

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 52, AUGUST 2002

"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 LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT?
- 2 HYMNS #493
- 2 RESPONSE FROM LISTENERS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—A FURTHER WORD CONCERNING CONSECRATION

Dear Life-study Listener,

We hope our listeners have been enjoying the deep things of God as we go through *Life-study of First Corinthians*. Truly the apostle Paul wrote concerning some of the deepest matters in this book. Nowhere else can we find such clear words as the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit (15:45) or that we are joined to the Lord as one spirit (6:17). These two revelations are a critical part of the New Testament's message for our experience of Christ and are a focus of this ministry. The subject of our "What Is" article this month is the matter of Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit.

Romans 5:10 says, "For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled." Our greatest need as believers in Christ is to possess and grow in His divine life. Thank Him, we have the life-giving Spirit in our spirit to meet this need that we may be further "saved in His life."

Witness Lee wrote more than two hundred hymns, many of them on Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit and His being joined to our spirit for our intimate and closest experience of Him. One such hymn is included on page two of this newsletter. Aren't you glad He became the *life-giving* Spirit to indwell you?

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT?

The revelation of the Holy Spirit in the Bible includes many divine titles, such as, the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:20), the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:9), the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7), the Spirit (John 7:39), the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9), the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19), and the seven Spirits (Rev. 1:4). Each divine title has its own significance, revealing a different aspect of the Holy Spirit in the plan of God and in the experience of the believers. One of the

(continued on page 3)

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

LOS ANGELES, CA

KPLS
6:00 P.M.

830 AM
SUNDAY

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 have been listening to this program for the last year and a half, and it has enriched my life. I would like to get more literature based on some things I have heard from you. You have blessed many people I have known with the power of the Word. Actually, the blessing has been coming from the Word of God, and we need more individuals that get issues you bring up in God's Word and that Witness Lee and others like him prophesy of in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fairfield, CA

Please put me on your mailing list for any publications and the program and information on Witness Lee. He is one of the most profound Bible scholars that I have heard in quite a long time. I have been encouraged by him, and I have been taught in a deeper sense in the Word of God because of him. I praise and thank the Lord for your program.

River Rouge, MI

I enjoy the program and it touches me very much. I would like to have the book by Witness Lee on Leviticus. The program today was on the word mingled, and I was blessed by the broadcast. I love all of Witness Lee's books, and the radio broadcast has taught me such deep things.

Beaumont, Texas

This broadcast clarified something I had been considering. The footnotes in the New Testament Recovery Version are enlightening and eye-opening. This ministry is very helpful. I am so grateful that God gives the answer to what we need.

Houston, TX

Both Watchman Nee and Witness Lee wrote a number of hymns concerning our experience of Christ in the Spirit and as the Spirit, which are included in *Hymns*, published by Living Stream Ministry. The hymn below was written by Witness Lee and focuses on the experience of our wonderful Christ, who is now the life-giving Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17 and 1 Cor. 15:45).

L. S. L.

1 O Lord, Thou art the Spirit now That gives us life and quickens us,
With all Thy riches strengthening, O how alive and glorious

2 O Lord, Thou art the Spirit now
That with Thy power liberates;
And by Thy liberation true
The law of life now regulates.

3 O Lord, Thou art the Spirit now
That transforms us and saturates,
And to Thine image true conforms
And with Thy light illuminates.

4 O Lord, Thou art the Spirit now
Who in my spirit makes His home;
He mingles with my spirit too,
And both one spirit thus become.

5 Lord, teach me how to exercise
My spirit now to contact Thee,
That in Thy Spirit I may walk
And live by Thy reality.

(Hymns, #493)

THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT

(continued from page 1)

most profound titles in the New Testament concerning the Spirit is “the life-giving Spirit” (1 Cor. 15:45). This aspect of the Spirit is for imparting life. First Corinthians 15:45 says, “So also it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living soul’; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.” The *last Adam* is Christ (Rom. 5:14) who terminated the old creation through His death on the cross (Rom. 6:6). Then in resurrection the last Adam, Christ, became a *life-giving Spirit* to germinate the new creation. Now in resurrection Christ as the life-giving Spirit imparts Himself as life into all of His believers. The life-giving Spirit is Christ in resurrection as the Spirit giving life to His believers; Christ with all His attainments and obtainments is now the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17).

