

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 18, OCTOBER 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

LOS ANGELES, CA
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Dear Listeners,

Thank you for your encouragement! Many of you have told us that your view of the Old Testament has become fresh and new from these broadcasts in Exodus. One of the things that we appreciate in this ministry is that the unveiling of the types in the Old Testament brings to us a deeper and richer enjoyment of Christ. We hope this has been true for you as well.

Enclosed with this edition of *The Hearing of Faith* is our *Reference Guide to the Tabernacle*. The response from our listeners to this short guide was so positive that we decided to send this valuable resource to all of you.

You probably noticed the new reply card we sent you in last month's mailing. It is important that we hear from you, so we included some extra options on the card. Please take note of them. We have also provided more space for your comments, and we hope that you will take the time to write us.

Finally, many of you who listen to the broadcast over the Internet have told us that you have experienced difficulty with your connection. By the time you receive this month's issue, those technical problems should all be resolved. Please send us an email at radio@lsm.org if you are still having problems.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

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 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 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.

(continued on page 2)

CHRIST

(continued from page 1)

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.

Excerpt from

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE BY WATCHMAN NEE

The book How to Study the Bible contains messages given by Watchman Nee in Kuling, China, during his training for his co-workers between 1948 and 1949. The following excerpt is from chapter one entitled "Three Prerequisites."

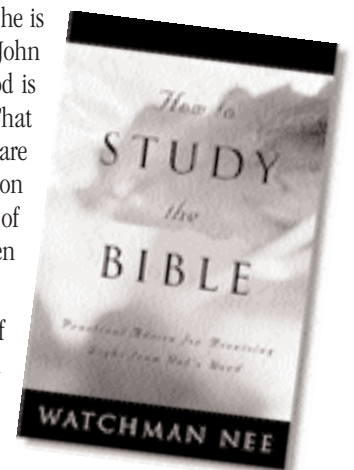
THE NEED TO BE SPIRITUAL

In John 6:63 the Lord Jesus said, "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit." The words of the Bible are not only letters but spirit. We also should recall the Lord's word in John 4:24: "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit." Here the Lord points out a fundamental principle: God is Spirit, and man can only touch Him with his spirit. God is Spirit and we can only worship Him with our spirit; we cannot worship Him with anything other than the spirit. God is Spirit, and we cannot worship Him with our mind, emotion, or will. Colossians 2:23 speaks of "self-imposed worship." This means worshipping with the will. This is wrong because God is Spirit, and because God is Spirit, those who worship Him must worship in spirit. John 6 says that the Lord's words are spirit. The basic principle is the same: Since the Lord's words are spirit, we have to read them in spirit. In other words, we can only touch spiritual things with the spirit.

The Bible is not only a book with words or letters printed on pages of paper. The very nature of the Bible is spirit. For this reason, everyone who reads this book must approach it *with his spirit*; it must be read *with the spirit*. The spirit that we are referring to is the spirit of every regenerated person. We call this spirit the "regenerated spirit." Not everyone has this spirit. Therefore, not everyone can read the Bible well. Only those who have this spirit can read the Bible well; those who do not have this spirit cannot read it well. This spirit is needed to worship God. This same spirit is needed to read the Bible well. Without this spirit, a man cannot know God. Without this spirit, he cannot know the Bible either. Perhaps we were born into a Christian family. Before we were regenerated, we probably had read the Bible already, but we did not understand it. We understood the history and facts recorded in the Bible, but we did not understand the Bible itself. This is not surprising, because God's word is spirit. If we do not use our spirit, we cannot read this book. When can a man begin to understand the Bible? On the day he receives the Lord, he can begin to understand the Bible. From that day forward, the Bible will become a new book to him; he will begin to understand and treasure this book. Although he may not understand everything in it, he will begin to love it. He will read it daily and yearly. If he misses his reading, he will feel hungry; he will feel that something is missing in his life. When he reads God's word this way, he will begin to understand it. He can understand it because he is now regenerated. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). We should put John 4:24, 6:63, and 3:6 together: "God is Spirit," "The words which I have spoken. . . are spirit," and "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit." The words in the Bible are spirit. The life which a man receives at the time of regeneration is spirit, and it takes a man with a spirit to read the words of spirit. Only then will the Bible shine within him, and only then will it become useful to him. . . .

