

# 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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### Life-Study of the Bible

#### W E L C O M E S

BOISE, ID  
KKIC 950 AM  
9:00 A.M. SUN

LONDON, ENGLAND  
PREMIER CHRISTIAN RADIO  
1305 AM, 1332 AM, & 1413 AM  
3:00 P.M. MON-FRI  
3:30 P.M. SAT & SUN

PHILADELPHIA, PA  
WWDB 860 AM  
4:00 P.M. MON-FRI  
4:00 P.M. SAT & SUN

AUGUSTA, GA  
WGAC 580 AM  
10:00 A.M. SUNDAY

Dear Life-study Listener,

You may sometimes hear us use terms in our broadcasts that are not familiar to you. We devote our “What Is” column each month in *The Hearing of Faith* to help explain these terms. Last month our topic for the column was the matter of the kingdom. This month the topic is the seed of the kingdom, and next month we will cover the rapture of the overcomers. These three topics together give a short summary of the gospel of the kingdom in Matthew. First, we see the reality of the kingdom of the heavens in chapters five through seven. Then in chapter thirteen we see the appearance of the kingdom. Last, we see the manifestation of the kingdom in chapters twenty-four through twenty-five.

If you would like clarification on other terms that we mention, we welcome your correspondence. We hope the “What Is” column, and the rest of *The Hearing of Faith*, is helpful to you, and your written and telephone responses are always appreciated.

In our “Path of Life” articles the last few months, we have used excerpts from the book *Basic Principles of the Experience of Life*. Some of you have called and expressed an interest in the book. Our desire is to help direct each of you into a deeper and more personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Please see the insert which we have included in this month’s mailing for more details and information on how to purchase this book.

Living Stream Ministry

## WHAT IS THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM?

In Mark 4:26-29 the Lord Jesus used a parable to illustrate the kingdom of God. He said that the kingdom is like a seed sown into the earth, which grows until it is mature, and then it is harvested. Earlier in the same chapter the Lord had spoken another parable, the parable of the sower (vv. 1-20). In this parable the sower is the Lord Jesus (Matt. 13:37), and the seed sown by the Lord is the word of the kingdom (Mark 4:14; Matt. 13:19). Within every seed there is a life element. The life element in the seed of the kingdom, the word spoken by the Lord Jesus, is the Spirit, who is the reality and the realization of the Lord Himself (John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6b, 17). Thus, the seed of the kingdom is Christ Himself as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45). The soil into which the seed of the kingdom is sown is the hearts of men (Matt. 13:19). The Lord as the sower sows Himself as the seed of life in

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## SEED

(continued from page 1)

His Word into the hearts of men that He might grow there until He reaches maturity at the time of harvest—the consummation of the age (Matt. 13:38-39; Rev. 14:1-5, 14-16).

In Matthew 6:10 the Lord taught us to pray to the Father, “Your kingdom come.” How does the kingdom come? The kingdom comes by the growth of Christ as the seed of the kingdom in us. And how can Christ grow in us? According to Matthew 5:3 and 8, there are at least two requirements: first, we need to be poor in spirit, and second, we must be pure in heart. To be poor in spirit simply means to be empty in our spirit—to have no preoccupations of any kind in our spirit. To be pure in heart is to seek only God and to have no other goal except God Himself. In the parable of the sower, the Lord spoke of four kinds of soil into which the seed of the kingdom is sown: the ground beside the way, which signifies the heart that is hardened by the traffic of the world and is not able to receive the seed; the rocky ground, which signifies the heart that is shallow in receiving the word of the kingdom because of hidden sins, personal desires, self-seeking, and self-pity; the thorny ground, symbolizing the heart that is filled with the anxieties of the age, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts for other things, which choke the word and prevent it from growing and bearing fruit; and the good earth, signifying the heart that gives every inch of its ground to receive the word that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold. We all need to ask ourselves what kind of soil we are for Christ as the seed of the kingdom. Are we the wayside, the rocky ground, the thorny ground, or the good earth? We need to pray and ask the Lord to make us poor in spirit and pure in heart. Then we will be the good earth in which the Lord Jesus can grow to maturity so that the kingdom of God can come and be manifested on the earth.

For further reading on this subject, please see *A Brief Definition of the Kingdom of the Heavens and The Kingdom*, both by Witness Lee; and the footnotes on *Matthew 13:3-8 and Mark 4:3 in the New Testament Recovery Version*, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Witness Lee wrote over two hundred hymns which have been included in *Hymns*, published by Living Stream Ministry. The following is one of several hymns which he wrote concerning the kingdom of God. May we be those who live according to Christ's ruling within us today!

8. 8. 8. 3.



2 His life with His authority  
Enthrones Him now within our hearts  
To govern all our words and deeds  
And regulate our inward parts.

3 The Lord enthroned within our hearts  
His Kingdom doth establish there,  
Assuring His full right to reign  
And for God's purpose to prepare.

4 'Tis by His reign within our hearts  
That life to us He e'er supplies;  
When taking Him as Lord and King,  
His wealth our being satisfies.

5 'Tis by His ruling from within  
His fulness vast is testified;  
'Tis when His inner kingdom rules  
His Body's blessed and edified.

6 'Tis by His heav'nly rule within  
As heav'nly citizens we live;  
'Tis by submission to His rule  
Expression of His reign we give.

7 Here in this heav'nly realm we live,  
And with this heav'nly pow'r possessed  
We walk and fight in heav'nly light  
Until the Kingdom's manifest.

