

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.

LETTERS *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of the broadcast of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All letters are subject to editing for the sake of space, content, and clarity.

I just want to say that I really enjoyed the radio show on Saturday morning. I live in Anaheim. I enjoy the night shows when I catch it. It gave me a whole new outlook on Hebrews. It's the first time I realized how we're supposed to live, especially in Message 12, to be transformed, metabolically changed in our natural life, and that to be mature is to be filled with the divine life that changes us. Hebrews opened a whole new point of the Bible for me. I just want to let you know that I found this out through studying Hebrews on your show. Thank you.

B.F., Anaheim, CA

I am reading Life-study of Romans for the second time. I am very excited and thankful to Living Stream Ministry for providing me with this material, or I should say, life-changing material. I will never be the same objective Christian again, but thanks to you and Witness Lee I have a subjective, experiencing, co-mingling Spirit-filled spirit.

R.M., Los Angeles, CA

I truly enjoy the two books I have by Witness Lee—The Tree of Life and Life-study of Romans, Messages 17-31. God continue to bless your ministry.

M.B., Oxon Hill, MD

The program is a great blessing to me. I listen every day on my way home from work between 5:00 and 5:30. God bless you.

I.G., Dorchester, MA

Thank you for your broadcast of Witness Lee. I only discovered it two weeks ago on an AM station. I have heard of Watchman Nee and heard a little of his teachings about the spiritual man. The broadcast I first heard was pertaining to the tree of life, and I was excited to know that you offered a book with that title.

I hope you continue your broadcast, as I hope to learn from these two great men anointed by God. I have diligently studied

information or catalog to help me follow my morning studies? May the Lord bless you all. My prayers are with you.

S.P., Sylmar, CA

As a first-time letter writer to any ministry, I'm happy to say I'm blessed by your wonderful ministry. When not at work, I certainly do listen. I can bless you with my prayers for your life-giving ministry.

R.A., North Hollywood, CA

The best, simplest, deepest teaching I have ever heard. God bless you. Keep up the best teaching. Amen.

C.G., Washington, D.C.

How I rejoice for your continued radio ministry over KCBC AM 770 (Riverbank, CA) on Sunday afternoons. I always look forward to joining in with you after church here each Sunday. I am writing to ask if you would send me Life-study of

Hebrews. I am well acquainted with Watchman Nee's and our brother Witness Lee's lifes' work and am well read in that area (The Spiritual Man, The Normal Christian Life, etc.). May God continue to bless you abundantly as you endeavor to carry on this remarkable work to the end.

A brother in Christ, Tracy, CA

the Word of God for over seven years now, and I love the Lord with all my heart. If you could send the booklet on the tree of life, I will share it with my sisters as a study. I will do my best to remember your ministry in prayer.

A sister in Christ, Bryan, TX

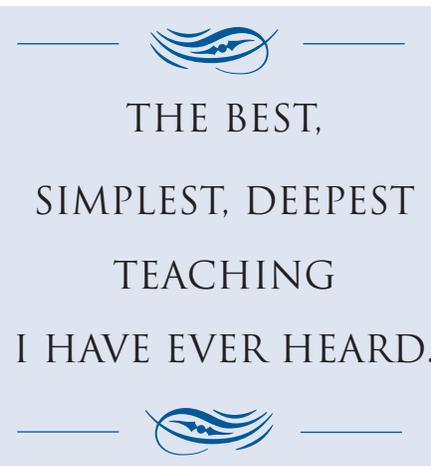
Your ministry has given me new insight into my understanding of the Bible.

F.R., Saint Petersburg, FL

I am eighteen years old and have been listening to your station for three months. It has been a great blessing. Is there any

I love your program and its teaching of the Word of God. I'm grateful that you are on in Austin. I would like to order some teaching materials. I love the New Testament Recovery Version. I must have one.

D.H., Austin, TX



THE *Path* OF *Life*

Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of 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.

CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

What is the meaning of calling on the name of the Lord? Some Christians think that calling on the Lord is the same as praying to Him. Yes, calling is a kind of prayer, but it is not merely praying. The Hebrew word for *call* means to call out to, to cry unto, to cry out. The Greek word for *call* means to invoke a person, to call a person by name. In other words, it is to call a person by naming him audibly. