

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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Dear Life-study Listener,

We hope you are enjoying *Life-study of Matthew*. By the time you read this, our daily program will be entering Matthew chapters five through seven where the Lord Jesus decrees the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens. Every nation has a constitution that governs it. We believers are the citizens of a heavenly commonwealth (Phil. 3:20). As kingdom people, it is important to know the contents of our constitution, the spiritual and heavenly principles of the kingdom of the heavens. Without seeing this, we cannot be ambassadors representing Christ's kingdom to a lost world. Please stay tuned. You will not want to miss any of these crucial programs.

We are grateful to the Lord for expanding *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* overseas. As we announced in our December newsletter, we recently began broadcasting in London, England. The response from listeners of the program there has truly been remarkable. Some have begun to receive *The Hearing of Faith*. The positive response from so many has encouraged us to pray more for the Lord's move in Great Britain. May the Lord feed all His hungry seekers throughout that land through this ministry!

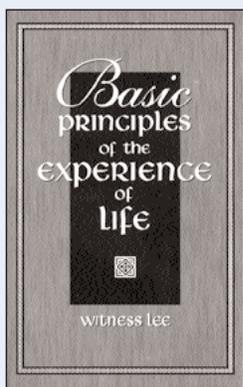
Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM?

In a general sense, the kingdom is the sphere in which God exercises His authority so that He may express His glory. As revealed in the Bible, the kingdom of God is an eternal kingdom (Dan. 4:3); it existed in eternity past without beginning, and it continues throughout all time to eternity future without end.

In the first book of the Bible, God created man in His image and according to His likeness so that man might express God. He also gave man dominion over all created things and charged man to multiply and fill the earth and subdue it so that God might have a kingdom on earth in which to carry out His purpose in man (Gen. 1:26-28). However, man became corrupted and fallen to such an extent that God could no longer accomplish His purpose through the created race. Eventually, God called Abraham out of that race and promised to make of him a great nation, which is the kingdom of God (Gen. 12:2). Abraham's descendants fell into slavery in Egypt, but after 430 years God brought them out through Moses and told them that He would make them a kingdom of

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KINGDOM

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priests (Exo. 19:6). Thus, the nation of Israel was the kingdom of God in the Old Testament (Matt. 21:43).

At the beginning of the New Testament, the kingdom was the first thing preached as the gospel by both John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus, who told people to “Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near” (Matt. 3:1-2; 4:17). Those who hear the gospel, repent, believe in the Lord Jesus, and are baptized enter into the kingdom of God. In John 3:5 the Lord told Nicodemus that he had to be born of the Spirit in order to enter into the kingdom of God. This indicates that to enter into the kingdom, we must be born of God and receive the divine life, the life of God. Those who live in the divine kingdom must have the divine life, just as those in the animal kingdom possess the animal life. When we live by the divine life, not by our natural human life, we live in the reality of the kingdom of God. In Romans 14, in his word concerning the life of the church, the apostle Paul referred to the kingdom of God (v. 17), indicating that in the New Testament age, the kingdom of God is actually the church, composed of all the real believers in Christ (Matt. 16:18-19).

Although every believer is a member of the church and is thus included in the kingdom of God, there is still a need for believers to overcome every form of degradation (Rev. 2:7, 17, 26-29; 3:5-6, 12-13, 21-22). The overcomers are those who enjoy Christ and live Christ as the life of the kingdom, and in so doing they grow in the divine life unto maturity (2 Pet. 1:3-11). At Christ's second coming, the overcoming believers will inherit the kingdom in the millennium as a reward and will reign with Christ over the nations for 1000 years (Rev. 2:26-27; 20:4, 6). Eventually, the kingdom will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the eternal kingdom of God, an eternal realm of the eternal blessing of God's eternal life, which all God's redeemed people will enjoy in the new heaven and new earth for eternity (Rev. 21:1-4; 22:1-5, 14).

For further reading on this subject, please see A Brief Definition of the Kingdom of the Heavens, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Excerpt from

THE KINGDOM

BY WITNESS LEE

The book The Kingdom contains messages given by Witness Lee in Los Angeles in 1972. The following excerpt is from chapter thirty-two entitled “The Reality of the Kingdom (1).”

