

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 83, MARCH 2005

*"He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit . . . does He do it out of the works of 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 ZION, IN THE PSALMS?
- 2 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF PSALMS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—TWO KINDS OF EATING—EATING IN SOWING AND EATING IN HARVESTING

*Dear Life-study Listener,*

Recently we finished our life-study of First and Second Peter and Jude. Although short in length these epistles are by no means short in content. As we go through the nine chapters of these three books, we should not allow any minor points to distract us from God's economy, the central revelation of the Triune God becoming our enjoyment for His expression. God desires that Christ's life grow in us, resulting in our transformation for God's building. In order to enhance your studies, we encourage you to get the printed *Life-study of Jude* and read in particular the last two messages entitled, "The Basic Structure of the Epistles of Peter and Jude," or listen to the archived radio programs on cassette, CD, or the Internet.

Jude 19 says, "These are those who make divisions, soulish, having no spirit." Although Jude and Peter spoke strong words about the apostates, we believers should also be warned by their word. The footnote says, "They do not care for their spirit or use it. They do not contact God by their spirit in communication with the Spirit of God; neither do they live and walk in their spirit. They have been drawn downward by their flesh and have become fleshy, so that they have lost the consciousness of their conscience (see note 12<sup>2</sup> in 2 Pet. 2) and have become like animals without reason (v.10)." May the Lord have mercy on all of us that we would all take care of our spirit.

*Living Stream Ministry*

## WHAT IS ZION, IN THE PSALMS?

Psalm 128 speaks of Jehovah's blessing to Israel from Zion and the prosperity of Jerusalem in Israel's enjoyment. Psalm 129 concerns God's righteous dealing with the persecutors of Israel and the haters of Zion. On this earth there is a people chosen by God as His elect, and this people is always persecuted. This is true of the believers today, who may be persecuted for preaching the gospel and teaching the Bible. Furthermore, Zion, the highest peak of that range of mountains, signifies the overcomers in the church, the higher ones among the believers. Just as Zion was hated, so the overcomers also are hated. But God comes in to deal righteously with those who persecute Israel and hate Zion. Israel is God's elect, and God deals with those who persecute His people, but this does not mean that Israel is perfect and

*(continued on page 3)*

### **Life-Study of the Bible**

W E L C O M E S

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| KCPR       | 106.5 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](mailto:radio@lsm.org). Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

*I have really been blessed by this ministry. Praise God! I thank the blessed Holy Spirit for directing me to this ministry. I have received so much life. I'm learning the importance of the inner life and God's desire for overcomers. Currently I'm listening to the Book of Acts via the Internet. I've completed Matthew, Revelation, and Genesis so far. May the Lord's Spirit be with your spirit.*

Cairo, GA

*Thank you for the Hearing of Faith and the radio ministry. So glad that we are becoming God's inheritance and something for which God will receive praise eternally.*

Omaha, AR

*The timing of your radio broadcast of 1 & 2 Peter couldn't have been better for us. The church in Toronto has decided to pursue the books of Peter following the winter training on the 3T books. We discovered this week that the radio broadcast of Peter coincides almost simultaneously with the current church pursuit. So we are faithfully listening to your commentary on Peter to help us get into these books to get more of the sense of the burden of Peter's writing. Praise Him for His sovereignty and thank you for your faithfulness to get this ministry out to the hungry seekers of the truth.*

Toronto, Ont.

## Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF PSALMS

In studying the Psalms, on the one hand, we should receive all the marvelous revelations concerning Christ as the centrality and universality of God's economy, but, on the other hand, we should discern that the Psalms are pious expressions of the psalmists uttered out of their natural concepts, and some are based on the principle of good and evil, not on the principle of the divine life. All of these expressions are far below the standard of the requirements of God's new creation (Gal. 6:15).

