

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 79, NOVEMBER 2004

"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

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*"To proclaim
the acceptable
year of the Lord,
the year
of
jubilee."*

Luke 4:19

Dear Life-study Listener,

Living Stream Ministry will conduct its annual Thanksgiving Conference at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport November 25-28, 2004, and you are invited. No registration is necessary. We expect a few thousand believers from all around the globe to join us for fellowship and the ministry of the Word. For more information you can call us at (888)543-3788. Other Living Stream Ministry gatherings during the year include the winter training in Anaheim, California at the end of December, the Memorial Day weekend conference, and the summer training in Anaheim at the end of June. The trainings in Anaheim require pre-registration through your local church.

Before we begin *Life-studies of 1 & 2 Peter* and *Jude* later this month, we are broadcasting some highlight programs from the Gospel of Luke. When we first broadcast *Life-study of Luke* there was much response, especially to the programs on the jubilee from Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee." Therefore, we hope and pray you will not only enjoy the broadcasts, but also the ministry portions which follow in this newsletter to bring you into the enjoyment of the New Testament jubilee, the year of grace.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE JUBILEE?

The Israelites were redeemed and blessed by God and eventually were brought into the good land of Canaan, and each family was allotted their portion of the land. Under God's care, not only were the Israelites blessed, but even their land was blessed. Every seventh year the land did not have to

(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.

During a recent illness, I began listening to your broadcast, and it has been such a blessing to me. I feel like when I am listening that I am going to get deep down into finding more gold in God's Word, and I thank you so much for that. The way you teach is much deeper than what I usually hear. You help to bring an understanding to the meaning of the Old Testament types in a way that when I hear something for the first time, I can apply it right away. Thank you again. Blessings.

Branson, Mo

I am growing in the divine life as I digest the hidden truths revealed in the Bible as I read The Hearing of Faith newsletter. It helps me on my way in the divine life into a subjective relationship with Him.

Darlington, SC

Christian greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our living Lord. I write to share what a blessing your programme has been to me. I am able to hear your broadcast once a week on Sunday morning in Belize. Each time I have listened, it has inspired me and been such a blessing. The studies of Revelation and Philipians are very encouraging.

Belize, Central America

I ordered the Holy Bible Recovery Version. I feel so blessed. This is the culmination of so many years of study. It is such a gift to have all those years of work right there in one Bible. It is such a tool for study. It just opens up a whole new understanding and appreciation of the Bible. It contains such a wealth of information.

Jacksonville, FL

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF LUKE

The Love of the God-Man

Because the Man-Savior's divine nature with the divine attributes was expressed in His human nature with the human virtues, it is difficult to say when He was living on earth whether it was God loving others or a man loving. In the life of the Man-Savior we see a love that is the love of a God-man, the love of the One who lived a human life filled with the divine life. Because the Lord lived in this way, His love was the human virtue of love filled with the divine attribute of love.

Certain cases recorded in the Gospel of Luke illustrate the fact that the Man-Savior's love was a love in which the attribute of divine love is expressed in the virtue of human love. We see this love in the case of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), in the case of the sinful woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee (7:36-50), and in the case of the thief on the cross who asked the Lord Jesus to remember him (23:39-43). In each case the Lord Jesus exercised a genuine human love. However, His love was not merely human; it was a human love filled with the divine love and also strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine love.

In reading the Gospel of Luke, we may not see that with the Man-Savior we have human love filled, strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine love. Readers of the New Testament can easily realize that the Lord Jesus loves others. Children are even taught to sing, "Jesus loves me, this I know." But what kind of love does Jesus have? Is His love human or divine? His love is not merely human love nor merely divine love; His love is human love filled, strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by and with the divine love.

*The living
of the Lord Jesus
was not merely human
nor merely divine; it
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and divinely
human.*

This wonderful love is a composition, a mingling, of the divine love with the human love. This love was the living of the Man-Savior, the living of the God-man. The Lord's living was a matter of the human virtues filled, strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine attributes.

Qualified to Be the Man-Savior

It was this kind of living that qualified the Lord Jesus to be our Man-Savior. He saved sinners by such a human-divine living, by a living that was humanly divine and divinely human. The living of the Lord Jesus was not merely human nor merely divine; it was humanly divine and divinely human. His living was the dynamic power by which He saved pitiful sinners.

Life-study of Luke, pp. 493-494, by Witness Lee

THE JUBILEE *(continued from page 1)*

yield its produce. In that year the Israelites and the land were to rest. In the seventh year, no one sowed his field because this was the year ordained by God as the Sabbath year. Then after seven Sabbath years, there was the Pentecostal year, the fiftieth year. The Pentecostal year was not just a Sabbath year; it was beyond human description.... After the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, every fiftieth year was a year of jubilee to them. Fifty years signifies the entire course of fallen

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human life. The year of jubilee, which is the fiftieth year, signifies the conclusion of our fallen human life.