(Hymns #942)

# 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 *The Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; via fax (714) 765-8024; or email to [radioresponses@lsm.org](mailto:radioresponses@lsm.org). Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

*The ministry has been such a blessing to me. You have shown me how everything in the Word reveals Jesus. To me, this is different from stories about Jesus. I now see He is EVERYTHING and want to be able to better recognize Him as I read the Word. I love the Exodus series. What revelation! The Lord bless you all at Living Stream Ministry.*

J.M., Burnaby, BC, Canada

*Thank you for giving my name to a group meeting in Augusta as I requested. Meeting with them is*

*a great blessing. Watchman Nee's books have transformed my life. Over the years I have been able to share those truths with others.*

M.A., Augusta, GA

*always the death of Christ. I loved it when Brother Lee wrote that whenever we have an opinion, thought, will, or desire to express, we need to pray and contact the Lord. I praise the Lord for His just-on-time feeding in such a practical and subjective way!*

Z.Q., Madison, MS

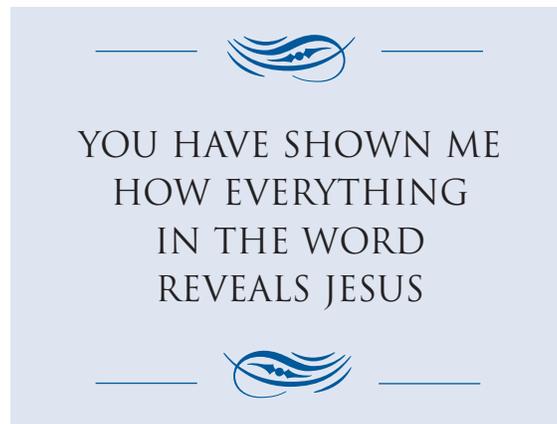
*I have been listening to you for a year now and I like the way you present what the Bible is really about. By comparing the New Testament to the Old*

*Testament, I know now that both of the testaments are related. I thank you all very much for such clear teaching of the Bible.*

K.L., Clovis, CA

*Thank you for sending me The Hearing of Faith. So many times the Lord speaks to me through the articles in the magazine. Just recently, I pondered over the matter of denying the soul-life and somehow got stuck.*

*Once again, our dear Lord (through you) sent me the answers by the two articles in your two latest issues. My eyes were opened to see that the way to deny the self is in the Holy Spirit and that with the Holy Spirit there is*



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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.*

## DEALING WITH THE WORLD

### THE WORLD BEING A SATANIC SYSTEM

Food, protection, and pleasure are necessary for human existence and living, but because humans have lost God, they now care for their own living, protection, and amusement. Humans sense the need for these things, and without a doubt we do need them. The problem, however, is that the enemy of God, Satan, came in to take advantage of these needs to organize a system, a *kosmos*, which is the world. The world is a satanic system, an organization systematized by Satan. Satan has systematized all these needs and organized them in order to systematize people. . . .

#### Being That Which Possesses and Usurps Us

If something that is necessary for our life—even our wife, husband, children, or parents—becomes more to us than God, it is the world. In order to exist as humans, we need to have parents, marry, have children, eat, and drink, but at a certain point all these necessities may become something more than the Lord to us; then they become the world. This is why the Lord told us to follow Him to the extent that we give up not only the surplus of the necessary things but also, at times, the necessary things themselves. . . .

We Christians today often neglect many words of the Lord. We read the word of the Lord concerning forsaking the world, but we may give up nothing. It seems to some that to be a Christian is to be a happy, healthy person. They may never realize that to be a Christian we need to give up many things. The

gospel preached in Christianity today is very different from that preached by the Lord. Today some preach the gospel by telling people that when they become a Christian, things will be very nice and happy. In this way the preachers simply fool people. However, the Lord never fooled us. When He preached the gospel, He told us clearly that in order to follow Him we must forsake everything and come and follow Him (Matt. 8:19-22; 19:21). What must we forsake? It is the things other than God Himself. However, it is regrettable that among Christians today there is very little forsaking and giving up. . . .

#### BEING CLOTHED WITH THE SPIRIT BY DEALING WITH THE CONSCIENCE AND WITH THE WORLD

To deal with the conscience and to deal with the world are two serious tests. Many Christians today are powerless because inwardly their conscience is full of offenses, and outwardly they have many worldly things. They are inwardly damaged in their conscience and outwardly usurped, possessed, and occupied by the world. How can such persons be powerful? Many Christians today talk about the baptism and outpouring of the Holy Spirit to be clothed with power from on high, but where is the power? If we would simply deal with our conscience and deal with and forsake the worldly things, we will have power. . . .

Many people are desirous to have power, but who will pay the price? Who will deal with the conscience, and who will deal with the world? Some may say that we need to have our living. That is right; we do need to have a living for our existence. However, we must still go to the Lord to be checked through thorough prayer, to "pray through." If we go to the Lord to deal with the conscience within and the worldly things without, we will see what kind of Christians we are. We will see in how many things we need to be dealt with. We will realize that we have many things that are the world, things that are something other than the Lord Himself. . . .

There is a spiritual illness in our conscience; our conscience is not healthy. Moreover, there is something usurping, possessing, and occupying us all the time. We are not free; we are under the bondage of the world. Therefore, we need cleansing and purging in our conscience, and we need deliverance from the worldly things. There is a real battle here. The world is a strategic point to the enemy, and he does not want to give up this point. As long as the enemy can usurp us by the world, that is sufficient for him. Therefore, we must go to the Lord and pray. . . .

Here we sense the need for real, prevailing prayer. We do not need more knowledge. What we need is something real and practical. This requires us to pray much concerning our dealing with the conscience and our dealing with the world.

*Basic Principles of the Experience of Life*, pp. 137-142, 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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