

# 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 Radio
- 1 What Is the Testimony of the Scriptures concerning God as Our Food?
- 2 Highlights from *Life-Study of Exodus*
- 3 Response from Listeners
- 4 The Path of Life—The Parts of Man and Their Purposes, Part 2

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

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*Dear Listeners,*

A couple of months ago, we began broadcasting a new weekend series entitled *Weekend Edition of Life Study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We can see by your response that this series of selected programs from previously broadcasted life-studies has been warmly received. Thank you for your support and all the encouraging calls and comments you contributed as we conducted Campaign 99 for our weekend listeners. Currently, our weekend edition features past highlights from *Life-study of Acts* and *Life-study of Hebrews*. These programs are truly memorable.

Our Monday-through-Friday listeners continue to enjoy the complete salvation of God for His people in *Life-study of Exodus*. We are seeing day by day that His intention is not just to bring His people out of the world, represented by Egypt, but also to bring them into a place where He would become everything to them, including the unique component of their new diet, manna.

We want to draw your attention to the new stations we have added this month. (See notice on this page.) We are thankful to the Lord for answering our prayers for daily broadcasts in Dublin, Ireland and Jerusalem. The Jerusalem station covers almost all of Israel. Please stand with us for these two additions to our growing list of international stations.

Thank you for listening and for responding, and may we all “keep the feast” (1 Cor. 5:8).

*Living Stream Ministry Radio*

## WHAT IS THE TESTIMONY OF THE SCRIPTURES CONCERNING GOD AS OUR FOOD?

Chapter sixteen of the book of Exodus is a marvelous revelation of the food (manna) that God gave the children of Israel in the wilderness. They were to live on this manna. The Lord Jesus referred to manna in John 6, where He unveiled Himself as the true bread, the bread of God, the bread that came down out of heaven, the bread of life, and the living bread. In this chapter He charged us to labor not for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures unto eternal life.

Exodus 16 and John 6 point to a crucial matter in the Scriptures, that of feeding on God Himself as our food, taking the Lord in, or we may say, eating God as food. From beginning to end, the Bible is a book of eating. In Genesis chapter two, positively, and in chapter three, negatively, God was very concerned about man's eating. God told the man that he may eat of every tree in the garden. Every tree was good for food. But there was one tree, the tree of knowledge of good and evil, that he must not eat of. If he did, he would die. Man fell by eating wrongly, but man is saved by eating rightly.

This claim is fully supported by the Scriptures. Consider the testimony in the Old Testament. In Exodus 12 the children of Israel ate the Passover lamb with the unleavened bread and the bitter

*(continued on page 2)*

## GOD AS OUR FOOD

(continued from page 1)

herbs. In the wilderness they fed on manna. Eventually, in the good land of Canaan, they fed on the produce of the land. This indicates that we progress in the Christian life by eating. When we are redeemed, we eat Christ as the Lamb. As we follow the Lord, we eat Christ as the manna. As we grow to maturity, we enjoy Christ as all the riches of the good land. We see the same principle of eating in the tabernacle with the offerings. The offerings that were offered in the outer court were food for the priests. Then in the Holy Place there was the showbread as food. In the Holy of Holies, as Revelation 2 indicates, there is the hidden manna as our food. Eating is crucial because, according to the Bible, eating is closely related to our relationship with the Lord. It determines what we are in our Christian life. To use the common proverb, we are what we eat.

The New Testament, as a continuation of the Old, speaks of eating. We saw this in John 6. In 1 Corinthians 10 Paul said that they, the children of Israel as a type of the New Testament believers, all ate the same spiritual food, and they drank the same spiritual drink. Earlier in chapter three, Paul told the Corinthian believers that he fed them with milk, not with solid food. Again and again, the thought is one of eating. In the book of Revelation the Lord Himself speaks to the churches concerning eating: to Ephesus, concerning eating of the tree of life; to Pergamos, concerning eating the hidden manna; to Laodicea, concerning dining with the Lord. The Bible ends with a promise of the tree of life and the water of life.

As we survey the Bible in this light, we see a marvelous revelation. God is food. God wants to be our unique food. God wants us to come to Him through the Word and take Him as our food that He may nourish us, fill us, and reconstitute us with Himself to make us His corporate expression. This is the revelation of the Scriptures, and this is our testimony. God in Christ is food to us, and we need to take Him in as food that we may express Him for the fulfillment of His heart's desire.

