

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 68, DECEMBER 2003

"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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Dear *Life-study* Listener,

We enjoyed our time in Seattle with some of you during the seminar there on November 9. It's so good for us to get out of the studios in Anaheim to see our listeners in person. How refreshing it was to see the hunger of God's people for the riches of this ministry. We pray the Lord will open up many more doors in the coming days.

Each month in the *Hearing of Faith* we bring you "The Path of Life," our entire fourth page, featuring excerpts from this ministry on matters and practices of the spiritual life as revealed in God's Word. A few of those practices are so vital that we elected to also dedicate three months to focus on them in our article on page one. Calling upon the name of the Lord and pray-reading the Word of God are simple practices, but many believers have not yet discovered them. So we hope you find our "What Is" articles on calling on the name of the Lord (both last month and this month) and pray-reading (next month) helpful in your daily experience of the Lord.

Recently a few the stations that broadcast *Life-study of the Bible* were either sold or changed their format, so we have gone off the air in those places. Some of you have inquired about this, and we can only ask for your continued prayers to keep this ministry on the airwaves. It seems these decisions are out of our control, but we should not underestimate the power of our prayer.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS CALLING ON THE LORD? PART 2

In Acts 22 where Paul recounts the day of his conversion, he repeated the instructions given to him then by Ananias, "Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, *calling on His name*" (v. 16). The significance of this particular counsel Ananias gave Saul that day can be easily understood when connected to the record of Saul's conversion in Acts 9. Earlier, Saul had witnessed the stoning of Stephen and heard the cry of this faithful martyr as

(continued on page 3)

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

KCPR 89.1 FM

2:30 A.M. DAILY

9:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

8:30 P.M.

11:00 P.M.

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.

I just wanted to say how encouraged I am this morning. I was reading The Holy Word for Morning Revival [published by Living Stream Ministry] and finally noticed that at the end of each day there is information for further reading. Today's portion listed Life-study of 2 Corinthians, messages 39 and 44. I went to the radio archives on your Web site and easily found them. My enjoyment of the Lord today has truly been magnified greatly by combining the Holy Word for Morning Revival with the radio broadcasts. I am telling you this because this morning I asked the Lord to cause me to love him more, and He has been merciful to me today. I love this ministry because it is ministering Christ as life into me.

Jacksonville, FL

I don't listen to the radio regularly, but I really enjoy your newsletter. It's like a B-12 shot in the arm. It gives me vitality for my spirit in this vexing world today. In 1968 I read The Normal Christian Life by Watchman Nee, which set me free from the burden of the old man and brought me into the knowledge of who we are in Christ. Witness Lee also has much insight into the Word. Thank you for your ministry.

Dunedin, FL

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF SECOND TIMOTHY

"All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

2 Timothy 3:16

THE SCRIPTURE

Most Christians neglect the spirit and take the Bible as a book of letters. The Lord Jesus once said, "The words which I have spoken unto you are spirit and are life" (John 6:63). Furthermore, we have pointed out that every word of the Bible is part of God's breath.

Thus, we should not only study the Word, but also breathe in the divine breath embodied in the Word. If we do not breathe the divine breath by exercising our spirit, we shall not receive life from our study of the Bible. But when we breathe in God's breath, we are enlivened by a divine, heavenly, and spiritual element.

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I wish to emphasize the fact that to study the Bible in order to follow its instructions is not sufficient. Often during a wedding ceremony a minister will instruct the bride and groom according to Paul's word in Ephesians 5. The minister will then remind the wife to submit to the husband and the husband to love his wife. Although they may promise to fulfill these requirements, they will not be able to do so unless they receive the divine breath in the Word. The instructions in righteousness given according to the Bible do not work if we do not receive the breath of God, for then, in practice, we shall make these instructions the same as the ethical teachings of Confucius...

Many of us can testify that a certain verse of the Bible may be very precious to us as we read it. However, disciples of Confucius may also regard certain statements made by him as precious. But with the teachings of Confucius there is no divine breath. God's Word contains His breath. Within the letters of the Bible there is the Spirit who gives life. This is the reason that in reading the Word we must exercise our spirit in addition to our mind. Then the verses we read will be not only precious to us, but they will nourish, refresh, and water us.

Actually, the function of the Word in teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction is all related to transformation. The Bible corrects us not primarily outwardly, but inwardly in the way of transformation. This means that the word of Scripture works within us in a metabolic way. Just as the food we eat and digest nourishes us from within, metabolically changing and transforming us, so the Word of God transforms us by inwardly teaching, reproofing, correcting, and instructing us.

Life-study of 2 Timothy, pp. 53-54

CALLING ON THE LORD *(continued from page 1)*

he called upon the Lord, saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” (7:59). In Saul’s determined persecution of the church, he received authority from the chief priests to bind all those who *called upon the name of Jesus* (9:14), and he was known throughout the synagogues as “the one who ravaged those who *call upon this name* in Jerusalem” (v. 21). From this record, it is clear that one identifying trait of the early New Testament believers was their calling upon the Lord’s name. Eventually, as Paul testifies, he also became a lover of Jesus who called upon His name.

In Genesis 4, a record of the progression of the fall of mankind, the concluding verse says, “And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah” (v. 26). The name *Enosh*

*How great a gift
is the name
of the Lord Jesus
given to us
believers!*

means “frail, mortal man.” Knowing the meaning of *Enosh* helps us understand the preciousness of this simple practice of calling on the Lord’s name. We who are so frail and who suffer the distresses, troubles, sorrows and pains of human life can simply cry out the name of our Lord Jesus just as the

Old Testament saints called upon Jehovah, the name of God in His intimate relationship with man.

