

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 2, JUNE 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

In

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Life-Study of the Bible Welcomes

WHVN 1240 AM Charlotte, NC
M-F 11:00 p.m.
Sat 8:00 a.m.
Sun 4:00 p.m.

KLT 670 AM Denver, CO
Sun 9:30 a.m.

WROS 1050 AM Jacksonville, FL
M-S 11:30 a.m.
Sun 9:00 a.m.

WKRA 1110 AM Memphis, TN
M-F 12:30 p.m.
S-S 9:00 a.m.

Dear Listener,

Thank you for taking the time to read *The Hearing of Faith* and lending your ear to *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* on radio. What you give your ear to is not a small thing. Someone recently asked, “What is the significance of the master’s boring the ear of his servant in Exodus 21? Why wasn’t it another part of his body?” Our faith comes out of hearing (Rom. 10:17), and if we are truly to be the Lord’s servants, we must give Him our ear and listen to Him.

The work of the publishing ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee has been ongoing for more than seventy years. When Witness Lee was with Watchman Nee in China, he was committed with the work of publishing the ministry of Watchman Nee. He continued this work when he was sent to Taiwan in the early 1950’s and then brought the publishing work to the United States in 1962. Living Stream Ministry continues this work today.

Radio outreach, however, did not begin in a serious way until September 1996 when *Life-study of the Bible* began to be broadcast on six stations in the United States once per week. The English program is now on fifty-nine stations, twenty-five of which are broadcasting five times per week. We have also added a Chinese language program that is heard on eight stations and a Spanish program heard on sixty-five stations.

Our goal with our radio programs and this newsletter is to acquaint as many people as possible with the ministry that the Lord has entrusted into our hands. Some of the terminology we are accustomed to using may be unfamiliar to many of our listeners. Because of this we hope this newsletter can address questions and unfamiliar topics. Last month we included in the newsletter an article entitled “What is the Life-study of the Bible?” to define what we mean by “life-study.” This month we discuss the meaning of the term “the Lord’s recovery” (see article “What is the Lord’s Recovery?” below).

If you have any questions about what you hear on the radio or read in our publications, please write to us, and perhaps we can address your questions in a future issue of *The Hearing of Faith*.

Grace be with you,

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS THE LORD'S RECOVERY?

In many of our broadcasts and publications you will hear the terms recovery and the Lord’s recovery. These refer to a very basic and wonderful truth concerning God’s work. When we read the Bible, particularly the New Testament, we see many marvelous truths and practices which seem to belong to the early church only. For example, all the believers were called saints in the New Testament (Acts 9:41; 26:10; Rom. 15:26), but today few believers consider themselves as saints.

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LORD'S RECOVERY

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This is a small truth that was lost, but a very rich truth that can profit us greatly if it is recovered among us. The Corinthian believers had perhaps the gravest problems of any that the apostle Paul addressed, yet he did not fail to call them saints (1 Cor. 1:2). Regardless of their disposition and behavior, Paul knew that their position and standing before God was always that of sanctified ones—saints—who were being transformed to ultimately match Him in life and nature. How helpful this is to us and how uplifting to our daily Christian life if we know that we are the saints of God, who are being changed into His likeness!

There are many major truths and crucial practices that need to be recovered by the saints. In the history of the church, the Lord has used a number of great believers to recover such critical items as justification by faith (Martin Luther), the eternal security of our salvation (John Calvin), the brotherhood and church life among the believers (Count Zinzendorf), the inner life of the saints (Madame Guyon and many others), the study of the Bible according to types, shadows, and figures (the British Brethren), and the practical oneness of the church (Watchman Nee). In our own time, we have been helped so much by Brother Witness Lee to see the recovery of the practical Body life and God's full and organic salvation.

As we consider God's work throughout the centuries, we can easily see that it is a progressive work to recover all the rich truths and crucial practices that He once delivered to the apostles. Almost all was lost very early on, if not in the understanding of the believers at least in their full experience, but God has been working to recover each and every item of precious truth and practice. This has been not only a work *among* the saints but a work *on* the saints. Today we are at the end of that work of recovery, and our understanding and experience certainly benefits from what the Lord has done thus far. Now, because we are blessed so richly by His past work of recovery and because we enjoy His ongoing work of recovery among us, we can say that we who partake of these blessings are His recovery. Praise the Lord for the Lord's recovery!

For more on this topic, please read What Are We? by Watchman Nee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF ROMANS

The following is a brief overview of the broadcast of the Life-study of Romans which was concluded on May 12, 1998.

