

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1, MAY 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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Dear Listener,

We are happy to announce the publication of our radio newsletter, *The Hearing of Faith*. It is being sent to all listeners who have responded to our radio program, *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. It is our desire to provide you with encouraging responses from listeners like yourself, supply you with enlightening excerpts from the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee, update information concerning radio stations that broadcast our program, make announcements of interest, and build you up in the faith. Each issue will be sent with these goals in mind along with our prayers.

We concluded our broadcast of the *Life-study of Genesis* on February 3, 1998. (See article “The Central Message of Genesis.”) This was a historic journey through Genesis, consisting of one hundred thirty-four radio programs, all of which can be heard on the Internet (see inserted radio log). We are now presenting the *Life-study of Romans*. At our current rate it will take us eight years to finish the *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* on radio. The printed version of the life-study consists of 1,983 messages. Witness Lee originally spoke these messages, book by book, from 1974 until he finished his study on the entire Bible in 1995. Before going to be with the Lord whom he loved in June 1997, Witness Lee encouraged us by saying that before the Lord he felt the time was now right for the spread of the ministry through radio. We are grateful to the Lord for His leading in this undertaking. *The Hearing of Faith* will have a special column each month entitled “The Testimony of Witness Lee In His Own Words” relating his personal testimony gathered from his published ministry.

Thank you for journeying with us through the depths of the riches in God's holy Word. We hope you stay with us.

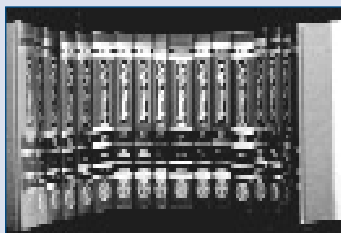
Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE?

“In the Bible mainly life is revealed. Life is the focus of the whole Bible. But what is life, or who is life? The answer is in the word of the Lord Jesus. He says, ‘I am life,’ and ‘I am come that you may have life.’ The Bible is a revelation of Christ as life. Whenever we come to the Bible, we must realize that we are coming to contact Christ as our life.” (Life-Study of Genesis, Vol.1, Msg.1, p.3)

So begins the *Life-study of Genesis* by Witness Lee. On April 6, 1974, our Lord, through one of His chosen vessels, initiated one of the truly remarkable undertakings in the history of the church—a book-by-book study of the entire Bible with the focus on life. Many have written

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34 volume set of Life-study messages given by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry



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LIFE-STUDY

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commentaries, expositions, and studies on various books of the Bible. However, most have touched only the objective and doctrinal side of the divine revelation and have failed to stress the side of life. Because of this, Witness Lee became burdened by the Lord to prepare this life-study of the Bible.

The Life-study of the Bible is a detailed study which, while honoring the contributions of our forebears, builds upon and develops all that the Lord has revealed to His church throughout the centuries. The emphasis on unveiling and ministering Christ as life is what distinguishes *The Life-study of the Bible* from other commentaries or expositions.

The Life-study of the Bible, consisting of thirty-four volumes, capped the life and work of Witness Lee. He was nearly seventy years old when he began this task. At its conclusion twenty-one years later, he reflected upon the previous years in humility and appreciation to the Lord for granting him the time to carry out this burden. In so doing, he fulfilled not only his own dream but that of Watchman Nee, with whom he labored in China. As he finished the last book of his study, the Song of Songs, in July 1995, he testified that he could rest now because he had fulfilled the wish and desire of his senior co-worker, Watchman Nee, to conduct such a study of the Bible. Witness Lee went to be with the Lord on June 9, 1997, at the age of ninety-one. 

THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF GENESIS

Genesis is a book of life. It reveals in a wonderful and comprehensive way the believer's experience of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—as life for the producing and building up of the corporate expression of Christ. Humankind was created in the image of God and placed in front of the tree of life in order to receive God as life and be saturated with God as life and eventually shine forth God as life for His expression. This shining forth, this expression, issues in reigning in life to exercise dominion on behalf of God.