The Lord’s lovers and seekers have always suffered misunderstanding in their pursuit of a closer relationship with Him. There are some who are skeptical about this matter of calling on the Lord’s name, which has a rich history and solid base throughout the Scriptures. They misunderstand and some even misrepresent this precious way to contact the Lord, which is to call on the name of our Savior who is a living Person. We call on the Lord’s dear name because we love Him. Our calling on Him helps us turn our heart to Him amid this evil age filled with distractions.

How great a gift is the name of the Lord Jesus given to us believers! In the words of a beloved hymn, what better way to turn our eyes upon Jesus and cause the things of earth to grow strangely dim than to call upon the name that is above every name (Phil. 2:9)! By the simple act of calling upon His name, we have the most practical way to live the Christian life. No wonder Paul told Timothy, “Flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22). May we experience the riches and sweetness of the Lord Jesus by calling on His name and say, as did F.W. Faber in his famous hymn, “O Jesus, Jesus, dearest Lord! Forgive me if I say, for very love, Thy sacred name a thousand times a day.”

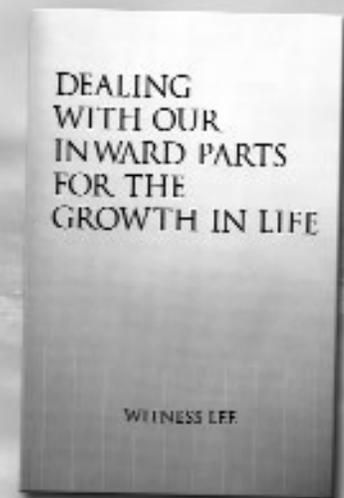
For further reading on this subject, please see *Enjoying the Riches of Christ for the Building up of the Church As the Body of Christ*, chapter twelve, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

DEALING WITH OUR INWARD PARTS FOR THE GROWTH IN LIFE

by Witness Lee

If we read the entire Scriptures carefully, we will realize that they convey only one main item: the economy of God and the mark of God’s economy. The main item of the economy of God is that God’s intention is to work Himself in His Triune person into all the parts of our being. I have the burden to tell the Lord’s children a thousand times, if need be, that in the whole universe God’s intention is nothing else but to work Himself into human beings.

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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 CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

Enjoying the Outpoured Spirit by Calling on the Name of the Lord

Now we need to consider Acts 2:17-21, which is a quotation from the book of Joel. This portion of the Word begins by saying that God will pour out of His Spirit upon all flesh (v. 17). Then it ends by saying, "And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (v. 21). If you put the beginning and the end of this quotation together, you see something marvelous. This means that God pours out of His Spirit and that we have to call upon the Lord to get this Spirit. God has poured out already. Now what shall we do? Shall we ask Him to give us the outpouring of the Holy Spirit by fasting, by not sleeping, or by weeping with tears? This is the wrong way. God has poured out. Now what we need to do is to call upon the name of the Lord. Then we get the Spirit.

If I present a glass of water to someone, all he has to do is take it and drink. In the same way, we do not need to ask God for the Spirit, because He has already been poured out. God has presented the Spirit to us already. He has poured out of His Spirit upon all flesh. Now all we need to do is to call on the Lord's name.

The Bible says that God has poured out of His Spirit, not upon all spiritual or religious persons, but upon all flesh. We all are flesh, and the Spirit has been poured out upon us. The drink has been presented to us, so we do not need to beg for it. We just need to take and drink by calling on the name of the Lord. The presentation of the drink is in verse

17; the way to drink is in verse 21. God says, "I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh." Then He says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." We simply need to call, "O Lord Jesus." Calling on the Lord in a simple way will water you and even flood you with the Spirit. This is the way to take in the Spirit.

Drinking the Spirit by Calling on the Name of the Lord

First Corinthians 12:13 says that we have all been given to drink one Spirit. This means that we have been positioned to drink and we are in a position to drink. God has accomplished everything, but God can never drink for us. Regardless of how much God loves you, you still have to drink. The way to drink is in verse 3. This verse says that when you say, "Lord Jesus," you are in the Holy Spirit. In other words, when you say, "Lord Jesus," you are drinking. To be in the Holy Spirit means you are drinking of the Spirit.

You may feel you are so sinful, but your sinfulness has been taken care of on the cross. We were kept away by our sins, but our sins have been taken away (John 1:29). Then we were brought back to God and have been positioned and made to drink. You may say that you are so weak, but this is why you need to drink. There is no excuse or reason for being kept away from drinking the Spirit. Whatever sin you have committed cannot be bigger than the redemption accomplished on the cross. The redemption accomplished by Him on the cross is big enough to cover all your failures.

You have to realize you were positioned to drink. Forget about your failures, your sins, and your weaknesses. The redeeming blood, the prevailing blood of Christ, has taken care of all things. This is why we are told that we have been given, or made, to drink. Whether we are Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free, we all have been made to drink. Now that we have been positioned to drink, we should drink simply by calling, "Lord Jesus," again and again. Call on the Lord for fifteen minutes, and see what will happen.

The Fulfillment of God's Purpose by the Growth of Christ in Us, pp. 34-35, 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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