

# 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

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*Grace*  
BE WITH ALL  
THOSE WHO  
LOVE OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST  
IN  
INCORRUPTIBILITY.

EPHESIANS 6:24

*Dear Life-study Listener,*

Recently, Living Stream Ministry attended the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville. We were encouraged to meet so many of the Lord's people as they visited our booth where we displayed the historical development of study Bibles. Did you know the Geneva Bible was one of the first translations into English from the original languages? It was first published in 1560 and was heavily footnoted with John Calvin's teachings. We displayed an original edition printed in 1606 at the convention. This version became known as the "Pilgrim's Bible." King James viewed the footnotes in it as threatening and published his own translation of the Bible in 1611 without footnotes.

Any study Bible should safeguard the truth and communicate the light recovered by the Lord at that point in time. The Geneva Bible did this, and so did the Scofield Reference Bible three hundred years later. Today the New Testament Recovery Version follows this pattern by standing on the shoulders of many great Bible teachers, delivering a rich heritage to God's people.

We are now pleased to announce a Bible study minute produced daily for radio stations and the Internet. Many radio stations told us in Nashville of the need for such a ministry minute. In this short feature, a selected verse and footnote are read from the New Testament Recovery Version. Two samples can be found on page two. We hope to make this available via a daily e-mail to anyone who subscribes. To hear an actual production sample, please go to [www.recoveryversion.org](http://www.recoveryversion.org).

*Living Stream Ministry*

## WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIRTHRIGHT?

Few Christians today understand the biblical notion of the birthright. Yet to the writers of both the Old and New Testaments, it was a tremendous matter. We believers, by virtue of our second birth, are the sons of God and participate in God's blessings as our spiritual birthright in both this age and the next. Our

*(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.

*It is a wonderful revelation to find the Lord Jesus revealed in so many different ways and for so many purposes in the whole Bible. The building up of believers is such an important aspect of the Word today. Certainly one reason God provided this teaching is to help prevent starvation in the Body of Christ.*

St. Petersburg, FL

*I am a minister and I study quite intensely. Since last week when I caught Witness Lee’s teachings, I’ve literally stopped listening to all other teachings. It blesses my heart every single time. I will be at my desk working, and I just start weeping with the revelation that is coming forth. I’m excited about Jesus.*

Lake Charles, LA

*Give a dying person good nutrition and they are eternally grateful. Your ministry is bread and water in a dry and thirsty land. Thank you and God bless each of you as only He can. Praise, glory, honor, and dominion be to Jesus our Lord.*

Riverview, FL

*I enjoy your program. It is very informative, and this is what I especially like about it because it helps me to put things in order. You can see the chronological order, and the program gives a logical explanation of events. It takes away the confusion that one would normally have about prophecy. Then you can see how the Lord intends to move, and what He is saying becomes so very clear. The teaching brings the Word alive.*

Pittsburgh, PA

VERSES & FOOTNOTES FROM

## *The New Testament Recovery Version*

MATTHEW 26 AND 1 CORINTHIANS 2

**Matthew 26:7-8**—A woman came to Him, having an alabaster flask of ointment of great value, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at table. But when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, Why this ‘waste?

‘The disciples considered Mary’s love offering to the Lord a waste. Throughout the past twenty centuries thousands of precious lives, heart treasures, high positions, and golden futures have been “wasted” upon the Lord Jesus. To those who love Him in such a way He is altogether lovely and worthy of their offering. What they have poured upon Him is not a waste but a fragrant testimony of His sweetness.

**1 Corinthians 2:9**—But as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man’s heart; things which God has prepared for those who ‘love Him.”

*To love Him  
is the indispensable  
requirement.*

‘To realize and participate in the deep and hidden things God has ordained and prepared for us requires us not only to

believe in Him but also to love Him. To fear God, to worship God, and to believe in God (that is, to receive God) are all inadequate; to love Him is the indispensable requirement. To love God means to set our entire being—spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30)—absolutely on Him, that is, to let our entire being be occupied by Him and lost in Him, so that He becomes everything to us and we are one with Him practically in our daily life. In this way we have the closest and most intimate fellowship with God, and we are able to enter into His heart to apprehend all its secrets (Psa. 73:25; 25:14). Thus, we not only realize but also experience, enjoy, and fully participate in these deep and hidden things of God.

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIRTHRIGHT

(continued from page 1)

birthright as Christians is to inherit all that God is in Christ. The apostle Paul told us that Christ Himself is our allotted inheritance (Col. 1:12; Eph. 1:14), that we are heirs of God (Rom. 8:17), and that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

The birthright promised to God’s people is in three aspects: image, dominion, and participation in God’s kingdom. God’s central intention in creating man is that man would bear His image to express Him (Gen. 1:26). But because of Adam’s fall, man completely failed to express God. However, Christ came to fully declare the unseen God (John 1:18) and be the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15). Through regeneration, we gain the divine life to become sons of God. When we live Christ and magnify Him (Phil. 1:20-21), we fulfill God’s intention and desire to have His image expressed through man. Christ, who is God’s image, lives again through us, the members of His Body.

