

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 61, MAY 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

T H I S
I S S U E

- 1 LETTER FROM LIVING STREAM MINISTRY
- 1 WHAT IS THE HOUSE OF GOD?
- 2 HIGHLIGHTS FROM LIFE-STUDY OF 1 & 2 SAMUEL
- 2 RESPONSE FROM LISTENERS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—GOD'S GROWTH IN US FOR THE BUILDING

Dear Life-study Listener,

In March we had a wonderful radio listener seminar in Dallas. We heard many positive comments from attendants there, some of which we would like to share with you. One listener told us that she takes notes while listening to the life-study program every day. Then she calls a few of her friends to tell them what inspired and enlightened her from the program. Her realization and appreciation of the deeper truths in this ministry and her desire to spread them to friends is very encouraging to us. Another said that his favorite part of the seminar was to see Christ flowing out of the brothers who spoke there. Another attendee told us that the life-study program is part of her daily Bible study and that it was great to meet us and see a face with a name. She especially liked the prepared video clips on Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. For those of you who did not know, Living Stream Ministry has extensive video footage from Witness Lee's ministry. As part of the radio seminar, we conducted a live radio program and included a video of Witness Lee. We share with you this final comment, which sums up our desire and aim: "I really appreciate the focus on our glorious and wonderful Lord."

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

OMAHA, NE

KLNG 1560 AM
1:00 P.M. SUNDAY

EUROPE &
THE MIDDLE EAST

WJIE 7.49 SHORTWAVE
21:00 UTC MON-FRI

WHAT IS THE HOUSE OF GOD?

Although David's history was fraught with war, there came a time when Jehovah gave him rest from all his enemies. At that time, David expressed his desire to build a house for God, telling Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God dwells within curtains" (2 Sam. 7:2). God's reply was, "Is it you who will build Me a house for Me to dwell in? For

(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. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

I am always satisfied with the Hearing of Faith. Ninety percent of the time I don't stop reading until the last line. I need this spiritual food to grow according to my need. There is a song in French, "Yes, His church advance." I am also crazy about the radio program on Colossians. The best!

Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada

I am a student from Belize City in Central America. I have been listening to your broadcast of Witness Lee's life studies. This is my first time contacting you. I listen to your program on an FM radio station. I would like to thank you for this broadcast because it helped me to give my life back to God where it belongs. God bless.

Belize, Central America

I really enjoy your radio broadcast. Your expounding of the Scriptures is very clear and edifying. I have a question. In Matthew 22:14 the Lord says that many are called but few are chosen. Can you explain this verse or give some reference to the context to help clarify? Much thanks.

Bellflower, CA

[The footnote to this verse in the New Testament Recovery Version explains that being called is to receive salvation, but to be chosen is to receive a reward. For further understanding, Life-study of Matthew, published by Living Stream Ministry, is an excellent resource.]

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF 1 & 2 SAMUEL

OUR NEED FOR GOD TO BUILD CHRIST INTO US

In 2 Samuel 7 David wanted to build God's house, but in this chapter God wanted David to realize that he needed God to build Christ into him. Thus, 2 Samuel 7 is the unveiling of a prophecy through typology

*Now we need
to let God work
Christ as the
Spirit into
every part of
our being.*

showing us there is no need for us to build something for God. We simply are not able to do this. We cannot build something for God with ourselves or with our knowledge of the Bible and theology. We need God to build up Christ into our intrinsic constitution so that our entire being will be reconstituted with Christ. As a result, we are not only changed, but we are transformed from one kind of person into another.

Perhaps now we can see that 2 Samuel 7 simply indicates that God does not need us to build anything for Him. We are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. Therefore, we need Christ to be wrought into our being....

At this point we need to consider once again what God's economy is. God's economy is to work Himself into us in Christ as His embodiment. Through death and resurrection Christ has become the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b). Now we need to let God work Christ as the Spirit into every part of our being. The more God does this, the more we will be able to declare, "To me, to live is Christ," and "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (Phil. 1:21; Gal. 2:20).

Christ Making His Home in Our Hearts

The New Testament verse that best indicates that Christ is building Himself into us is Ephesians 3:17. Here Paul says that Christ is making His home in our hearts. This is building. What is of crucial importance today is the question concerning how much of Christ has been built into us. How much has Christ been built not only into your spirit but into your heart in order to make His home there?

Our spirit, the central part of our being, is surrounded by our heart, which is composed mainly of our mind, emotion, and will. Christ is in our spirit, but how much has Christ made His home in our heart? Most of our hearts are still vacant, not occupied, saturated, and soaked with Christ. Every day our hearts are filled with other things. As a result, Christ is imprisoned in our spirit.

Ephesians 3 indicates strongly that the Triune God is building Himself into us in Christ's making us His home.

Life-study of 1 & 2 Samuel, pp. 159-161

HOUSE OF GOD *(continued from page 1)*

I have not dwelt in a house, since the day I brought the children of Israel up out of Egypt to this day; but I went about in a tent and in a tabernacle. In all My going about among all the children of Israel, did I ever speak a word to any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?" (vv. 5-7). God asked David two questions: "Are you the one who will build Me a house?" and "When did I ever ask someone to build Me a house of cedar?" The answers to these two questions give us a clear understanding of what God desires for His dwelling place.

Christ builds God's house not by using physical lumber but by making His abode with us.