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.” Matthew 5:3*

To be poor in our spirit means to empty all the things other than God out of our spirit. We all have to empty our spirit. Our spirit is only for God. This means we have to empty out everything else that may be within our spirit. We need to be empty in our spirit for God. Unfortunately, most of us have something other than God filling our spirit. Don't think that your knowledge remains only in your mind. Through your mind, your knowledge can enter into your spirit and occupy it. Don't think that your hatred remains only in your heart. The hatred can also enter into your spirit and occupy it. Don't think your human, natural, fleshly love remains only in your emotion. It too can get into your spirit and occupy it. Then your spirit will be filled up with knowledge, hatred, or love. Once your spirit is filled up, there is no room left for God.

When the kingdom comes, we need to be empty and poor in our spirit, so that we can take God into us. This, however, does not mean to have a poor spirit. Do not have a poor spirit, but be poor in your spirit. This means to have nothing in your spirit except God. When the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, and high priests came to the Lord Jesus, they were all filled up in their spirit with all kinds of junk which they regarded as treasures. Their traditions, their religion, their rituals, their scriptural knowledge, their forms, and all their old religious Jewish practices had become so much junk filling up their spirit. Furthermore, their concepts and philosophical reasonings were filling up and occupying their spirit. They were completely filled up with all these things. When they came to the Lord Jesus they argued with Him because they were not poor in spirit. Therefore, in the opening word of His discourse on the mountain, the Lord said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.” If we are poor in our spirit, God can immediately come into us. We will then be in the kingdom of the heavens. This is the first condition of our inward parts. Our spirit has to be emptied. Don't keep any knowledge, tradition, form, religion or anything else other than God in your spirit. Let your spirit be emptied of other things and be absolutely and fully for God. This is what we need. Don't allow all the knowledge and the things you received from Christianity to occupy your spirit. They need to be emptied out. They may seem to be quite good, but compared to the Lord Jesus they are dung. In Philippians 3 Paul said that he counted all of his previous attainments and knowledge as dung or refuse. He counted all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. Let us also be empty and poor in spirit on account of Christ.

*From The Kingdom, pp. 307-308, by Witness Lee,
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 *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. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

Thank you for the October issue of The Hearing of Faith. Today the encouragement to live in the fellowship of life ministered to us from "The Fellowship of Life, Part 2" is saving me and keeping me for God and His purpose. How we love Him and treasure the sweet flow of life! I was also helped to use my spirit by the portion from the book How to Study the Bible. Thank you!

J.C., Omaha, AR

I would like to order the complete set of the radio broadcasts on the Book of Acts. I really appreciate that you make these tapes available, as well as the life-study books. Using both the books and tapes, I find that my spiritual life is growing deeper and my love for my Lord Jesus is increasing. Bless the Lord for the ministry of Witness Lee.

C.S., Cypress, TX

Please send the messages on Hebrews which I hear on Saturday A.M. on WCHP, ministering to us the divine law of life working in us to produce fruit and God pouring Himself, His divine nature into us. This is good news. In my sad condition of loss and loneliness, I need this more, and I need more of the Word all day. I am so hungry and thirsty.

E.P., Kingsbury, Quebec, Canada

I cannot emphasize to you how much the radio program refreshes my spirit. I remember listening to Brother Lee opening up the matter of the six garments worn by the high priest back in 1982 and wishing this fellowship could be broadcast to the whole earth. Today it is being broadcast over much of the country, and in some other countries as

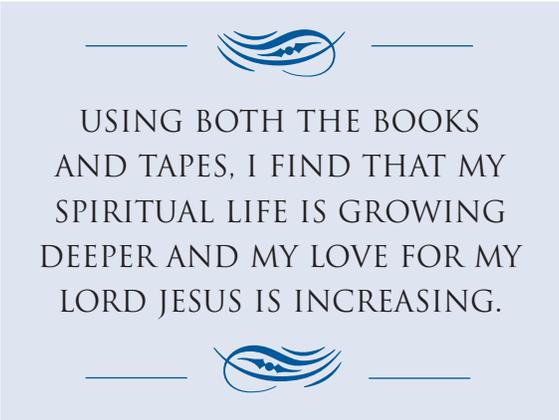
the Word or in getting to know the Lord in a personal way, you make our day! We have been helped in this way by the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee, and it is an unspeakable joy to be able to participate in its dissemination.

We are delighted to receive comments from first time callers such as, "I have never seen this in the Word before" or, "Please send me that message. I need some time to absorb it." It is a pleasure to speak with you and to answer your questions.

