

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 49, MAY 2002

"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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Your words
WERE FOUND AND
I ATE THEM,
AND YOUR WORD
BECAME TO ME
THE GLADNESS AND JOY
OF MY HEART,
FOR I AM CALLED
BY YOUR NAME,
O JEHOVAH,
GOD OF HOSTS.

JEREMIAH 15:16

Dear Life-study Listener,

This issue of the *Hearing of Faith* marks the beginning of our fifth year of continuous monthly distribution. We began producing this newsletter as a companion to the *Life-study of the Bible* radio programs heard not only in this country but also around the world. As it turns out, however, many of our readers cannot hear the program now because it is no longer available in their area. Therefore, the *Hearing of Faith* has become a regular supply from this ministry to those recipients and to those who continue to listen to the program on the radio or via the Internet.

One of this newsletter's goals is to introduce you to new terminology you may hear on the radio program or encounter in Living Stream Ministry publications. We attempt to accomplish this on page one of each issue with our "What Is" articles. These articles address topics or terms that may be new to you. This month's article entitled "What is the Lord's Recovery?" is a repeat from our second issue. We believe this article and the other titles listed on page three help answer, in a brief way, questions people often ask us. For those desiring to do more research, we always include suggested further readings at the end of each article. We commit these and future articles to the Lord for His people's benefit.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE LORD'S RECOVERY?

In many of our broadcasts and publications you will hear or read the terms *recovery* and *the Lord's recovery*. These refer to a very basic and wonderful truth concerning God's work. When we read the Bible, particularly the New Testament, we see many marvelous truths and practices, which seem to belong to the early church only. For example, all the believers were called saints in the New Testament (Acts 9:41; 26:10; Rom. 15:26), but today few

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RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

We invite you to share your comments with us and other listeners so we all may be encouraged in the Lord. Responses should be addressed to *The Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 or radio@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

We thank God for your ministry. It has helped us to grow more in the Lord. We were seeking God but didn't know how, and your ministry has helped us a lot. God bless your ministry and all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Dallas, TX

Thank you for the February issue of the Hearing of Faith. I am being helped to see that the Father's will is what is important in every situation, no matter how difficult, because He has a purpose. The Father's will is what we should seek and not blessing for ourselves. Praise God, He has a wonderful purpose! There is much dross in my being that needs to be consumed for the sake of His purpose.

Thank you for the words of life in your newsletter. May Jesus gain His glorious bride without spot or wrinkle. May this radio ministry and newsletter continue to bring His people on toward His goal.

Omaha, AR

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 of our listeners are led by the Lord to give, we will accept offerings as from the Lord and will use them for the furtherance of His truth.

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF RUTH

RUTH'S SEEKING FOR HER REST

Chapter one shows Ruth's choosing, chapter two shows Ruth's exercising of her right, and chapter three shows Ruth's seeking for her rest. We need to enjoy Christ to such an extent that we have rest....

The steps taken by Ruth correspond to our spiritual experience. Before we were saved, we all had our own taste and choice. Under the Lord's sovereign arrangement, we heard the gospel and made a resolution to become a believer of Christ. Our choice was to believe in Christ. By believing in the Lord Jesus, we were organically joined to Him. Now He is in us and we are in Him. With this intimate, organic union, we must begin to pursue Christ in order to gain, possess, experience, and enjoy Him. This is typified by Ruth's exercising of her right to gain and possess the produce of the good land. Just as Ruth had the right to enjoy the produce of the good land after coming into the land, so we have the right to enjoy Christ as our good land after believing in Him.

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...The Lord Jesus said, "He who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me" (John 6:57). Our Savior can be eaten; He is our heavenly food and manna. According to Revelation 2, whoever overcomes may eat of Christ as the tree of life and as the hidden manna (vv. 7, 17). The Bible reveals that Christ is not only our food but also our drink, clothing, and breath. He is our daily necessities. Every day we need to enjoy Him. We must be like Ruth and exercise our right to enjoy Christ. Every morning we should "glean" from the "field" of the Bible.

However, after our gleaning we still need a home so that we can have a settled rest. This kind of rest can come only through marriage. In Ruth 3:1 Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, I must seek some resting place for you." Naomi wanted to find a way to establish a home for Ruth. If Ruth was to have a home for her rest, she needed a husband. Naomi realized that the proper person to be Ruth's husband was Boaz, who typifies Christ.

I realize that many of us love the Lord Jesus, but have we taken Him as our Husband? Have you ever had a time with the Lord when you said, "Lord, You are my Husband"? Even though you are saved and you love the Lord, you will not have a home for your rest until you marry the Lord Jesus, taking Him as your Husband.

Life-study of Ruth, pp. 17-18, by Witness Lee

THE LORD'S RECOVERY

(continued from page 1)

believers consider themselves as saints. This is a small truth that was lost, but a very rich truth that can profit us greatly if it is recovered among us. The Corinthian believers had perhaps the gravest problems of any that the apostle Paul addressed, yet he did not fail to call them saints (1 Cor. 1:2). Regardless of their disposition and behavior, Paul knew that their position and standing before God was always that of sanctified ones—saints—who were being transformed to ultimately match Him in life and nature. How helpful this is to us and how uplifting to our daily Christian life if we know that we are the saints of God, who are being changed into His likeness!