The greater part of Genesis is devoted to the experiences of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. According to both the narrative and to history, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are three distinct persons. But together they actually signify the complete experience of a single believer. What is greatly lacking today is the full realization of this kind of spiritual experience. We need the experience of Abraham, that is, the experience of God the Father as our unique source, as the One out from whom and unto whom are all things. We need the experience of Isaac, the one who received everything as an inheritance from the father for his enjoyment. This means we need to be those experiencing Christ and enjoying Christ. In particular, we need the experience signified by Jacob, that supplanter, conniver, and natural man who was eventually dealt with, broken, transformed, and matured to be a prince of God.

If there's any message central to God's people from this broadcast on Genesis, it is, I believe, the word concerning transformation. Many know God as the source, and many know something of Christ as God's provision for our salvation, but very few know and even less are in the line of experiencing the Spirit's transformation signified by Jacob. There is a desperate, urgent, and compelling need today that we take seriously the Bible's revelation concerning the transformation of our souls. If we study Jacob's experience in this light, we will see a marvelous picture of the stages of our gradual transformation. If we have the experiences of transformation portrayed in Jacob's life, eventually we will have the experience of reigning in life signified by Joseph. In spiritual significance Joseph is actually the reigning aspect of Jacob's life.

Our burden in this life-study is not to add another study to a huge list of expositions. Our burden is to point out from Genesis the revelation of the experience of life required by God of His people and urgently needed by them for the fulfillment of God's purpose. We need to know God as our source, we need to experience Christ as our everything, and we need to be transformed by the Spirit from glory to glory. This is the intrinsic revelation of Genesis. We need God as life. We need to feed on Him as the tree of life and drink of Him as the Spirit of life that we may be men and women of life to express God in life for His glory.

As we reflect back upon the life-study of Genesis, consider God's purpose in the beginning to have a corporate man in His image exercising His authority. We hope that those who read and hear this life-study will enter into the spirit with which it was given, a spirit possessed by a burden that has its source in God to call out, even to cry out, to God's people to come back through Christ's redemption to the tree of life, depend on Him, enjoy Him, experience Him, grow in Him, be transformed by Him, and be built up in Him so that His purpose, which motivated the creation of the universe, will be fulfilled on earth today.

By Ron Kangas

LETTERS *from* LISTENERS

I have been saved for seven years. Over the years the Lord has blessed me to grow in grace through writings from such authors as Spurgeon, Calvin, Luther, and Augustine. Unfortunately the teachings of today have failed to preserve the truth once given to the saints and has turned to another gospel (which is no gospel at all).

However during such a famine, the Lord is feeding his sheep through the Living Stream Ministry which has blessed the brothers here immensely. We have eight brothers here in my dorm who are being fed by Witness Lee's teachings here in Los Angeles on KSFG 96.3 FM every night at 10:30. We take notes and are elevated in our spiritual understanding after each program. The next day when we gather together, we marvel, considering the riches uncovered to us by Witness Lee, and we praise God for feeding us the true bread of life.

Thank you for your work and ministry. Keep your program on the air in L.A. feeding the sheep!

— P.M.

Please send any and all daily messages that are available. I do try to listen each day and take notes. . . . Thank you for what you sent and the list of books. I have bought some already but was not aware of the others that are available. In fact, the Christian bookstore where I purchased the books did not even carry any of your books and had to special order them. They now carry them on a limited basis. I had to special order even The Overcoming Life. When I picked up my copy, they stated that they are now having a difficult time keeping his books in stock and that until I ordered my first book, they had never heard of Watchman Nee or Witness Lee. The teachings are marvelous.

— G.M.

Several months ago, I heard a man on the radio who was expounding the Scriptures in such a dynamic and mighty way that my spirit was moved tremendously. I discerned that the man was Chinese, and I immediately thought that someone had gotten a hold of some of Watchman Nee's tapes and was broadcasting them via the radio.



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I later discovered that the man preaching and teaching was Witness Lee, a co-laborer with and disciple of Watchman Nee. I must admit that the Life-Study of Genesis teaching is what my spirit has been longing for. . . I'm an assistant pastor at a local fellowship and have been in the ministry for over twelve years, but my previous knowledge and understanding of the Holy Spirit's revelation regarding the knowledge of the life of Christ and the Spirit of God contained in Scripture is negligible compared to what I've been receiving via the radio broadcast ministry.