As a result of studying the Psalms, we should have an increased appreciation of the Epistles of Paul. The standard of the divine revelation in Paul's Epistles is high compared not only to the Psalms but also to the four Gospels and Acts. For example, the expression the Body of Christ, used by Paul, is not found in the Gospels or in Acts. The Body of Christ is not simply a composition of His believers, but is actually an organism produced by the Triune God's dispensing of Himself into the believers to make them His counterpart. As a result of this dispensing, Christ is not only the Head of the Body but even all the Body (1 Cor. 12:12),

*In the new man  
there is room only  
for Christ. He is all  
the members of the  
new man and in all  
the members.*

the new man. Concerning the church as the new man, Colossians 3:10 and 11 reveal that "Christ is all and in all." In the new man there is room only for Christ. He is all the members of the new man and in all the members. He is everything in the new man and actually is the new man. If we do not believe that Christ is us and is in us, then we have not yet seen the revelation concerning the new man in the New Testament. We need to know Christ to such an extent that we realize that He is us and that He is in us. He is within us to make us one with Him.

We praise the Lord that we have both the Old Testament and the New Testament. We have the Psalms, and we have the other sixty-five books of the Bible with which we may compare the Psalms. The more we make a comparison, the more we will realize that the divine revelation in the Bible is progressive, and the more we will appreciate the standard of spirituality revealed in the New Testament.

## ZION, IN THE PSALMS *(continued from page 1)*

sinless. On the contrary, Israel has many sins and iniquities. Thus, in Psalm 130 we have a psalm of forgiveness and redemption.

Psalm 131 indicates that after we experience God's forgiveness, we become humble. Formerly, we were proud and even haughty, thinking that we alone were right and that others were wrong. But after we are enlightened concerning our real

divided. When God has His rest, His dwelling place, in Zion, we can come to Him in Zion and dwell there in unity with the brothers. How good and how pleasant this is! It is like the fine oil, signifying the anointing, upon Aaron, and it is also like the morning dew, signifying grace, that descends from Mount Hermon to the mountains of Zion. This indicates that, as God's people, we need both the

*When our heart is humbled and our soul is quiet, we are in a condition that is suitable for God to come in to rest. In such a situation God can have a resting place, a dwelling.*

situation, make a thorough confession, and receive God's forgiveness, we become humble. We humble our heart, lower our eyes, and our soul becomes quiet "like a weaned child with its mother" (v. 2). I have had this experience many times, realizing that I am nothing, that I have nothing, and that I can do nothing. When our heart is humbled and our soul is quiet, we are in a condition that is suitable for God to come in to rest. In such a situation God can have a resting place, a dwelling. However, when we are proud and our eyes are haughty, God has no rest, no dwelling place, in us. Only when we are humble, calm, and quiet is the situation right for God to rise up, enter into us, and take us as His resting place. This is Zion becoming God's habitation, His resting place, as revealed in Psalm 132.

Next, Psalm 133 shows us that Zion is the unique place where the brothers can come together in unity. Zion is the uniting center. In any other place we are scattered and

anointing and the watering. Moreover, in Zion God has a place where He can command His blessing. Therefore, in Zion we receive the commanded blessing of God, even life forever....

The sequence of Psalms 128 through 134 is logical and reasonable. We enjoy God's blessing from Zion and the prosperity of Jerusalem, and then God deals with those who persecute us and hate us. Nevertheless, we are sinful and need God's forgiveness. When we receive His forgiveness, we become humble, calm, and quiet, and God comes in to rest, to dwell, in us. Then we come up to Him to dwell in unity. As a result, we become Mount Zion; that is, we become the highest people, those who are even higher than the priests.