God’s intention is to give His life to man (John 10:10b; 3:16; 1 John 4:9) and to be man’s life (Col. 3:4). But there were two problems preventing the accomplishment of His intention. First, man is sinful not only in his outward deeds but also in his inward nature. Second, God was not in a form that man could receive (1 Tim. 6:16). To solve the first problem, Christ came as the Lamb of God (John 1:29) to deal with the entire problem of sin, shedding His blood for our redemption (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5). To solve the second problem, God became a man; then through death and resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit. Through incarnation, God as life was embodied in the person of the Lord Jesus (John 1:14; 11:25; 14:6). The divine life was expressed and fully manifested through Him (1 Tim. 3:16), and His disciples observed His living while they were with Him in His earthly

ministry (1 John 1:1-2). Although the divine life, the eternal life, could be seen and appreciated, man could not participate in this life. The Lord Jesus said that He was indeed life (John 14:6), the bread of life (6:35), and the water of life (4:14; 7:37-38), but before His death and resurrection, He was not yet in a form man could receive. Through death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus

*As the Spirit,
His believers
can easily
receive Him.*

passed through a process that transfigured Him from the flesh into the life-giving Spirit. Hence, on the day of His resurrection, the Lord Jesus appeared to His disciples and breathed into them saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (20:22). In this way, the Lord imparted Himself as life into His disciples, fulfilling His intention. As the Spirit, His believers can easily receive Him. Today this life-giving Spirit is available to be received and applied by all of the Lord’s believers.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Stream*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 14-24; *Life-Study of First Corinthians*, pp. 613-619; *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 861; and note 1 of John 20:22 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

HOW TO BE USEFUL TO THE LORD

A book by Witness Lee

This book is composed of messages given by Brother Witness Lee in April and May of 1955 in Baguio, Philippines. It consists of six chapters on how a Christian can become useful in the Lord’s hands to accomplish the divine commission in the economy of the grace of God.

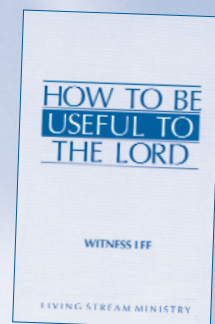


TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- 1 How to Be Useful to the Lord
- 2 Learning to Pay the Price in Our Daily Life
- 3 Being Used by the Lord and the Overflow of Life
- 4 The Need to Grow and Mature in Life after Receiving Salvation
- 5 The Economy of God’s Grace
- 6 How to be Useful in the Lord’s Hands

How to be Useful to the Lord
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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.

A FURTHER WORD CONCERNING CONSECRATION

Many people say that consecration is for the purpose of being used by God to do a work for God. To some extent this is a wrong understanding. If we come back to the Scriptures, we will find that consecration is actually for life, not for work. We consecrate ourselves to the Lord not to work for Him but for Him to work in us. To do something for the Lord is a matter of work, but to be wrought on by the

If we are not wrought on by the Lord, we cannot be used by Him.

Lord is a matter of life. What we mainly need is to be worked on by the Lord. We are not the workers but the workmanship in the hand of the Lord (Eph. 2:10). For the Lord to work on us requires our cooperation. If we do not cooperate with Him, He cannot work on us. In order to put something in a bottle, there is no need to ask the bottle to cooperate, because the bottle has no life, no mind, no will, no emotion, and no desire. To put something in the bottle is an easy, one-sided matter. To give medicine to a child, however, is to put something into a living "bottle." This is hard to do because it requires the child's cooperation. If a child is not willing to cooperate, the parent may need to open his mouth and

force the medicine into him. God has many things to put into us and many things to remove, but this requires our cooperation, which is our consecration. We need to consecrate ourselves to the Lord, saying, "Lord, I am here. I accept what You accept and refuse what You refuse."

The human concept is that the Lord is waiting to use us. However, if we are not wrought on by the Lord, we cannot be used by Him. Work comes out of life; it is the outflow of the inner life. How much we can be used by the Lord in His hands depends on how much we have been wrought upon by Him. His work through us and on us depends on our cooperation, that is, our consecration. We always have to consecrate ourselves to the Lord for His work upon us. We should not have the concept that we consecrate ourselves because the Lord needs us to work for Him. We are not tools in the Lord's hand. Rather, we are vessels to contain Him (Rom. 9:21-23).

On the negative side, many things need to be taken out of us. We have been filled up with many things other than the Lord. On the positive side, however, many things of the Lord—all the riches of Christ—must be wrought into us. On the one hand we are dirty, while on the other hand we are empty. Therefore, we need the Lord's work to clean us out and remove the many things other than Christ, and we need Him to put Christ into us more and more. This is the work of the Lord upon us, which always requires our consecration.

As we said in the last chapter, after we consecrate ourselves to the Lord, we

must try never to defeat Him. Always be willing to be defeated by Him. If we are persons consecrating ourselves to the Lord, there will often be a struggle between us and Him. This is because the Lord wants to take some things out of us. If we say, "Lord, don't take it," there will be a struggle, but in this struggle we must learn never to defeat the Lord but rather to be defeated by Him. Then the Lord will have the opportunity to work something into us. This requires our genuine consecration, which is for life, not for our work.

Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life, pp. 45-46, 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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