

# 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*

## In THIS ISSUE

- 1 LETTER FROM LIVING STREAM MINISTRY
- 1 WHAT IS THE ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST?
- 2 HIGHLIGHTS FROM *LIFE-STUDY OF 1 & 2 SAMUEL*
- 2 RESPONSE FROM LISTENERS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—ENJOYING CHRIST BY PRAYING

### WORDS OF LIFE & TRUTH *Online*

A One-Minute  
Scripture Reading  
with Commentary

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[www.lsmradio.org](http://www.lsmradio.org)

(and follow the links)

Dear Life-study Listener,

This month we begin the sixth year of daily broadcasts of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We started broadcasting once per week in September 1996 and then went to daily programming in April of 1997. Listeners tell us that they have read the Scriptures we cover before but that after hearing the *Life-study of the Bible* program, they feel as if they are seeing what the Lord meant in those verses for the first time. As we begin *Life-study of 1 & 2 Samuel* this month, that same inspiration and enlightenment continues.

First and Second Samuel can be summarized by five people: three positive and two negative. Hannah, Samuel, and David are faithful patterns of ones who cooperated with the Lord to carry out His economy on earth. Eli and Saul, on the other hand, are examples of failure and shame. Yet out of their failure, God raised up positive ones. This is an encouragement to us to see that the Lord can turn our shameful failures to His glory and victory. We trust that you will be uplifted in these books of history, even as we are while preparing the programs for you.

Last month we announced *Words of Life & Truth: A One-Minute Scripture Reading with Commentary* for radio stations around the country. In addition to the broadcasts over radio, these one-minute gems can be found on our Web site at [www.lsmradio.org](http://www.lsmradio.org). We think you will be surprised at just how much faith the Lord can impart into us through one minute of the hearing of faith.

Living Stream Ministry

## WHAT IS THE ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST?

The central thought of God revealed in the Scriptures is that God desires that we take Him as our enjoyment. Throughout the Bible, God has unveiled His heart's desire that man would enjoy Him. The Old Testament is filled with types depicting God in Christ to be man's enjoyment: a flowing river,

(continued on page 3)

# 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](mailto:radio@lsm.org). Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

*I really enjoy listening to Mr. Lee and seeing how he is guided by the Holy Spirit. I would like to know if there are any churches in Florida that are affiliated with your ministry. Keep up the good Christian work. God bless you all. You all are in my prayers.*

Tampa, Florida

*[We are happy to forward information for these kinds of requests to readers who inquire.]*

*I greatly appreciate the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. Their revelation and knowledge has given me rich insight into the heart of God.*

Cleveland, OH

*I have been truly blessed to hear the spoken messages of Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee. I enjoy the ministry immensely. I am also interested in getting a book by Mr. Lee about the spirit of man or the inner man. I'm not quite sure of the title. Six years ago I was blessed with a copy of that book but have lost it. Thank you for your help.*

Brandon, Florida

*[There is a book entitled Our Human Spirit, by Witness Lee. You may obtain a catalogue from Living Stream Ministry that lists all of our publications.]*

## Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF 1 & 2 SAMUEL

### A PERSON WHO CARED ONLY FOR GOD AND FOR GOD'S INTEREST AND PROFIT

*Samuel was  
not only high  
in character; he  
was high in the  
Nazarite vow.*

Samuel would never have cooperated with God if he had been a self-seeking person. As we will see in the next message, the day before Saul came to Samuel, God revealed to Samuel what He wanted him to do. God said to him, "At about this time tomorrow I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him as the leader over My people Israel" (9:16). When Saul and his servant came to Samuel, Samuel did exactly as God had instructed. He did not care to gain anything for himself or for his children. Now

we can see why Samuel was so useful in the hand of God. He had no self-seeking nor any thought of self-gain. Instead, as a Nazarite, who allowed no razor to come upon his head and who did not drink any wine, he was absolutely for God. He was happy to go wherever God wanted him to go and to do whatever God wanted him to do. He was a man according to God, a man according to God's heart. Therefore, he was a man whom God could use to carry out His economy.

We should not think that Samuel did not have any kind of human concept. One day Jehovah said to him, "Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite; for I have selected for Myself a king among his sons" (16:1b). When Samuel heard this, he said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me" (v. 2a). This indicates that Samuel was very human and had human concepts. Nevertheless, he was not a self-seeking person. All of his seeking was for God and for God's elect. He cared for God and for His interest and profit, and He prayed for God's people.

#### THE CONTRAST BETWEEN SAMUEL AND SAMSON

Some Bible students have pointed out that Samuel was a person of high character. The matter of character, however, is not the crucial point regarding Samuel. Many people have a high character, but they are just for themselves, their enterprise, and their kingdom. They are not for God's kingdom. Samuel was not only high in character; he was high in the Nazarite vow.

*Life-study of 1 & 2 Samuel*, pp. 45-46, by Witness Lee

## ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST *(continued from page 1)*

a tree of life, the Passover lamb not only as a sacrifice for sin but also as a strengthening supply of life, the manna as the bread from heaven, and water gushing from a smitten rock, to name a few. In the Word of God we can see that to enjoy Christ is to take Him as our complete provision and rich satisfaction in all things.

