

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

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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

BOISE, ID
KKIC 950 AM
9:00 A.M. SUN

LONDON, ENGLAND
PREMIER CHRISTIAN RADIO
1305 AM, 1332 AM, & 1413 AM
3:00 P.M. MON-FRI
3:30 P.M. SAT & SUN

PHILADELPHIA, PA
WWDB 860 AM
4:00 P.M. MON-FRI
4:00 P.M. SAT & SUN

AUGUSTA, GA
WGAC 580 AM
10:00 A.M. SUNDAY

Dear Life-study Listener,

You may sometimes hear us use terms in our broadcasts that are not familiar to you. We devote our “What Is” column each month in *The Hearing of Faith* to help explain these terms. Last month our topic for the column was the matter of the kingdom. This month the topic is the seed of the kingdom, and next month we will cover the rapture of the overcomers. These three topics together give a short summary of the gospel of the kingdom in Matthew. First, we see the reality of the kingdom of the heavens in chapters five through seven. Then in chapter thirteen we see the appearance of the kingdom. Last, we see the manifestation of the kingdom in chapters twenty-four through twenty-five.

If you would like clarification on other terms that we mention, we welcome your correspondence. We hope the “What Is” column, and the rest of *The Hearing of Faith*, is helpful to you, and your written and telephone responses are always appreciated.

In our “Path of Life” articles the last few months, we have used excerpts from the book *Basic Principles of the Experience of Life*. Some of you have called and expressed an interest in the book. Our desire is to help direct each of you into a deeper and more personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Please see the insert which we have included in this month’s mailing for more details and information on how to purchase this book.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM?

In Mark 4:26-29 the Lord Jesus used a parable to illustrate the kingdom of God. He said that the kingdom is like a seed sown into the earth, which grows until it is mature, and then it is harvested. Earlier in the same chapter the Lord had spoken another parable, the parable of the sower (vv. 1-20). In this parable the sower is the Lord Jesus (Matt. 13:37), and the seed sown by the Lord is the word of the kingdom (Mark 4:14; Matt. 13:19). Within every seed there is a life element. The life element in the seed of the kingdom, the word spoken by the Lord Jesus, is the Spirit, who is the reality and the realization of the Lord Himself (John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6b, 17). Thus, the seed of the kingdom is Christ Himself as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45). The soil into which the seed of the kingdom is sown is the hearts of men (Matt. 13:19). The Lord as the sower sows Himself as the seed of life in

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SEED

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His Word into the hearts of men that He might grow there until He reaches maturity at the time of harvest—the consummation of the age (Matt. 13:38-39; Rev. 14:1-5, 14-16).

In Matthew 6:10 the Lord taught us to pray to the Father, “Your kingdom come.” How does the kingdom come? The kingdom comes by the growth of Christ as the seed of the kingdom in us. And how can Christ grow in us? According to Matthew 5:3 and 8, there are at least two requirements: first, we need to be poor in spirit, and second, we must be pure in heart. To be poor in spirit simply means to be empty in our spirit—to have no preoccupations of any kind in our spirit. To be pure in heart is to seek only God and to have no other goal except God Himself. In the parable of the sower, the Lord spoke of four kinds of soil into which the seed of the kingdom is sown: the ground beside the way, which signifies the heart that is hardened by the traffic of the world and is not able to receive the seed; the rocky ground, which signifies the heart that is shallow in receiving the word of the kingdom because of hidden sins, personal desires, self-seeking, and self-pity; the thorny ground, symbolizing the heart that is filled with the anxieties of the age, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts for other things, which choke the word and prevent it from growing and bearing fruit; and the good earth, signifying the heart that gives every inch of its ground to receive the word that the word may grow, bear fruit, and produce even a hundredfold. We all need to ask ourselves what kind of soil we are for Christ as the seed of the kingdom. Are we the wayside, the rocky ground, the thorny ground, or the good earth? We need to pray and ask the Lord to make us poor in spirit and pure in heart. Then we will be the good earth in which the Lord Jesus can grow to maturity so that the kingdom of God can come and be manifested on the earth.

For further reading on this subject, please see *A Brief Definition of the Kingdom of the Heavens and The Kingdom*, both by Witness Lee; and the footnotes on *Matthew 13:3-8 and Mark 4:3 in the New Testament Recovery Version*, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Witness Lee wrote over two hundred hymns which have been included in *Hymns*, published by Living Stream Ministry. The following is one of several hymns which he wrote concerning the kingdom of God. May we be those who live according to Christ's ruling within us today!

8. 8. 8. 3.

1 God's King - dom on the earth is now His sov - reign
gov - ern - ment with - in; 'Tis Christ Him - self in
us to live As Lord and King to rule and reign.

2 His life with His authority
Enthrones Him now within our hearts
To govern all our words and deeds
And regulate our inward parts.

3 The Lord enthroned within our hearts
His Kingdom doth establish there,
Assuring His full right to reign
And for God's purpose to prepare.

4 'Tis by His reign within our hearts
That life to us He e'er supplies;
When taking Him as Lord and King,
His wealth our being satisfies.

5 'Tis by His ruling from within
His fulness vast is testified;
'Tis when His inner kingdom rules
His Body's blessed and edified.

6 'Tis by His heav'nly rule within
As heav'nly citizens we live;
'Tis by submission to His rule
Expression of His reign we give.

7 Here in this heav'nly realm we live,
And with this heav'nly pow'r possessed
We walk and fight in heav'nly light
Until the Kingdom's manifest.

(Hymns #942)