God answers His first question to David saying: "When your days are fulfilled and you sleep with your fathers, I will raise up your seed after you, which will come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. It is he who will build a house for My name" (vv. 12-13). David wanted to build a house for God, but God told David that his seed, Christ, would be the one to build His house. Christ is the seed of David in His humanity and the Son of God in His divinity (Rom. 1:3). He alone is qualified to build God's house. This is why Christ

said, "I will build My church" (Matt. 16:18). Only Christ can build the church as the house of God (1 Tim. 3:15).

The second question God asked was, "Did I ever speak a word... Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" (v. 7). God never spoke this word or indicated that He wanted a house built of cedar. Instead, in the New Testament we see that Christ builds God's house not by using physical lumber but by making His abode with us. The Lord Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make an abode with him" (John 14:23). When we love the Lord Jesus and keep His word, He comes to make His abode, his home, with us. The apostle Paul also prayed that Christ would make His home in our hearts, spreading from our spirit into all parts of our heart—our mind, emotion, will, and conscience (Eph. 3:17).

The house of God, the dwelling place of God, is the church, which is built by Christ growing in the believers and making His home in their hearts (Eph. 2:21-22). God told David that only Christ can build His house and that He does not want a physical house of cedar. He wants a house built by Christ coming and building Himself into us. God does not want us to do anything. He wants Christ to make His home in our heart so that we, with all the believers, could be His eternal dwelling place, the church.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The All-Inclusive Christ and Life-Study of 1 & 2 Samuel*, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

The OVERCOMING LIFE

THE OVERCOMING LIFE

is not a call to attain an extraordinary measure of "spirituality." Rather, it is a call to normalcy, a call to pursue the life that is hidden with Christ in God. This call reverberates within seeking believers who, despite a keen sensitivity to their weaknesses, sense an inward call to overcome.



by Watchman Nee
ISBN 1-57593-817-0
Hardbound only

AVAILABLE AT CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORES
THROUGH ANCHOR, APPALACHIAN,
RIVERSIDE, AND SPRING ARBOR DISTRIBUTORS.
PUBLISHED BY LIVING STREAM MINISTRY
2431 W. LA PALMA AVE.
ANAHEIM, CA 92801
1-800-549-5164 • WWW.LSM.ORG

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.

GOD'S GROWTH IN US FOR THE BUILDING

Our spirit is the central part of our being. Surrounding our spirit are the inward parts of the soul—the mind, emotion, and will. You have God in your spirit, but you do not have God in your mind, emotion, and will. You need to allow Him to dispense Himself into all the parts of your soul. Let us again use the illustration of electricity installed in a building. The only way to appropriate and apply this electricity is to turn on the switch. Our spirit is the switch that turns on and applies the heavenly electricity. We have to exercise our spirit so that God may saturate and take over our mind, our will, and our emotion. This is the growth in life. We have to turn to our spirit to meet God there.

In particular, we need to allow the Lord to subdue our will from within our spirit. We should pray, "Lord, I am willing to give You the ground. Take full possession of my will and saturate my will with Yourself." Then God will be increased within us, and we will have the growth of God in us. Many times we will not give the Lord the ground in our will in certain things. We may say that we have consecrated ourselves to the Lord and to the church. But even today we still would not be willing to surrender all the ground in our being to the Lord. Instead, we should say, "Lord, this is Your ground. Take it. I surrender in my will. I am willing to be subdued by You. Take over my will." Right away we will have the increase of God.

Our mind must also be possessed by the Lord. It is wrong that we are in the mind daily. As those who are seeking the Lord, we must exercise to

be in the spirit all the time. Two brothers coordinating together in the church service may realize that they have to be in the spirit, but they are used to being in their mind. One brother may consider in his mind

*We grow by giving
the Lord the ground
within us so that He
can increase within us.*

about the other brother, thinking that this brother's attitude toward him has not been good. When we are in the mind, we are soulish and dusty. The more we think about the brothers apart from the spirit, the more dusty we become, to be the food of the serpent, who was assigned by the Lord to eat dust all the days of his life (Gen. 3:14).

When we are in the spirit, we will forget about everything but Christ. We must ask the Lord to be merciful to us so that we may surrender our mind to Him. We should say, "Lord, take over my mind. I give all the ground in my mind to You." Then God will increase in us more. We also need to give Him the ground to take over our emotion so that our emotion can be filled with His desires and feelings.

It is in this way that God is increasing within us all the time to cause us to grow with the increase of God. We do not grow by being outwardly adjusted, improved, or corrected. We grow by giving the Lord the ground within us so that He can increase

within us. This issues in the transformation in life. By the growth in life we are transformed into precious stones for God's building. We become the living stones built up as a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5). The growth in life is a matter of God increasing in our whole being, beginning from our spirit and spreading into all of the inward parts of our soul. The more ground He gains within us, the more He increases Himself within us. Then we grow by His increase within us for the building up of the Body of Christ. This is the way to have the local church life.

The Experience of Christ as Life for the Building Up of the Church, pp. 38-39, 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.

Living Stream Ministry
P.O. Box 2121 • Anaheim, CA 92814
Phone: (714) 236-6020
Fax: (714) 236-6024
E-mail: radio@lsm.org
Web site: www.lifestudy.com

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.

© 2003 Living Stream Ministry. All rights reserved.
No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means – graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval system – without written permission from the publisher.