The second aspect of the birthright concerns man’s having dominion. God’s intention is for man to have dominion to subdue every negative thing on earth and exercise God’s authority (Gen. 1:26). Instead, Adam himself was subdued by Satan. Christ came and fulfilled God’s intention. He defeated the enemy Satan and in ascension, all things were subjected under His feet (Eph. 1:22). Our birthright as New Testament believers is to experience Christ’s subduing power and to participate in Christ’s dominion today. In Christ, we enjoy everything being subjected under the Lord’s feet. By our receiving the abundance of grace and the gift of

righteousness, we may reign over all things in Christ (Rom 5:17) to exercise God’s authority.

The third aspect of our wonderful birthright is our participation in God’s kingdom. This includes the church life as the kingdom of God in the present age (Rom. 14:17) and the kingdom’s full manifestation in the coming millennium (Rev. 20:6). Today, we enjoy the kingdom’s

## *Our birthright as Christians is to inherit all that God is in Christ.*

righteousness, peace, and joy by gathering for fellowship as the Body of Christ. Then in the next age, the victorious believers who have valued their birthright in this age will reign with Christ for a thousand years. This kingdom participation is both our birthright today and a marvelous coming reward.

We must be warned by Esau’s tragic folly of greatly undervaluing his birthright and selling it cheaply to Jacob (Heb. 12:16). We New Testament believers must treasure our birthright by refusing any worldly or sinful pleasures that rob us of our enjoyment of Christ. To those who treasure their birthright, the world’s shallow enticements cannot compare with having Christ expressed through us, reigning in us, and corporately enjoyed by us as the church, His kingdom.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of Genesis*, message 67, by Witness Lee; and footnote 1 of Hebrews 12:16 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

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any proper picture of Him as the King... lived on this earth; as such a man, He... is the Savior of mankind. The Gospel... of John unveils Him as the Son of... God, the very One who is... life to the world. Amos, who is... Gospels, Matthew and Luke have a... record of His life. Mark and John... do not. To testify that Jesus is the... King, the Christ, He prophesied in... the Old Testament. Matthew needs to... show us the antecedents of His life... this King. He needs to show us... proper substance of the Kingdom... David, to prove to the world that... the Kingdom of God is not of this... that He is qualified to be the Son of... man. He is the Son of Abraham... Mark... promise at... to Abraham (Ge... God, neither does John need to show... His human genealogy, as the very... declares that Jesus is the very One... The Kingdom of God is not of this... The King is compressed in Him, as his... descendants. He is the Christ, in fulfill... Hence, the genealogy of Jesus is... Matthew begins with Abraham, the... father of the called... lam, the... race of Adam but with the... race of Abraham... Hence, Christ...

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**MINUTE**  
from  
**THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
*Recovery Version*  
**TO READ OR TO HEAR**  
**A VERSE**  
AND A  
**FOOTNOTE**  
Visit  
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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.*

## LIVING IN THE LORD'S LIFE BY LOVING THE LORD

John 15 says that the Lord is the vine and that we are the branches. It also says that we have to abide in Him. John chapters fifteen and sixteen speak about abiding (15:4-7) on the one hand, and about loving the Lord (16:27) on the other hand. Only when we love the Lord will we allow Him to abide in us. The degree to which we love the Lord determines the degree to which we will live by His life.

*Only those who  
love the Lord  
can live  
in His life.*

The epistle that the Lord wrote to the messenger of the church in Ephesus in Revelation 2 says that the Lord had one thing against the church in Ephesus—she had left her first love (v. 4). She was irrepensible in her works, but she was short of love. Eventually the Lord said that unless she repented, He would remove her lampstand out of its place (v. 5). As a result, she would not be given to partake of the fruit of the tree of life (v. 7). The lampstand is a matter of light, and the tree of life is something related to life. Every time we leave our love for the Lord, we lose light and life. If a brother in the church in Ephesus had risen up to love the Lord in order to gain the Lord's life, he would have received the

light of life to maintain the testimony of life. Once we leave our love for the Lord, we lose life and light. We are here not to preach a doctrine to people but to guide them to the path of life. Doctrine cannot enable people to live in the Lord's life. Only walking on the path of life can help people to live in the Lord's life.

Everyone who wants to live in the Lord's life has to love the Lord. This love is not a love of adoration but a love of romance like the love that is spoken of in the Song of Songs. Without such a love, we will have nothing to do with the path of life. For us to live in the Lord's life, we have to love the Lord and even be deeply in love with Him. Our love for the Lord enables us to receive His life and light. If we find that we do not love the Lord, we have to pray, "Lord, up to this moment I still do not love You. Although I know that I have Your life, I do not have any love for You. I do adore You, but I do not love You. I cannot sense Your freshness, Your beauty, and Your loveliness. O Lord, save me and grant me Your love."

No one can serve the Lord without loving Him. Madame Guyon's most precious trait was that she loved the Lord. If you want to live in the life and nature of another person, you have to live in love. Then that person's nature will become your nature because you love him, and your nature will become his nature because that person loves you. The two natures not only interact, but they also are interchanged. It is the same with us in regard to the Lord. If we want to live in the life and nature of the Lord, we have to love

Him. I can show you the way and the principle, but I am not able to fill up your lack. You must go and pray by yourself. If we do not love the Lord, there is no way for us to grow in life. When we were saved, we received the Lord's life, but if we do not love the Lord, desire the Lord, and pursue the Lord, then in the end we will at most be like an elderly child. We will be able to pray, read the Bible, and meet with the saints, but we will have no way to live in the Lord's life. The principle here is that only those who love the Lord can live in His life.

*The Path of Our Growth in Life*, pp. 8-9, by Witness Lee

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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.lifestudy.com](http://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.

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