*For further reading on this subject, please see The Crucial Revelation of Life in the Scriptures, chapters 3 and 8; The Living and Practical Way to Enjoy Christ, chapter 6; and footnote 5 of Rev. 2:7 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.*

## Highlights

### FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF EXODUS

According to the Old Testament, God loved Israel with such an affectionate love. In Jeremiah 31:3 the Lord said to His chosen people, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving-kindness have I drawn thee." What we have here is not the love between friends, nor the love of a rich person toward the poor; it is a courting love, a love which leads to engagement and marriage. Because the Lord had such a love for His people, He "took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt" (Jer. 31:32). This is also the love in Jeremiah 2:2, a verse which speaks of the love of Israel's betrothals. Mainly, the love revealed in the Bible is this love in courtship, engagement, and marriage.

As we pointed out in the foregoing message, in bringing His people out of Egypt and giving His law to them, God was courting them, wooing them, and seeking to win their affection. As strange as it may sound at first, God actually courts His people. Because He has courted us, we are in the church life today. Not only is our God the processed God, the Triune God who has passed through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension in order to come into us as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit; He is also the courting God, the God who comes to us and woos us, seeking to win our affection. This kind of love was displayed in Exodus 20 when God came to His people and gave His law to them.

When we come to the divine revelation in the Bible, we should not be occupied by anything that would blind us to the Lord's light. Rather we need to open our whole inner being to the Lord. Years ago, I did not see as clearly as I do today that in the Old Testament God came to His people in the way of a suitor courting a young lady. But recently in my reading of Exodus 20 I opened to the Lord in a fresh way. I did not care for what I knew about this chapter. I was open to what the Lord would say to me. I can testify that after this the light came. As early as 1932, I gave messages on this chapter. Those messages, however, emphasized the "night" aspect of the giving of the law. What the Lord has shown me recently concerns the "day" side, in particular the fact that the law given in Exodus 20 functions as an engagement paper, an engagement contract. . . .

Because of the Lord's enlightening through His word, I have the confidence to say that the entire Bible is a book of engagement. In the Scriptures we have a record of how God courts His chosen people and eventually marries them. For eternity, the Triune God as the Husband will enjoy a sweet married life with His wife, His chosen and redeemed people. New Jerusalem will even be called the wife of the Lamb (Rev. 21:9). The conclusion of the Bible is the marriage of God and His people. Since the Bible ends in this way, it can truly be called a book of engagement. The main subject of the Scriptures is God's engagement to His people. If this were not the main subject of the Bible, the Bible would not conclude with a word concerning the universal marriage of God and His redeemed ones.

*Life-study of Exodus*, Msg. 54, pp. 635-637, by Witness Lee

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# RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of our broadcast *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners so that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All responses should be addressed to *Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; via fax (714) 765-8024; email [radioresponses@lsm.org](mailto:radioresponses@lsm.org). Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

*When I started listening to Witness Lee's program, it really was inspiring. It was so rich, taking me to a different level in the Scripture that I have not seen. I've never heard the Scripture in Isaiah explained that way. So it was touching to me. I've been telling people at work to listen. Most everybody was not aware of 96.3. I called my sister and got a number of people at work to listen so they can get all this rich teaching that I'm receiving. It's truly been a blessing to me. I work nights, and I rush home so I can get to the 10:30 [program]. I don't want to miss that.*

L.W., West Covina, CA



*I truly appreciate the teaching of God's Word... You are a blessing to me. God richly bless you all in Jesus' name. You are loved.*

F.M., Irving, TX

*My mother and I work together. We listen to the radio quite often and have been so blessed by Witness Lee's tapes presented by Living Stream. Your commentary has brought additional light on many subjects. Praise God for your program.*

D.H., Jackson, MS

*I struggled with the law a lot. When I started to listen to you, Witness Lee was going through the book of Romans. God was so powerful. He met me and showed me that I was trying in the flesh. He began to show me what it meant to walk in the Spirit and to call upon the name*

  
YOUR MINISTRY HAS  
HELPED ME TO ENJOY  
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
MUCH MORE.  


*of the Lord. It was so liberating. I just happened to turn the radio on. I wanted to encourage you. I feel that there is more truth poured out through your ministry in the half hour than any other ministry that I have listened to.*

*I would like to encourage anybody in the Lord to know how much this ministry has helped me. I just know that it has enabled me to enjoy. You talked in the ministry a lot about the all-inclusive Christ, about enjoying Christ. Your ministry has helped me to enjoy the Lord Jesus Christ much more. It's really brought life to me, real life.*

D.H., Pearland, TX

*I used to listen off and on, but I was not paying any attention. Then someone brought my attention to it. As I listened over the past few weeks, I realized that it is so powerful. I really enjoy listening to the program. It helps me a lot. I find that he [Witness Lee] goes in depth into the word and he explains everything so precisely that you can't miss. You understand it so clearly. That's why I would like to do the study that he's teaching on. These things will help me to grow. It would help me in teaching and I would learn more also.*

