

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 5, SEPTEMBER 1998

“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

Dear Listeners,

With this month's issue of *The Hearing of Faith* we begin a new line of articles entitled “The Path of Life.” There is a great need for God's children to experience and enjoy Christ in order to grow in His divine life for His expression and satisfaction. By providing ministry concerning many matters and practices of life as revealed in God's Word, we hope to help the Lord's seekers into the daily experience of Christ through the exercise of their spirit.

In Ezekiel 36:26 the Lord says that He will give us a new heart and put a new spirit within us. Before we received this new heart, we did not desire the things of God. Now, as believers in Christ, we love Him and desire spiritual things. It is not enough, however, simply to desire Him. We must also lay hold of Him (Phil. 3:12). We may be hungry for physical food, but our hand must still reach out to take the food, or our hunger will never be satisfied. In the same way, the Lord has given us not only a new heart but a new spirit so that we can lay hold of Him and have our spiritual hunger for Him satisfied.

First Timothy 4:7 says, “Exercise yourself unto godliness.” This exercise unto godliness is the exercise of our new spirit to lay hold of Him. The aim of “The Path of Life” is to give you, our listeners, a practical way to daily lay hold of Christ.

This month we also discuss “What Is the Recovery Version?” To accompany this article, “You Shall Be My Witnesses” (see page 2) is composed of four footnotes by Witness Lee from the book of Acts in the New Testament Recovery Version. (This article replaces our “Highlights” column this month.) “You Shall Be My Witnesses” focuses on the person of the ministers of Christ. For us to be Christ's witnesses we ourselves must see Him and enjoy Him. How different this is from merely teaching others about Christ!

Thank you for continuing with us through the life-study journey. Your letters, reply cards, and calls are always encouraging to us.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS THE RECOVERY VERSION?

The Recovery Version New Testament is a new translation of the ancient Greek text, executed according to the principles set by the major English versions of the last four centuries. The translation, for the most part based on the 26th edition of the Nestle-Aland Greek text, is a

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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

HILO, HAWAII
KCIF 90.3 FM
5:00 P.M. MON - FRI

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
KTOK 1000 AM
11:00 A.M. SUNDAY

RECOVERY VERSION

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literal yet readable rendition of the original language of the New Testament.

Accompanying the text are extensive footnotes written by Witness Lee. Unlike typical study notes that focus on the historical, geographical, and biographical background of the Bible, the footnotes in the Recovery Version New Testament stress the spiritual content of God's Word, opening up the revelation of the divine truth and pointing to the supply of life in the Scriptures.

At the beginning of each book there is an outline that provides an in-depth abstract of the book. These outlines emphasize the spiritual meaning of the New Testament books and provide a new, fresh, and living view of every book.

Throughout the text of the Recovery Version are cross references to other portions of the Bible that are similar not only in expression but also in the divine truth. These provide the reader a thorough examination of every major aspect of the truth and of every important experience of the proper Christian and church life.

Throughout the centuries the Lord has recovered many truths concerning His economy among men. Since Martin Luther's time particularly, this recovery has been steady and progressive. From justification by faith, recovered in Luther's day, to the truth and experience of the church as the Body of Christ, seen and enjoyed by many Christians today, this recovery has been the "golden thread" that binds the church across time. These recovered truths are the heritage of every believer and should be held and enjoyed by every believer today.

The Recovery Version New Testament brings together in one volume all these great matters of the Lord's recovery of the truth and experience of the Christian life. No genuine seeker and lover of the Lord should be without this compendium of His recovery of the truth.

For more reading on this subject, please see "A Brief Explanation" in the New Testament Recovery Version.

You Shall Be

M Y W I T N E S S E S

The verses and footnotes below are taken from the New Testament Recovery Version published by Living Stream Ministry.

Acts 1:8—But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My ¹witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

¹ Lit., martyrs; those who bear a living testimony of the resurrected and ascended Christ in life, differing from preachers who merely preach doctrines in letters. In His incarnation Christ carried out His ministry on the earth by Himself, as recorded in the Gospels, to sow Himself as the seed of the kingdom of God only in the Jewish land. In His ascension He would carry out His ministry in the heavens through these martyrs, in His resurrection life and with His ascension power and authority, as recorded in the Acts, to spread Himself as the development of the kingdom of God from Jerusalem, as a beginning, unto the uttermost part of the earth, as the consummation of His ministry in the New Testament. All the apostles and disciples in the Acts were His martyrs, His witnesses, of this kind.

Acts 23:11—But in the night following, the Lord stood by him and said, Take courage, for as you have ¹solemnly testified to the things concerning Me in Jerusalem, so also you must ²testify in Rome.

¹ The Lord admitted that the apostle did bear a solemn testimony concerning Him in Jerusalem. A testimony differs from mere teaching.

² To carry out His heavenly ministry for the propagating of Himself that the kingdom of God might be established for the building up of the churches as His fullness, the ascended Christ wanted to use not a group of preachers trained by man's teaching to do a preaching work, but a body of His witnesses, martyrs, who bore a living testimony of the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ. . . Satan could instigate the Jewish religionists and utilize the Gentile politicians to bind the apostles and their evangelistic ministry, but he could not bind Christ's living witnesses and their living testimonies. The more they bound the apostles and their evangelistic ministry, the stronger and brighter these martyrs of Christ and their living testimonies became. In His appearing to the apostle, the Lord indicated that He would not rescue him immediately from his bonds but would leave him in bonds and bring him to Rome that he might testify concerning Him, as he had done in Jerusalem. The Lord encouraged Paul to do this.

Acts 2:40—And with many other words he solemnly ¹testified and exhorted them, saying, Be saved from this crooked generation.

¹ Testifying requires experiences of seeing and enjoyment concerning the Lord or spiritual things. It is different from merely teaching.

Acts 26:16—But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this *purpose*, to appoint you as a minister and a ¹witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;

¹Not only a minister but also a witness. A minister is for the ministry; a witness, for the testimony. The ministry is related mainly to the work, to what a minister does; a testimony is related to the person, to what a witness is.