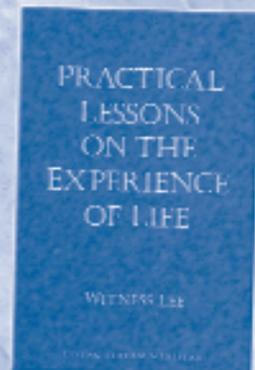
For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of Ephesians*, message 30 and *The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John*, both by

### PRACTICAL LESSONS ON THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE

According to the Scriptures, God's intention is to be life to us in His Son through the Spirit. Christ came that we may have life, that is, the divine, eternal life, which is Christ Himself. This requires that we not only be instructed in the scriptural truths concerning life, but that we enter into the experience of life. In this way we will grow in the divine life to be built up together as the church that He desires.

In *Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life* Witness Lee presents the basic truths concerning God as life to us. Going beyond mere teachings, however, he also leads us into the practical experience of life. These basic and indispensable lessons can help every believer enter into the central thought of God for the full recovery of the experience of life for growth and for the building up of the church.

*Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life*  
by Witness Lee  
ISBN 0-7363-1241-2



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](http://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.*

## TWO KINDS OF EATING—EATING IN SOWING AND EATING IN HARVESTING

We thank the Lord that now we all are learning to eat the Lord. However, according to the revelation in Deuteronomy, there are many particular points in the matter of eating, drinking, and enjoying the Lord. On the one hand, the Lord is the bread of life, and we simply need to eat Him. On the other hand, according to Deuteronomy 12, 14, and 15, the Lord Jesus, whom we eat, comes out of our laboring; He is produced from our sowing of the field and from our raising of the herd

circumstances and allows many things to happen for our good, so that the seed in us can grow and produce something. For example, a sister, whose husband always makes things difficult for her, prays every day, asking the Lord to cause her husband to love Him as much as she does. However, the more she prays, the less he loves the Lord; the more she calls "O Lord, Amen!" and the more she pray-reads, the more her husband is annoyed. Previously, her husband attended two meetings a

blowing of the north wind to deal with you. You have to learn to accept it. Do you know that once you accept the dealing and call on the Lord again, the taste will become so wonderful? Whenever you call on Him, He comes. Then there is a harvest in you. Thus, you have an abundant supply of seeds to sow and of bread to eat. At the same time you can bring the top tenth, the firstfruits, of the produce to the meetings to eat and enjoy with the saints. This eating is your worship. Taken from the online publication:

## *Whenever you call on Him, He comes.*

and the flock. Therefore, according to Deuteronomy, our enjoyment of the riches of the Lord is the result of our laboring on Him.

can further describe the particulars of this type of eating. For example, if you open your Bible, call on the name of the Lord, and pray-read His word, you can enjoy the Lord even now. However, this is only the initial enjoyment; it is not the enjoyment of a rich harvest, because it is devoid of your own toil and labor. You enjoy the Lord simply by opening up yourself, by using your spirit to call on His name, and by pray-reading His Word. This is the enjoyment in sowing but not the enjoyment in harvesting....

### ACCEPTING THE DEALINGS IN OUR LIFE TO HAVE A RICH HARVEST

To obtain manna does not require our laboring, but to get the produce of the land of Canaan does. While we are enjoying the Lord and receiving Him into us, He often raises up

week; after her calling and pray-reading, her husband would not go even for half a meeting. In a case like this what should you do? Let me tell you that all those things that happen are the Lord's raising up the north wind to blow upon you (S. S. 4:16). Instead of asking the Lord to change your husband, pray that the Lord will grow in you: "O Lord, make me willing to accept Your dealing. O Lord, subdue me from within. O Lord, cause me to submit myself under Your hand and take the breaking." Later you will thank and praise the Lord that because you were willing to be dealt with in that way, the life in you grew a little.

You may begin to feel good about dealings such as these when the life in you grows a little today and a little more tomorrow. However, on the third day even your children may take sides with their father and begin to help him to deal with you. What should you do? This is again the

Eating the Lord chapter 4  
by Witness Lee I

## 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](mailto:radio@lsm.org)  
Web site: [www.lsmradio.org](http://www.lsmradio.org)

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.

© 2004 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.