It's tremendous! My life and ministry has been transformed by these unfolding revelations transmitted through these

vessels. I have received so much in such a short period of time. I intend to use the ministries (writings and teachings) of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee as foundational truths from Scripture upon which to build my own life and ministry. Eventually, I hope to be able to purchase all of the materials you produce, especially the Recovery Version of the Bible and then the complete works of Watchman Nee.

I must confess that I purposely don't listen to the broadcasts every day. Often, the Word of God as expounded by Witness Lee is so rich, pure, filling, and true that I need to take a few days to digest, meditate, and assimilate it into my life and spirit.

— A brother in Christ

I'm in awe!

You sent this wonderful packet of materials because I responded to your Campaign '98! My spirit is rejoicing at the "meat" it contains. I must pace myself carefully to eat slowly so it will be absorbed! Thank you so much for the helps. I did not expect such a generous gift.

We commend you for the sensitive way the broadcast is structured. The clarifying comments on Witness Lee's messages are indispensable to our understanding...I am indeed uplifted by the nourishment that my effort to listen brings to my spirit!

I'm thankful that KKSL aired your program, introducing me to it...Your program and gift have been blessings to me and enriched my spirit. I hunger for a closer walk with Jesus, my Lord, and to be purified for His service.


— C.H.

The TESTIMONY OF WITNESS LEE *In His Own Words*

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

I was saved in 1925. My mother was baptized as a teenager, and she became a member of a Southern Baptist denomination. I was brought up and educated in Christianity, but I was not saved. One day I heard that a young lady preacher around twenty-five years old was coming to my town to hold some gospel meetings. I was nineteen years old at that time. I was curious to see such a young woman preach the gospel.

One afternoon I went to hear her speak. Since that time I have never seen a person preaching who was that prevailing. She was preaching to a crowd of over one thousand people about how Satan has captured, possessed, and occupied people. She used the story of Pharaoh having the children of Israel under his tyranny. I was captured by the Lord because of her preaching. That young sister's name was Peace Wang . . . Through her preaching I was saved in April 1925. At that time as a young man, I was very ambitious, but I was really turned to the Lord (*The History of the Church and the Local Churches*, pp. 121,127).

When I heard the word, I was caught by the Lord. There was no loud shouting, nor was there any jumping or skipping. I simply felt that I was captured by the Lord. I told the Lord that I did not want Satan to usurp me anymore. I did not want the world anymore. After the meeting, while I was on my way home, and before I reached home, I lifted up my head to heaven and said, "Lord, from today, even if the whole world is given to me, I will not take it anymore. I want to go and preach Jesus." After one or two years, I discovered that there was a change in me. The worldly entertainments that I formerly enjoyed were all shaken off from me. From that day on, I began to love the Lord, to pursue after Him, and to serve Him (*A Deeper Study of the Divine Dispensing*, pp. 30-31). 

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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Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF ROMANS

The Lord Jesus did accomplish everything on the cross, but the effect of what He did can only be realized by us when we are in the Spirit . . . We cannot afford to stay away from the Spirit. Day by day, hour after hour, and even moment by moment, we need to be in the Spirit. Do not say, "Last night I had a wonderful time with the Lord. Now I am holier than the angels and all my problems are over." Although you might have had such an experience for a brief moment last night, if you do not stay in the all-inclusive Spirit you may sink as low as hell. Do not say that since you have received a certain vision or revelation or had a particular spiritual experience that you are holy and have no problems. If you say this you may later find yourself in wretchedness.

A good type of the Spirit is the air. We need to breathe the air constantly. We can never say, "In the morning I breathed deeply, taking in a lot of fresh air. Now I am filled with the air and don't need to breathe any longer." You should never stop breathing and you should never stay away from the air. Never think that since you have been filled once you do not need to breathe any more. If you stop breathing, you will be dead after five minutes. The experience of the Spirit of life is like breathing. We need to breathe every moment. We must remain in the life-giving Spirit, for once we are separated from Him we are dead. Do not say that you are qualified and experienced. You need to be always fresh and new. I do not care how long I have been saved or how long I have been experiencing the Lord's riches. I only care for one thing—that I am presently in the Spirit. I must be freshly and instantly in the Spirit. The life-giving Spirit is like the breath. We must breathe Him unceasingly.

Life-study of Romans, by Witness Lee, Msg.16, pp.197-198, published by Living Stream Ministry.