Although Romans is a classic and defining collection of the great doctrines of the Christian faith, it takes us far beyond the basic explanation of the truths of justification, sanctification, conformation, and glorification. It unveils the complete salvation of God. The goal of this unveiling is to usher the believers into the practical and daily experience of such a salvation. As believers, we are redeemed by Christ through His precious blood. We have been washed in His blood, forgiven, and reconciled to God. But there is much more to the Christian life than our redemption. Romans 5:10 is a great verse in the book of Romans: "For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled." This verse unveils the complete salvation of God in Romans. Not only are we reconciled to God, redeemed by God, but much more, we are saved in His life. To be saved in His life means that Christ comes into us as life to regenerate us, and that He continues to dispense Himself as life into us to sanctify us, to renew us, to transform us, to conform us to His image, and eventually to glorify us until we are saturated with His life to be sons of God in full.

Romans speaks of how God takes sinners and makes them sons of God. We all begin as sinners. But through the process of redemption, regeneration, and sanctification, we are transformed in life and ultimately conformed to the image of God's Firstborn Son, constituting us to be the many sons of God. As the sons of God, we are the members of the Body of Christ, to compose the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is practically expressed in local churches. The local churches are the "stepping stones" to the New Jerusalem, and the New Jerusalem is the ultimate consummation of God's complete sonship in which we will be fully saturated with the life of Christ to express Christ in His divine sonship for eternity for His full glory. This is why we must be brought into the genuine experience of God's complete salvation as revealed in the book of Romans.

By Ed Marks

Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF HEBREWS

The New Testament book of Hebrews is both mysterious and deep, and consequently is often ignored by believers. When given the proper keys to unlock its treasures, however, it reveals Christ in a marvelous and wonderfully satisfying way. One such key is provided in Message One of Life-study of Hebrews, our current radio series with Witness Lee. The following is an excerpt of that rich and enlightening message.

Although the book of Hebrews does not itself say to whom it was written, it was written to the Hebrew believers. The saints who collected the divine writings in the early days entitled this book "The Epistle to the Hebrews." This is very interesting. Why does it say "to the Hebrews" and not to the Jews or Israelites?

The word *Hebrew* was first used in Genesis 14:13, at the time when Abraham was about to fight for the rescue of his nephew Lot. Genesis 14:13 says, "And there came one that had escaped and told Abram the Hebrew." . . . The root of the word *Hebrew* means "to pass over." It especially means to pass over a river from one region to another and from one side to another. Therefore, the word *Hebrew* means a crosser, a river crosser, one who crosses a river.

Abraham was born in Chaldea, the site of ancient Babylon, Babel. Between Chaldea and the good land of Canaan was a great river flowing from north to south. This is very meaningful. All things, including the land, were created by God to fulfill His purpose. The land of Chaldea became satanic,

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LETTERS *from* LISTENERS

I am and have been blessed by your radio program and by the copies of the messages by Witness Lee. A couple of weeks ago I received from you a book on Romans. Thank you for sending it to me. It is appreciated.

I have also read The Tree of Life by Witness Lee and two books by Watchman Nee: Aids to Revelation and The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I truly enjoy their spiritual insight with the word of life! They understand that the Word of God is about our united and personal relationship with our loving Creator and Perfecter of our spirit, soul, and body, and that it is not a book of knowledge of good and evil, which some use to only teach doctrine and principles. Those only deal with the soul, the mind which remains in death.

I would like to thank your ministry for revealing God's interest and good purpose through the radio to those in bondage who don't have an understanding of His truth, love, life, and peace that He has freely given those who receive Him.

— M.E.

I am a junior at Whitney High School from Cerritos and a brother in Christ. I really appreciate the English radio broadcasting. Lately I've been caught up with schoolwork and haven't had much time to spend time with the Lord. One night I was flipping through my radio while studying for an

exam and trying to collaborate some ideas for a few essays that were due the next day. I was thrilled to turn to the broadcast! Since that day I've been listening to the broadcast while studying. It has been a great benefit to me. It saves me a lot of time, and I get to grow more in Christ while studying for school. It is a blessing to have the radio broadcasting of the life-studies. Thank you again, brothers.

— A.C.

THE MESSAGES HAVE
BLESSED ME TREMENDOUSLY.
I CAN'T HEAR OR
READ ENOUGH ABOUT
MY ABBA FATHER.

Thank you for the book Life-study of Romans. I so enjoy the study broadcasted by KTEK that it is almost impossible to tell you what Romans 7 and 8 mean to me. Witness Lee gave so much insight into Romans 8 and clarified so many things for me that I know I need the written word to study. And I am very pleased with the book.

I read Watchman Nee about twenty-five years ago and could not believe what I was reading. It is a pleasure to hear Witness Lee on KTEK. Thank you again.

— E.S.

I'm writing concerning the daily broadcast on 770 AM from Dallas, TX. I had been listening to Life-study of Romans. I'd only enjoyed the first three studies when I was moved to a different section of this prison in which, unfortunately, the reception of AM stations does not come in. So if possible, could you please send the daily written messages, please!

I let the temptation of the world lead me astray, and this is the consequence, prison.

But the Lord is so good and merciful that He has let no harm come my way. He is moving in here, actually everywhere, but in my section there's a total of nine saints praising the Lord Jesus. There's a serious hunger for the Lord. The thing is that even though the Lord is blessing us with more understanding of Himself we need spiritual meat for perfection in Christ.

Please add my name to your prayers and mailing list. Thank you.

— Your Brother in Christ

I recently moved to Florida and began to hear your program. At first I was unable to understand Witness Lee. Thank God, you have made it clear... I'd love to order Mr. Lee's books. The messages have blessed me tremendously. I can't hear or read enough about my Abba Father. I'm sixty-nine years old now and have loved the Lord since a child... I'm looking forward to the written messages.

— G.G.

The TESTIMONY OF WITNESS LEE

In His Own Words

The following is an ongoing series relating the testimony of Witness Lee, author of Life-Study of the Bible, gathered from his published ministry.

When I was a young person, eighteen or nineteen years old, what I liked the most was to play soccer and watch the Peking opera. Once I believed in the Lord, I did not do those two things again. Formerly, watching the Peking opera was really enjoyable, and playing soccer was really exciting. But after I was saved, although no one forbade me or taught me, I spontaneously lost my taste for those things. At that time, what I liked the best was reading the Bible, then prayer, and also preaching the gospel. I remember very well that at that time I loved reading the Bible to the point that the Bible never left my hands. When I lay in bed at night, I still would read a few more verses before turning off the lights. As soon as I woke up in the morning, even before I crawled out of the blankets, I took the Bible next to my pillow and began to read. No one had taught me; I simply loved reading the Bible, praying, and preaching the gospel. (*Words of Training for the New Way, Volume One, p. 96*)

I loved the Bible. The word of the Bible became sweeter than honey, as mentioned in Psalm 19:10 and in Psalm 119:103. The Word nourished me, changed my life, and caused me to love the Lord and follow Him. I collected as many books on the Bible as possible. (*Watchman Nee—A Seer of the Divine Revelation in the Present Age, p. 284*)

After I was saved by the Lord, no one told me not to play soccer. I still went to play. But one day when I was playing, something touched me within. That was the sealing of the Holy Spirit. When the ball came to me, I could not kick it. I just walked away and could no longer give myself to play soccer again. The whole team was surprised at me. This was the issue of the Spirit's sealing within me. I can never forget that experience. (*Blending Conference Messages Concerning the Lord's Recovery and Our Present Need, p. 61*)

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 one of our listeners is 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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LIFE-STUDY OF HEBREWS

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devilish, and demonic. It was a land filled with idols, a land totally usurped by God's enemy and possessed by the evil one. So God intervened to call Abraham out of that idolatrous land. . . . Eventually God led him to that great river, and Abraham crossed it. . . . Therefore, a Hebrew is a person from the other side of the water.

Now we can understand the real meaning of baptism. . . . The world in which we are has been usurped, possessed, corrupted, and ruined by God's enemy. It is no longer good for the fulfillment of God's purpose. God's salvation is not merely to rescue us from hell to heaven. God's salvation is to bring us out of the land that has been possessed and ruined by Satan. How can we pass out of it? By being baptized. Every baptistry is a great river, a great flood. After you have been baptized, you come out on the other shore.

The first river crosser, the first Hebrew, was Abraham. Abraham was called by God and passed over the great river Euphrates, entering into the land where God eventually built His temple. The land which Abraham entered was a good land, a holy land, the land in which God's house was built. God stayed there in His house. . . . It was His habitation on earth. On the other side were the idols, the devilish things, and all the works of Satan. On this side was God's temple with His shekinah glory. What separated these two sides? A great river.

What about Abraham's descendants? The children of Israel crossed the water of the Red Sea. The principle was the same. After they had crossed the sea and reached the other side, they sang and danced. They could say, "Egypt, you are on the other side. We are on this side!" What did they do after they reached the other side? They built God's tabernacle.

We are people who have crossed over from the other side. . . . We are the water crossers. We are Hebrews. The water has separated us. What are we doing here? . . . The Hebrews in Moses' time built the tabernacle. Now we, today's Hebrews, are building the church.

As long as you consider yourself as a world dweller, you are through with the book of Hebrews. This book is only for the Hebrews. Since we are the real Hebrews, we have at least one book in the Bible written to us. . . . How we must thank the Lord that the most profound, rich, and deep book is for us! (pp. 2-9)