M.K., Ville La Salle, Quebec, Canada

*I listen to your thirty-minute program on WCHP 760. I was so blessed and encouraged, praising the Lord many times a day for that sound and nice teaching with Brother Lee. I am taking notes, but I want more. Could I have books on Isaiah or Exodus or the Triune God? I'm praying for you that you can touch more souls and win them. I have a book by Watchman Nee on the Song of Songs which was a great help to me to understand that book. I love this program with Brother Lee. May the Lord bless you richly.*

H.S., Pierre Fonds, Quebec, Canada

# THE *Path* OF *Life*

*Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of 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.*

## THE PARTS OF MAN AND THEIR PURPOSES PART 2

### THE TWO SPIRITS MINGLED AS ONE

John 3:6 says, "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit." The two spirits are here mentioned again. They are related to our being born again. To be born again is to have our spirit regenerated by the Spirit of God. That which is born of the Spirit, the Spirit of God, is spirit, our human spirit. We are not born again in our body or in our soul, but in our spirit. The Spirit of God comes into our spirit and regenerates us in our spirit. Then He dwells in our spirit and mingles Himself with our spirit.

. . . 1 Corinthians 6:17 says, "He that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." These two spirits are mingled together as *one* spirit. We are one with the Lord in the spirit. This is why it is difficult to distinguish in many New Testament verses whether the Holy Spirit of God or our human spirit is referred to. These two spirits are mingled together as one. This is exceedingly vital.

### CHRIST AS THE SPIRIT IN OUR SPIRIT

If the Holy Spirit is in our spirit, then where is Christ? He is in the Holy Spirit. Not only is He in the Holy Spirit, but He is the Holy Spirit! First Corinthians 15:45 states, "The last Adam [which is Christ] was made a quickening spirit." The word "quicken" means life-giving. Christ was made a life-giving Spirit. Could this life-giving Spirit be any other than the Holy Spirit? Of course not. Second Corinthians 3:6 says, "The Spirit giveth life." Who is this Spirit that gives life? The answer is in verse 17 of the same chapter: "Now the Lord is that Spirit." So Christ, the Lord, is the Spirit that gives life. This is indeed wonderful! Christ is the Spirit, we have a spirit, and these two spirits are joined as one. How can we contact Christ? By the spirit! The only way for us to contact Christ is to exercise our spirit, because Christ is now the Spirit, and this Spirit is the Holy Spirit in our spirit. If we exercise our spirit, we can contact Christ. This is the secret.

## 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 one of our listeners is 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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### THE DISCERNMENT OF THE SPIRIT FROM THE SOUL

Since Christ, as the life-giving Spirit, dwells in our spirit, we need to discern our spirit from our soul that we may contact and experience Him. . . . To know the difference between the body and the soul is easy, but to discern the spirit from the soul is rather difficult. The following illustration is most helpful. Suppose we find something that we would like to purchase. The more we consider it, the more we feel that we would like to have it. Eventually, we make the decision to buy it. The emotion is exercised, since we like it; the mind is exercised, because we have considered it; and the will is exercised, because we have made the decision to buy it. Therefore, the whole soul is exercised. But when we proceed to buy it, something *very deep within* us protests. Our emotion likes it, our mind considers it, and our will chooses it; but something deeper than all these protests. This is the spirit. The spirit is the deepest part within us, the very inmost part of our whole being. It is absolutely different from our soul.

In our body we have the physical life as mentioned in Luke 8:14. In our soul we have the psychological life, that is our human life, as mentioned in Matthew 16:25. In our spirit we have the spiritual life, that is the divine life, the eternal life, as mentioned in John 3:16. The unbelievers have only physical life in their body and human life in their soul. They do not have the eternal life of God in their spirit, because they have not received Christ as life into their spirit. Therefore, they can only live by the body and by the soul. . . . They are not able to live by their spirit. But those of us who have received Christ into our spirit can live by our spirit with Him as our life. We can say that I have been crucified, and it is no more I, but Christ that lives in me (Gal. 2:20). The Greek word for "I" is "ego," which is the soul, the self. Our soul, the self, has been crucified and put to death, and there is no more "I," but Christ that lives in our spirit. Thus, we can and must live in our spirit, since Christ is living in it.

We must first realize that Christ is the Spirit in our spirit. Then we need to discern the difference between the spirit and the soul that we may deny the soul and live by the spirit. When we live by the spirit, Christ will have the first place in everything. Then we will experience Christ in the spirit, and we will learn how to apply Him in our daily life.

*The Parts of Man*, pp. 12-15, by Witness Lee