

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 45, JANUARY 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

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GOD'S CENTER IS FIXED ON THE CHURCH in every locality, and everything else should be joined to this center. Therefore, our aim today is not merely to pay attention to overcoming experiences, victory over sin, preaching the gospel to sinners, and having prayers answered. Rather, we should go a step further and ask what we should do in order to be fitly framed together with other brothers and sisters.

Watchman Nee
The Assembly Life, pp. 11-12

Dear Life-study Listener,

Recently *Life-study of the Bible* conducted a seminar in London, England for radio listeners. We were very encouraged by the response from many of the Premier Christian Radio audience there. *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* has been heard in London for two years now on Premier Radio, which is the only licensed Christian radio station in London.

During our recent trip to London for this seminar we met again with the precious Premier staff that the Lord raised up to carry out this important work in London. We were alarmed to discover the spiritual battle that is taking place for the Lord's interests over the British airwaves. Premier's broadcasting license from the British government is up for renewal soon, and there is a possibility it may not be renewed. God's enemy would love to stop the shining forth of God's truth from this beacon of light in England. So we encourage those whom the Lord would burden to pray for the favorable renewal from the British government. For further information regarding this struggle, go to Premier's Web site, www.premier.org.uk/licence/infosheet.html.

If you are a U.K. citizen, you can also help by writing a letter to the Radio Authority (care of Premier) expressing your support for Premier's application to renew its license. EVERY LETTER COUNTS!!! Please help us secure *Life-study of the Bible* for another eight years on the air. Write a letter of support as soon as you can, mentioning *Life-study of the Bible* and Premier Radio in the UK, and send it to Premier at: Letter of support, Premier Christian Radio, FREEPOST SE7009, London, SW1E 5YY, U.K.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE BODY OF CHRIST?

According to the New Testament revelation, the Body of Christ is not an allegory or symbol. Rather, as the practical expression of Christ on the earth today, it is a reality. We need a spirit of wisdom and revelation to see this reality (Eph. 1:17).

(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 heard the broadcast for the first time yesterday. Witness Lee was talking about the dispensing of the Lord into our lives. I am very much interested in knowing how to access your information on the Web and any free information you may have to pass on to me. [Please go to www.lifestudy.com.]

The program yesterday was totally enlightening. I really believe what I heard yesterday regarding the dispensing of the Holy Spirit. Witness Lee was explaining things so clearly and in such a way that I had never heard before. It has changed my life. I have a new perspective today in my walk with God. I can't express how enlightening it was for me. It gave me such great hope. In my walk and in my studying, I would have really serious periods of frustration at times. But yesterday I felt hopeful.

Detroit, MI

*I hadn't really understood the basis of the gospel until I read *The Normal Christian Life* [by Watchman Nee]. Your ministry helps me to understand Jesus better. I'm thankful for what the Holy Spirit has taught me through the ministry of these men [Watchman Nee and Witness Lee], and I hope to be able to teach this myself someday. I always thought before that I had to do something or something was wrong with me. I'm learning each day that all is found in Christ.*

St. Hubert, Quebec, Canada

Excerpt from

THE BODY OF CHRIST

BY WITNESS LEE

CHRIST MAKING HIS HOME IN OUR HEARTS

We may have enjoyed Christ in His riches, but we need to enjoy Him more. Christ is in us, but how much is He in us? Because of God's heart's desire for the church to be constituted with the riches of Christ, Paul prayed for the church. He prayed that the Father would grant us, "according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man" [Eph. 3: 16]....

We need to be strengthened with power through the Spirit into the inner man that Christ may make His home in our hearts (v. 17). The phrase "make His home" is only one word in Greek, *katoikeo*. *Kata*, the prefix of this word, means down. Christ is making His home deep down in our hearts. Christ is in us, but is he settled in us? When a person moves into a new house, he needs to get settled in that house. In other words, he needs to make his home there. Then every room of that house becomes inhabited by him. When I am a guest in someone else's house, I do not have the freedom to go into every room. A guest in a house is limited to certain rooms. Christ does not want to be a guest in our hearts by being limited to certain rooms. He desires to settle down in our hearts, to make His home deep down in our hearts. Christ has to be added into us. The very Christ who is in us has to increase within us.

How much of Christ do we have within us? According to my observation, Christ is within some believers as a prisoner. He is limited within them in a small area, that is, imprisoned within them in a small cell. Is Christ free to occupy our mind? Sometimes we may say, "Lord, at least tonight, give me the freedom in my mind." When the sisters go to a department store, they may want to buy something, but the Lord would not agree. Then they might say, "Lord allow me to buy it this time." We would not allow the Lord to make His home deep within our hearts. This is why Paul prayed that the Father would grant us to be strengthened according to the riches of His glory with power through His Spirit into the inner man. When we get strengthened into the inner man, this opens the way for Christ to get Himself settled in our entire being. Christ is in us, but He needs to saturate and permeate every part of our entire being.

The Body of Christ, pp. 29-30, by Witness Lee

THE BODY OF CHRIST

(continued from page 1)

Of all the New Testament writers, only Paul speaks of the Body of Christ. Before Paul's conversion, he persecuted the believers. But the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Paul in a particular way. One day, as Paul journeyed to Damascus "breathing threatening and murder against the disciples of the Lord" (Acts 9:1), a light from heaven flashed around him. The Lord Jesus said to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" When Paul asked who the Lord was, the Lord answered, "I am Jesus, whom you persecute" (vv. 2-5). Paul thought he was persecuting Christians on earth. Yet the Lord Jesus told Paul that he was in fact persecuting Him. The Lord Jesus considered His believers to be a part of Himself. To mistreat them was to mistreat Him. The revelation Paul received that day, and which permeated his ministry afterwards, was that these Christians were intrinsically joined to the resurrected Christ. Paul saw the union in the divine life between Christ and His believers. He realized that Christ, the Head, and Christ's believers, His Body, comprised one living entity in this universe.

