, 27). The sense of life is the sense of satisfaction, strengthening, refreshing, watering, enlightenment, and anointing. When you sense all these items deep within, that is the sense of life, and this sense proves you are walking according to spirit.

THE SENSE OF PEACE

To set the mind on the spirit is not only life but peace. The peace mentioned in Romans 8:6 is not the peace in our outward circumstances, but the peace within us. The sense of peace is firstly the sense of ease or comfort. Then following this there is harmony. There is no struggle or strife within. Rest, joy, and liberty are also included in the sense of peace. When you sense peace, you sense comfort, harmony, rest, joy, and liberty. These are the different aspects of the sense of peace. If we sense these things within us, this proves we are walking in the spirit.

THE SENSE OF DEATH

Whenever you take sides with the flesh the result is death. You know death because you can sense it. You have the feeling, the consciousness of death. When you do things according to the flesh or according to your self you sense dissatisfaction and emptiness. Something within is also weakening you. This proves you are not in the spirit, but in the flesh or the soul. Oldness, dryness, darkness, and depression are other aspects of the sense of death versus the sense of life. Strife, discord, discomfort, restlessness, pain, bondage, and grief are aspects of the sense of death versus the sense of peace. When you have all these kinds of feelings, then you know where you are—you are in death. Don't argue or reason. Even if what you are doing is good and "holy," you must check with your inner feeling. Do you have the ease, harmony, rest, comfort, joy, or liberty?

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ACCORDING TO SPIRIT

If you have these positive inward registrations and feelings, this proves you are in the spirit. If you don't have these kinds of feelings, regardless of how holy, how good, and how scriptural you consider a course of action to be, you are not in the spirit, but in the self, in the flesh. The Christian life is a life absolutely according to the spirit. It is not according to any reasons, any teachings, or any standard of right or wrong, good or bad, worldly or holy. Our Christian life is according to spirit, and we know the spirit by the inner sense of life and peace. . . .

Our Human Spirit, pp. 65-68, 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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