There are many major truths and crucial practices that need to be recovered by the saints. In the history of the church, the Lord has used a number of great believers to recover such critical items as justification by faith (Martin Luther), the eternal security of our salvation (John Calvin), the brotherhood and church life among the believers (Count Zinzendorf), the inner life of the saints (Madame Guyon and many others), the study of the Bible according to types, shadows, and figures (the British Brethren), and the practical oneness of the church (Watchman Nee). In our own time, we have been helped so much by Brother Witness Lee to see the recovery of the practical Body life and God's full and organic salvation.

As we consider God's work throughout the centuries, we can easily see that it is a progressive work to recover all the rich truths

and crucial practices that He once delivered to the apostles. Almost all was lost very early on, if not in the understanding of the believers, at least in their full experience, but God has been working to recover each and every item of precious truth and practice. This has been not only a work *among* the saints but a work *on* the saints. Today we are at the end of that work of

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recovery, and our understanding and experience certainly benefits from what the Lord has done thus far. Now, because we are blessed so richly by His past work of recovery and because we enjoy His ongoing work of recovery among us, we can say that we ourselves *are* His recovery. Praise the Lord for the Lord's recovery!

For further reading on this subject, please see *What Are We?* by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry

What is...

PAST ARTICLES ARE AVAILABLE TO EXPLAIN COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AT

www.lifestudy.com/whatis.html

Below are a few samples from the four dozen plus articles listed on this Web site.

WHAT IS...

the Life-Study of the Bible?

WHAT IS...

God's Thought concerning

Reward and Punishment?

WHAT IS...

the Recovery Version?

WHAT IS...

God's Economy?

WHAT IS...

the New Jerusalem?

WHAT IS...

the Divine Romance?

WHAT IS...

the Captivity of God's

People in Babylon?

WHAT IS...

the Bride of Christ?

www.lifestudy.com/whatis.html

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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.

READING THE BIBLE

HAVING THE RIGHT ATTITUDE— TAKING THE WORD OF GOD AS FOOD

Our attitude when reading the Bible should be similar to the attitude one has when eating breakfast. When we eat breakfast, we do not first analyze which food contains a lot of vitamin A, which food has much vitamin B, how many carbohydrates are in the rice and in the buns, and then determine what to eat first and what to eat next. We do not do this. We have an empty stomach, so we just eat, not paying attention to what contains vitamins or carbohydrates. We simply eat. We do not use our mind; rather, we use our mouth and stomach. Since we know that the Bible is the word of God, the expression of God Himself, and our spiritual food, what should our attitude be when we come to the Bible? Jeremiah 15:16 says, "Your words were found and I ate them." Hence, our attitude toward coming to the Bible should be that we are eating.

Since we should have the attitude that we are eating when we read the Bible, one might ask, "How can we 'eat' the Bible?" Many people have this question. We have to see that the word of God is God Himself and that when God's words come forth, they are spirit and life. Hence, in order to deal with God's word in a proper way and to eat God's word, we must exercise our spirit. We must deal with the word of God by our spirit, not by our mind. We have to read the Bible, contact the word of God, and eat the word of God with our spirit, not merely with our mind. However, what does it mean to read the Bible with our spirit? This is not easy to

comprehend. Some people say that to read with our spirit is to read with our inner man, but what does it mean to read with our inner man? Some people may say that this means not to analyze with our mind. We have to spend some time to look into this matter.

When I was young, I studied in a Christian school that promoted the practice of memorizing the Scriptures. At that time I did not know anything except to memorize. This is to read the Bible with the mind. Later when I was around twenty years old, I opened Matthew chapter one and read it again. When I came to Abraham, I studied to find out who Abraham was. Whereas formerly I had used my mind to memorize when reading the Bible, now I used my mind to reason when reading it. However, what does it really mean to read the Bible with our spirit? We all know that the Bible is the word of God and that the word of God represents God Himself. Every time we come to the word of God, we should sense that we are touching God. Since we know that God is Spirit (John 4:24) and that we cannot contact Him with our mind, when we come to God, we should say, "O God, I love You. I come to read the Bible; I come to read Your word." Then perhaps when we open the Gospel of Matthew and come to Abraham, we may ask the Lord, "Who is Abraham?" We may come across many things that we do not understand, but it does not matter if our mind does not understand. Inwardly we will still have the feeling that we have taken a sun bath or that we have been washed with

water. Our entire inner being will be refreshed and soothed.

... I have had many experiences like this. In the past when I read the Old Testament, in my mind I often could not understand, but the feeling in my spirit was that I had been washed in the word of God. These experiences were very fresh and soothing... Since I had the right attitude—that the word I was reading was the speaking of my beloved Lord—my whole being was brought into the shining of His face, and I felt washed once again.

The Path of Our Growth in Life, pp. 25-27, 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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