

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 law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5

In

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Dear Life-study Listener,

By the time you receive this mailing, we will have just concluded the life-study of Ezekiel with the matter of the return of God's glory to the house. Ezekiel 43:1-2 says, "Then He brought me to the gate, that is, the gate that faces toward the east. And the glory of the God of Israel was there, coming from the way of the east, and His voice was like the sound of many waters, and the earth was illuminated with His glory."

Ezekiel began with a great vision in chapter one, a vision of God's glory. Then the children of Israel entered into degradation and broke the Lord's heart (Ezek. 6:9) by setting up idols in their own heart (14:3). The result was God's judgment. But the Lord didn't give up; He recovered His people in a wonderful way, from chapters thirty-three through thirty-nine. The goal of His recovery is the holy building of God with God's glory, and that's how Ezekiel ends, as does the entire Bible.

Today we are experiencing Him as our caring Shepherd as He recovers us, by His life, from degradation. He gives us a new heart and a new spirit (36:26), then breathes life into us through the prophets' prophesying, so that all of the dead, dry and scattered bones would be formed into an army through His regenerating and renewing power (chapter 37). Although we need His recovery very much, our hope is for that day when His glory will return and descend upon His completed house.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

KLAA 830 AM
9:00 P.M. SUNDAYS

WHAT IS A LOVING HEART AND A RECEIVING SPIRIT?

We need to realize that there is a difference between the heart and the spirit. Our heart is an organ of love. Once I gave a message in which I pointed out that it is not enough just to have a loving heart toward the Lord. A particular sister was troubled by this and wanted to know what I meant by saying that we need something more than a loving heart. To illustrate, I asked her if she

(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 am calling to get the name of a contact in our area. I became acquainted with the ministry through the radio when it was on here and have been receiving the newsletters. I save every one in a binder. Recently, I learned how to go online to listen to the broadcasts and read the ministry and have been blessed, encouraged, informed and excited about what I am receiving. I would like to fellowship with others in my area.

Kennesaw, GA

I just wanted to thank the Lord for His mighty working through the Life-Study program. I've been enjoying the archived broadcasts for a while now and also reading many ministry books by Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. Praise the Lord for the richness of His Word!

Whittier, Ca

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF EZEKIEL

THE RETURN OF GOD'S GLORY TO THE HOUSE

After the completion of the building of the house, the glory of the Lord returned. In his early ministry Ezekiel had seen the glory of the Lord depart in a series of steps. First, the glory of the Lord left the temple and hesitated upon the threshold (Ezek. 9:3; 10:4).

From the threshold it went out to the city. From the city the glory of the Lord went further out to the Mount of Olives on the east side of the city (11:23), and from there the glory of the Lord ascended to the heavens.

When the Lord in His leaving stopped on the threshold of the house, this indicated that He was not happy to leave. He did not want to leave, but He was forced to do so. Indicating His unwillingness to leave, He hesitated and lingered at the threshold. Eventually, He was forced to leave because of the abomination, whoredom, and degradation of the people. But now the glory of the Lord is returning by the same way He left. He departed from the east side, and now He is returning from the east (43:1-3).

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THE GLORY RETURNING BECAUSE THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE WAS COMPLETED

It is important for us to understand why the glory of the Lord came back. The glory of the Lord returned because the building of the temple was completed. This is the crucial point. How much the Lord desires to come back to the earth! Yet, for His coming back He needs a place for the soles of His feet to rest, a place upon which He can set His feet. His habitation, His house, is the place on earth where He can put His feet.

...We need to be deeply impressed with the fact that the glory of God returned only after the building of the temple was completed. If we want to dwell in the church and manifest His glory in the church, the church must be complete. If the church today corresponds to all the details of the holy building of God covered in these chapters of Ezekiel and thus is built up in every aspect, God will dwell in the church gloriously. Therefore, in order for the glorious God to dwell in the church, the church must be built up to become the dwelling place of God.

God wants to have the church built up on earth because He desires to have a dwelling place on earth. He, the God of the heavens, wants to live on the earth. The place where He lives, His dwelling place, is the church. Since God dwells in the church, those who want to seek God and contact Him must come to the church. Our main burden in this study of Ezekiel is to see the dwelling place which God desires to have on earth. If we have the grace to be built up in the church, the God of glory will live among us.

Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 273-276, by Witness Lee

HEART AND SPIRIT (continued from page 1)

loved a certain Bible which belonged to her husband and if she would like to have it. Then I said, "The Bible is yours; please take it." When she stretched out her hand to take the Bible, I said, "Do not use

Jesus, we did not care to listen. We had no interest because we had no appetite. We loved other things, and our heart was set on those things. However, one day the Lord granted us His gracious visitation, and im-

Once we have acquired such a loving appetite for the Lord, we need to use our spirit as the organ to contact Him, receive Him, eat Him, drink Him, and breathe Him.

your hand. Just use your loving heart. Take the Bible with your heart." Through this illustration she came to understand that having a loving heart is not sufficient. She also needed to stretch forth her hand to take the Bible. In like manner, we need both a heart to love the Lord and a spirit to receive Him.

We love the Lord with our heart. The heart is the loving organ, but it is not the receiving organ. In order to take or receive anything we must use the proper organ. If we would contact the Lord, receive the Lord, enjoy the Lord, eat the Lord, and drink the Lord, we need a spirit. Whereas we love the Lord with our heart, we contact the Lord and receive the Lord with our spirit.

RECEIVING THE LORD WITH OUR SPIRIT

First, we need to love the Lord. This means that we have an appetite for the Lord. If we have no love for the Lord and no appetite for Him, we will not come to Him or receive Him. Before we were saved, we did not love the Lord and we did not have any appetite for the Lord. Instead, our taste was for the world and for the things of the world, especially worldly amusement. When others spoke to us about the Lord

mediately our appetite was changed. We began to love the Lord and the Bible, and we lost our appetite for the worldly things. This was the Lord's gracious doing, and it caused our heart to turn from the world to the Lord.

We need to love the Lord Jesus and have an appetite for Him that will turn us from the appetite for other things. We should be able to tell the Lord Jesus that we love Him and that we are hungry and thirsty for Him. Once we have acquired such a loving appetite for the Lord, we need to use our spirit as the organ to contact Him, receive Him, eat Him, drink Him, and breathe Him. Now we can see that we need two organs: a loving heart and a receiving spirit.

The receiving spirit has been greatly neglected by many Christians. In some places messages stir up people's loving heart but give them no help to exercise their spirit. We thank the Lord that He has given us not only a new heart to love Him but also a new spirit to contact Him, receive Him, and contain Him.

Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 191-193, by Witness

LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE with Witness Lee

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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 WIND, THE CLOUD, THE FIRE, AND THE ELECTRUM BEING A CHRISTIAN'S SPIRITUAL LIFE STORY

THE SPIRITUAL HISTORY OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

The spiritual history of every Christian should involve the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum. When we were saved, we experienced the Lord in these four ways, and we should continue to experience Him

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in this way. In fact, every time we are graced by the Lord, we have spiritual transactions with Him involving the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum. When you wake up in the morning, you may sense that the wind of the Spirit is blowing upon you and that a cloud is overshadowing you. Then as you spend some time to pray, you may sense that a fire is burning within you to consume your corruption, worldliness, and many other negative things. Eventually, you may sense that within you there is something bright, beautiful, and dignified—the glowing electrum. As a result of this experience, you may live the whole day in the enjoyment of the glowing electrum. However, as you live and walk in this corrupted world, you cannot avoid being defiled and contaminated, so at the end of the day or the next morning you may have a further experience of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum. Once again the wind blows, the cloud broods, and the fire burns. You confess your sins and deal with your filthiness, and following this you once again enjoy the shining of the electrum within you.

This kind of experience is inexhaustible and unending. Day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, we need to experience the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum. Every time the wind blows, the cloud covers, and the fire burns, we will be enlightened to see that we need to deal with matters about which we had no awareness before.

As these negative things are burned away, we experience a further purification and have a deeper enjoyment of the glowing electrum.

BEING GRACED BY THE LORD

Some believers have been saved for a long time, but their spiritual condition remains the same. In their Christian life there is nearly no experience of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum. The wind does not blow, the cloud does not cover, the fire does not burn, and thus there is no manifestation of the electrum. Such a situation is altogether abnormal. If a believer wants to be graced by the Lord, he must experience the spiritual wind and the spiritual cloud—the more, the better. Sometimes we need to experience the blowing of a mighty wind, a wind that causes us to have a great turn. Whenever we make such a turn, we receive much grace from the Lord.

I wish to emphasize the fact that being graced by the Lord is a matter of the wind, the cloud, the fire, and the electrum. The Holy Spirit blows upon us like a wind from God. This is the beginning of our being graced.

Then as we are under the brooding, covering cloud of the Lord's presence, we spontaneously realize how sinful and impure we are...Whenever the wind blows, the cloud covers, and the fire burns, we will sense our sinfulness and realize that we need all the negative things within us to be burned away. Everything that does not match God's holy and glorious nature will be consumed. Everything that is not of God—everything related to sin, the world, the flesh, and Satan—must be burned away. The only thing that can pass through the consuming fire is the redeeming God as the glowing electrum.

Life-study of Ezekiel, pp. 40-42, 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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