As we have seen, the Israelites were redeemed by God; they left Egypt, journeyed through the wilderness, and entered into Canaan. After entering into the land of Canaan, each family received a portion of the good land flowing with milk and honey for their rich enjoyment. However, some of the people were lazy and gluttonous. Lazy people like to eat, but they do not like to work. To be sure, one who is lazy and gluttonous becomes poor. In ancient times the people did not have much to sell, so when they became poor, they sold their land. However, if the land had been sold permanently, in just a few generations there would have been an extreme disparity between the rich and the poor. Therefore, God told the Israelites, "The land shall not be sold into permanent

ownership, for the land is Mine; for you are aliens and sojourners with Me" (Lev. 25:23). They were not to sell their portion of land, the possession that they had received from God, into permanent ownership. This is unlike the sale of land today, in which once land is sold, it is sold forever. The longest duration for which a piece of land could be sold was fifty years. After a man sold his land, in the fiftieth year, the year of jubilee, he as the original owner would receive back his land.

Furthermore, some of the people were so gluttonous and lazy that even after selling their land they were still in poverty, and they had no alternative but to sell themselves as slaves. Nevertheless, when the year of jubilee arrived, they no longer remained slaves but obtained their release. In the year of jubilee, which the Israelites were to sanctify, they proclaimed release throughout the land to all its inhabitants, and each one returned to his possession and to his family (Lev. 25:9-10). No one needed to pay for redemption; everyone freely recovered his possession and his freedom. Therefore, in the fiftieth year, no one was without land and no one was in slavery. Therefore, the year of jubilee was a grace to them.

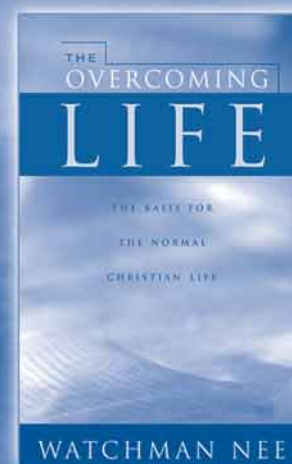
Isaiah 61:2 calls the year of jubilee "the acceptable year of Jehovah." This can also be translated, "the year of Jehovah's grace." This verse is included in the Scripture which the Lord Jesus read in Luke 4:17-19, where the above phrase reads, "the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of jubilee." In Isaiah it is the year of grace, whereas in the New Testament it is the year of jubilee. Therefore, the year of jubilee is the year of grace.

The Jubilee, pp. 10-11, by Witness Lee

The OVERCOMING LIFE

THE OVERCOMING LIFE

is not a call to attain an extraordinary measure of "spirituality." Rather, it is a call to normalcy, a call to pursue the life that is hidden with Christ in God. This call reverberates within seeking believers who, despite a keen sensitivity to their weaknesses, sense an inward call to overcome.



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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.

THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST AS THE LIGHT OF LIFE

Christ is life to us, first of all, by being light to us. To experience Christ as life, we must experience Christ as light, because the life is the light of men (John 1:4). When we experience Christ as life, we will have light within us shining all the time. Christians experience Christ as life in light. This means that when we open ourselves to the Lord and give the Spirit of Christ, who is the Spirit of life, the ground to work within us, we first sense something shining as light within us. Prior to this there might have been something foggy, dark, and vague within us, but now there is light within us that shines and enlightens, even though this light may be only a small spark.

The experience of Christ as life is not always something extraordinary. In reality, if our experience of Christ as life is genuine, we do not experience a great Christ but a small Christ. Christ is indeed great; there is none greater than He. Nevertheless, when we experience Him in reality, we experience only a little of Christ. Our concept might be that we should encounter a Christ who is like the sun shining with glory in the heavens. Of course, some may experience Christ in this way. Saul of Tarsus on the way to Damascus did indeed meet Christ in a marvelous way. However, for most of us, our experience of Christ is normally in a small way; we experience just a little of Christ. Perhaps in the morning there is something very small within us, shining like a little star, giving us a little light, so that we see and sense something. This is very precious. Do not look down on this, but rather honor and

respect it. Although there may be just a little light within us, that light is the life of Christ; it is Christ as life to us....

*Little by little
the shining
illuminates.*

Seemingly, Christians are peculiar people. For example, in the morning I may be very unhappy with a certain brother. Nevertheless, something within me is shining. By the afternoon my anger is gone, and in the evening, when I meet this brother, I am quite pleasant. Little by little the shining illuminates. This is the light of life. Just a little of this kind of shining is the proper way to experience Christ as life.

Often people may tell you that one day they prayed and something came upon them like lightning or like electricity, giving them a certain kind of feeling and experience. Although this may not be wrong, it is not the proper way to experience Christ. Rather, the proper way to experience Christ as life is that day by day, in a continual way, there is just a little light shining within us, which is the light of life working within us. By going along with this little shining, we will experience Christ more and more. The more we take care of this shining and go along with it, the more it will grow and deepen.

We need to be impressed that Christ is life, and this life is the light of men. If we follow the Lord Jesus, who is

life, we will have the light of life. The light of life is the Lord Jesus Himself as light within us shining all the time, not in a bold way but in a gentle way, little by little. By taking care of this inward shining, we take Christ as our life. By paying attention and going along with this little shining, we are living by Christ. Learn to experience Christ as life in this way. We should not expect to have some wonderful or extraordinary experience of Christ as life. Such an experience is not normal. The normal way is that Christ is life within us as the light of life. If we take care of Him, go along with Him, and give Him a free course, He will shine within us.

The Relationship of God with Man in God's New Creation, pp. 46-49, 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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