. . . One must read the Bible with his spirit and in the realm of spirit. No matter how educated, logical, and analytical a man is, he cannot understand the Bible if he does not have this spirit.

From How to Study the Bible by Watchman Nee, pp. 9-11, published by Living Stream Ministry



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'm from Redondo Beach, California, and listen to the broadcast every weekday. I'm enjoying Life-study of Exodus, and I would like to request the diagram that was mentioned on the broadcast of the tabernacle with all the various things that are therein. If I can get that I surely would appreciate it. I really enjoy the Living Stream program. It's like the highlight of the evening. I just turn everything else off, turn on the radio, and open up the Bible, and it's as if the light and the life of God just comes out of the radio. There is an enjoyment there. The Word comes alive. I surely appreciate the broadcast, and I thank you. I'm keeping you in prayer.

P.V., Redondo Beach, CA

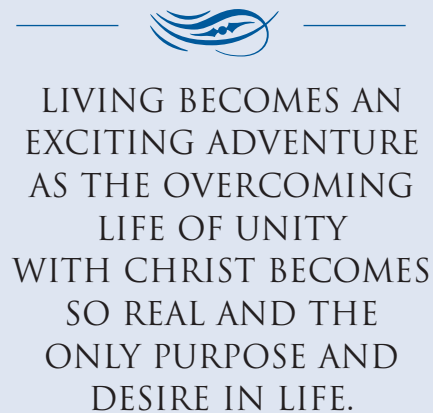
I heard you advertising the life-study tapes and I would appreciate it very much if someone could call me concerning them. I listen to your program every day. It's wonderful. I don't think I've ever listened to a show that has blessed my life spiritually more than this one has. I just appreciate it so much. Thank you very much.

D.S., Grand Prairie, TX

I would like Reference Guide to the Tabernacle. I just heard about it this morning, and I think it's wonderful. All the studies are excellent. I'm learning so much and

growing in my spiritual life. Thank you very much and God bless you.

M.H., Houston, TX



LIVING BECOMES AN
EXCITING ADVENTURE
AS THE OVERCOMING
LIFE OF UNITY
WITH CHRIST BECOMES
SO REAL AND THE
ONLY PURPOSE AND
DESIRE IN LIFE.

I am an inmate and heard your broadcast in May while in the hospital. The Word of God brought forth healing in spirit, body, and soul.

A brother in Christ, DeQuincy, LA

I enjoy your teaching so very much. I've been enlightened, encouraged, and strengthened by the Word of God as you have taught it. I used to hear you on a station here in Chicago, but I can't get you anymore. Please send me a listing of your radio programs so I can hear you again in this area. Thank you and may God bless you.

D.R., Chicago, IL

I enjoyed the excerpt from The Economy of God by Witness Lee [in The Hearing of Faith, August 1999]. The diagram shows the tabernacle, the three circles, the map of the wilderness, and what happened to Israel. It compares the three different aspects within a diagram for me. Wonderful! But the article itself was so uplifting. It's used with what we have been reading and studying. The joy that one gets from studying this and the release in the spirit is the knowledge that there is more to the relationship with God. It's a very remarkable work. Witness Lee's teaching on the tabernacle is very uplifting, exciting, and encouraging. He makes the teaching so vivid and accessible to all seekers. He inspires one to desire only to surrender to Christ. Living becomes an exciting adventure as the overcoming life of unity with Christ becomes so real and the only purpose and desire in life. What a blessing these teachings are. The depths of these lessons are the equivalent of college courses. We are indeed blessed that you so willingly share the meat of God's Word. May God richly reward all who are a part of this ministry.