Paul said that God gave Christ "to be Head over all things to the church, which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). If the church is only the assembly of the believers who have no intrinsic life relationship with one another, it may be like a club or organization. The church, however, is not merely the assembly of God's called-out ones. It is the Body of Christ—not a lifeless

organization but a living organism whose members possess and share the divine life with the Head, Christ, and one another. The members, all of the believers in Christ, are many yet one Body (1 Cor. 12:12). This one Body is joined to Christ in the divine life and expresses the Head, Christ.

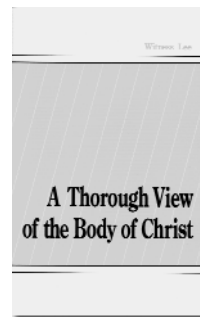
In 1 Corinthians Paul says, "In one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body" (12:13), showing that

This one Body is joined to Christ in the divine life and expresses the Head, Christ.

baptism is the unique way for us to enter into the Body of Christ. We, the believers of Christ, are baptized into the Body to be His members. Now we must grow in the life of Christ in all things so the Body may grow and be built up (Eph. 4:15-16). As His Body, we must arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (v. 13) so our Head, Christ, may be fully expressed in this universe.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Body of Christ* and *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, messages 210-212, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST IS CENTRAL TO LIVING STREAM MINISTRY.



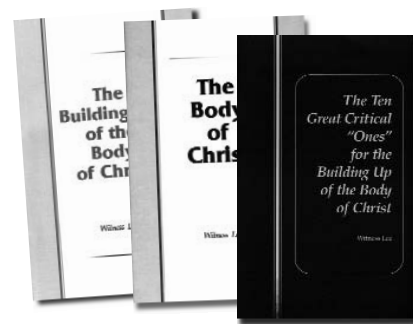
Witness Lee published many books on this topic. The following is a selection of some of them:

A Thorough View of the Body of Christ, ISBN 0-87083-512-2

The Building Up of the Body of Christ, ISBN 0-87083-400-2

The Body of Christ, ISBN 0-87083-395-2

The Ten Great Critical "Ones" for the Building Up of the Body of Christ, ISBN 0-87083-937-3



Christ and the Church Revealed and Typified in the Psalms, ISBN 0-87083-021-X

Life and Building As Portrayed in the Song of Songs, ISBN 0-87083-024-4



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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.

BEING LED TO DISCUSS EVERYTHING WITH GOD

About a hundred years ago there was a spiritual man in England named George Müller, who founded an orphanage. He was a German who became a British citizen after he went to England to preach the gospel. His wife also was British. When he was led by God to establish an orphanage, he did not do any fundraising; he only prayed. He was a person who asked God concerning all things. We may say that he was one who sought after God through prayer all day

A proper Christian lives and dwells with the Lord.

long. On the one hand, he was managing the affairs. On the other hand, he was looking to God, fellowshiping with God, and discussing things with God. If I remember correctly, whenever he met with someone or tried to resolve a difficult issue, he would be talking to men outwardly and speaking to God inwardly, just like the businessmen in Shanghai who always have two phones at the same time, one in each hand. This encourages me very much. Not only did Müller commit matters to prayer, but even in the midst of discussion with others, he also continued to ask God and seek His leading. In his autobiography he said that before he would do anything, he would ask God if a certain matter pleased Him. Then he would ask if

God wanted him to do it, because God might want something to be done in the universe but not necessarily through him. When Müller was clear that God wanted him to do it, the third thing he would do was to ask God when He wanted him to do it. The fourth thing was to ask God where to do it. The fifth thing was to ask God how to do it. Müller would bring these five points before God and would carefully ask, "O God, is it Your intention to do this thing? If You do not intend to do this, then I will not touch it or do it." Müller was one who would bring every matter, whether big or small, to God for consultation. This was his practice moment by moment.

...A proper Christian is one who learns to live before the Lord daily and who practices to be led by Him. Otherwise, there is definitely something wrong with this Christian, even if people perceive him as right and proper. When we shop for a suit, we have to ask the Lord what color or style to choose. If we think that it is all right to purchase the suit as long as we have enough money in our pocket and the suit fits us just fine, then we have a big problem. . . .

A proper Christian lives and dwells with the Lord. The Lord is his Master, his Counterpart, and his Companion. Daily he lives before the Lord, walks with the Lord, dwells with the Lord, and rests with the Lord. This is a good and proper Christian. Such a Christian will always be led by the Lord and have the consciousness of the Lord. He knows what the Lord wants him to do, and where and when he should do it. He is enlightened, fresh, pure, and full of the

presence of the Lord. He is quick to sense problems that arise because he lives before God. Whenever we meet him, we feel as if we are meeting God. We can always sense that God is upon him and in him. Why? It is because he is a person who fellowships with God and consults with God. He does not have his own natural discernment or his own arrangement. Everything he does comes out of the Lord and is unto the Lord. Whatever he does is under the leading of God.

The Pursuit of a Christian, pp. 82-83, 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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