God has given Christ to us as our all-inclusive portion (1 Cor. 1:9; Col. 1:12-13). But the Bible also reveals how Satan, God's adversary, has done his best to frustrate God's purpose and to defraud us of Christ

*The central thought of God revealed in the Scriptures is that God desires that we take Him as our enjoyment.*

as our enjoyment. First, in the garden of Eden, the serpent, Satan, distracted man from the tree of life, a type of Christ, and seduced him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man lost God as his joy and satisfaction and had to replace the God he lost with other things. Later, God called Abraham and the children of Israel to be His people and to take pleasure uniquely in Him. But eventually they lost God as their enjoyment and plunged into bondage in Egypt.

When God delivered the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, He saved them through the blood of the Passover lamb, fed them with its flesh, and commanded them to

feast on unleavened bread. Then, in the wilderness, He gave them manna as their food to supply them and water from the rock to satisfy them. The New Testament tells us clearly that these were all types of Christ as our enjoyment (1 Cor. 5:7; 10:3-4).

David praised God as the unique source for man's satisfaction by exulting in the fatness of God's house, the river of His pleasures, and God Himself as the fountain of life (Psalm 36:7-9). Surely these are words speaking of David's enjoyment of God. Yet God's people were again deceived and turned away from their God. Therefore Jehovah lamented through the prophet Jeremiah, "For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, which hold no water" (Jer. 2:13).

In the New Testament age, God in Christ came to the earth and presented Himself as living water (John 4:10, 14; 7:37-39) and the bread of life for us to enjoy forever (John 6:53-58). The Lord Jesus shows us in John 4:24 that we render true worship to God when we drink of Him as the living water. Yet, we also may be distracted from Him as our source of supply, exchanging the enjoyment of Christ for culture, teachings, observances, works, formalities, or religious rituals. All these things are like broken cisterns that hold no water. Only when we enjoy Christ Himself as our rich portion can both we and God be satisfied. The deep need and longing within our being are met, and God's desire to be everything to us is fulfilled.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Tree of Life; The Enjoyment of Christ; and The Enjoyment of Christ for His Increase*, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

*Blessed*  
**ARE THE PURE IN HEART**  
**FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.**  
*Matthew 5:8*



*THE PURE IN HEART HAVE A HEART SO PURE THAT THEY JUST WANT GOD AND NOTHING OTHER THAN GOD. If Christians are willing to allow God to work in them, the first thing they have to do is to turn their heart to God. God does not have the way to work on many people because their heart is not set on Him. We cannot say that they do not want the Lord. They really do want the Lord, but they also want something other than the Lord Himself... Their inner being is very complicated, but love should be very simple.*

Witness Lee  
*The Pure in Heart*, p. 12  
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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.*

## ENJOYING CHRIST BY PRAYING

In order to learn how to enjoy Christ by praying, we must drop the old way of prayer. Also, we should not pray for business affairs or personal concerns. Instead, pray to praise Him, to adore Him, to thank Him, to behold His beauty, and to inhale Him. Many times we have to pray by groaning, saying, "O Lord, O Lord...." This is the best prayer. The real prayer is not out of us, so that the Lord will do something for us. The real prayer is the Spirit, who is Christ Himself, working and moving within us, that we would open to Him to breathe Him out and breathe Him in (see *Hymns*, #255). We must offer Him the free way to go out and to come in to express something of Himself.

To pray is not to take care of many things. To pray is to spiritually breathe the spiritual air, which is the Lord Himself. Day by day, even several times throughout each day, we have to learn to breathe the Lord as the spiritual air. Even while we are driving our car or cooking in the kitchen we can breathe by calling from deep within, "O Lord." This is the best prayer.

Revelation shows us that the saints' prayers are the bowls or the censer that contain Christ as the incense. In our prayer there must be Christ as the incense. We have to burn the incense daily by offering prayers with Christ ascending to God. Christ is in us and we need to have the prayer as the censer, the bowls, the container, for the indwelling Christ as the incense. If we do not pray, we have Christ within us, but we do not have Him as the incense ascending to God. Proper prayer is not for our practical

needs. Proper prayer is for the expression of Christ. We pray to express Christ, that is, to give the indwelling Christ the opportunity to be the incense to ascend to God and be expressed in our prayer.

*We should learn to pray and seek the Lord Himself to behold His beauty.*

Matthew 6:31 through 33 says, "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." We can even say to the Lord, "Lord, there is no need for me to pray for so many things. Matthew 6:31 through 33 says that You already know what I need." If we are not at peace concerning our personal needs, we can remind the Lord to feed us and care for us according to His Word. We should just seek the Lord Himself, His kingdom and His righteousness. All that we need, the Lord will not only give to us but also add to us. We should learn to pray and seek the Lord Himself to behold His beauty.

Then we can go on to learn to inquire of the Lord. This means that we must learn to ask the Lord what we have to

pray. Do not pray according to what you think you have to pray, but ask the Lord what He wants you to pray in your prayer. Sometimes you may have to ask, "Lord, may I now pray for a certain friend? May I now pray for the preaching of the gospel?"...

Strictly speaking, the proper prayer is the Lord speaking through the one who prays. This is why we must learn to pray to behold His beauty and to inhale Him in order to express Him. If we do not know what to pray, we can groan, saying, "O Lord, I do not know how to pray or what to pray. O Lord...." Then we will have the best prayer.

*The Enjoyment of Christ*, pp. 35-37, 39, 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 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.

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