C.P., Sierra Madre, CA

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 FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE PART 2

KEEPING OURSELVES IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE

When we are in the light and we sense our faults and defilement, but we do not confess and apply the blood, the flow within us is stopped. Then we are out of the light; we are in darkness. We do not have the refreshment, we do not have the anointing, and we lose the joy, peace, and satisfaction. Following this, we may do more damage and even commit serious sins, simply because we are out of the stream, the current, the flow, the fellowship. . . .

Sometimes when we are about to do something, we know that we are out of the fellowship. We know we should stop, but do we do not stop. After we do such a thing, we may not be able to pray for two or three days. Even if we want to pray, we cannot because we are out of the fellowship. According to the spiritual law, there must be a consequence for a period of time. The Lord may punish us in this way for one or two days to the extent that even if we want to come back to the fellowship, we are not able. We must come to the Lord and confess our sins to recover the lost fellowship. . . .

However, if we are always faithful to walk and live in the fellowship, it is easy to be happy and refreshed. We know the smiling of the Lord because we are in the current, the flow, the stream. By this we can see that after we are regenerated and receive the eternal life, we must learn to keep ourselves in the fellowship of life.

THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF LIFE, THE LAW OF LIFE, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE

The fellowship has very much to do with the law of life and the consciousness of life, the inner feeling. The more we are in the fellowship, the more we have the inner feeling, the inner consciousness, and the more tender and delicate we are in feeling and consciousness. Then, even if we sin a little, we sense it; we have a very tender, delicate, and keen feeling. This keen feeling comes from the thorough fellowship of life.

. . . Out of ten Christians today it is rather hard to find one who strictly walks, lives, and works in the fellowship of life. Even in one day we may be out of the fellowship many times. What is a spiritual person? A spiritual person is one who strictly walks, acts, and lives in the fellowship of life. Such a person is always able to have the inner sense, the inner feeling. Then the law of life follows the inner sense, the inner feeling, to regulate this person all the time, and by this regulating all the riches of the divine life are applied to him and are enjoyed and experienced by him. . . .

CARING FOR THE INWARD FLOW

To be a Christian is not an outward matter; it is an inward matter. While we are doing something, we should check to see if the inward current is still flowing within us. Many times I have had a certain thought to do something, and I even have spoken with someone about it. After a few words, however, I stopped. Sometimes this surprises people. They say, "Brother Lee, you started to raise a matter, but after two words you just stopped. What happened to you?" I prefer not to explain, but I know I have to stop because the inward flow stopped. I know that I cannot persist.

We must always keep ourselves in the flow of the inward current. There is no need to argue about this. Argument gets us nowhere. Even while we are arguing or doing something else against the Lord, we have the inner sense that the flow within us is stopped. When this happens, we need to stop in order to recover the fellowship. We may have many questions, but to care for the inward flow of life is the one answer which is good for all of them. There is no need to ask about many things. We must simply care for whether or not the current within us is stopped or is flowing.

To be a Christian is very simple, but often people do not believe this. The divine life constantly flows as a current; this is the fellowship of life. To be a Christian with this flow within is simple, but to be a Christian without the inward flow is very complicated. Brothers and sisters, we must practice to be inward Christians, not outward ones. To do this will save us much trouble, and we will understand many things more deeply because we are in the inward flow, the inward fellowship. . . .

We have life. Now we need to be in the fellowship of life. Then we will have the light, we will enjoy the cleansing of the blood, and we will share the anointing. Then the anointing will bring more fellowship, more light, and more cleansing of the blood in a cycle. This is wonderful! This is the way of growth, and this is the proper spiritual way to go on with the Lord. I hope we will not take this message lightly or merely as a doctrine or teaching. May we take this as a direction for our day-by-day exercise.

Basic Principles of the Experience of Life, pp. 72-75, 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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