We look forward to hearing your portion of Christ whenever you call. It is truly an encouragement to us that the Lord is able to nourish you through this ministry, a ministry which makes the Lord so precious to all of us and stirs up a hunger within you, and ourselves as well, to seek more of Him day by day. It is not a small matter to care for the things of God.

You are in our hearts and in our prayers.

The serving ones at
Living Stream Ministry Radio



USING BOTH THE BOOKS
AND TAPES, I FIND THAT MY
SPIRITUAL LIFE IS GROWING
DEEPER AND MY LOVE FOR MY
LORD JESUS IS INCREASING.

well, for whoever has an ear to hear. This is glorious. Grace be with you all and with all those who labor to spread this ministry.

M.L., Houston, TX

*Dear Life-study Listeners,
We love to talk to you, seekers and lovers of our Lord Jesus! We consider talking to you as one of the highlights of our serving in the radio section here. When you tell us how Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee has helped you in studying*

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 CONSCIENCE

OUR CONSCIENCE AND THE ASSURANCE OF FAITH

If there is anything wrong with us, our conscience will speak something for God. If, for example, we do something wrong toward a brother, right away the conscience within us will speak for God to tell us we are wrong. Then our conscience demands that we do two things. First, we must confess to the Lord to ask forgiveness from Him, and second, we must go to the brother and say, "Brother, forgive me. I was wrong in that matter." Why must we confess to the Lord and go to the brother? It is because the conscience demands that we do.

We all know from experience that if we do not confess and ask forgiveness, something in our conscience accuses us, and we lose the rest, peace, and assurance of faith. Then we do not have the boldness to come to the Lord. There is a barrier, a separation, a wall, between us and the Lord. This hinders our prayer life very much. As long as we have an accusation in our conscience, it is impossible for us to contact the Lord to pray in a living way. We simply cannot pray because there is something between us and the Lord, damaging our conscience and hindering us. . . .

DEALING WITH THE CONSCIENCE BEING NECESSARY FOR THE GROWTH IN LIFE

In order to grow as Christians in the spiritual life, there is no other way to take. There is no shortcut. We must deal with our flesh, deal with our self, and deal with our conscience. If we do not deal with our conscience, we can never be persons living in the presence of the Lord. Many saints are far from the Lord, regarding their fellowship. They are not in the fellowship and presence of the Lord because of many problems in their conscience. What we have learned and what we always tell the young believers is that we must deal with the conscience. This is a must. . . .

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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A certain co-worker who is now with the Lord also learned this lesson of dealing with the conscience. When he went to visit anyone, he would never enter the house until he was invited in. If he were to go in without any invitation, he would not be at peace in his conscience. Then, even after being invited in, he would not sit down unless someone asked him to. Some may say that this is too legal, but in order to be normal Christians, we need to learn all these lessons. Those who say this is too legal are too careless, and a careless Christian cannot have even a little spiritual growth. He may have some kind of growth—in knowledge, doctrine, or other matters—but it is not the real growth in life. The real growth is the growth in the spirit, and the growth in the spirit depends very much on our dealing with our conscience.

In dealing with the conscience, we can never be loose. Whenever we are loose in our conscience, there is the danger that we may commit the worst sins. Our protection and safeguard is a pure conscience. The times when we are loose with our conscience are the most dangerous times.

If we go to the Lord to deal with this matter, we will see, on the one hand, what kind of a problem it is and, on the other hand, what kind of help we will receive. Then we will sense the presence of the Lord in a fresh, sweet way, like we never have before. We will experience something new. This depends very much on our dealing with the conscience. If you deal with your conscience, you will know what I mean. If, however, we have never dealt with our conscience, we have never had any real growth in the spiritual life. This is a serious matter.

We should go to the Lord and say, "Here I am, Lord. Enlighten me, expose me, and bring me into Your presence. I wish to be purged and pure in my conscience." If we go to the Lord in this way, and if we obey the Lord to deal with our conscience, we will see what problems we have. We may need ten days and ten nights to deal with all the matters. We may have problems we have let remain for many years without dealing with them. How can we grow with a conscience full of offenses? With so many holes in our conscience, how can we have the assurance of faith? It is impossible. We need to deal with our conscience; then we will have a new start in the Christian life. We will see how much help we will receive and what kind of strength and blessing we will enjoy, including the Lord's presence, the anointing, and much strengthening. That will be wonderful!

Basic Principles of the Experience of Life, pp. 126, 130-133, by Witness Lee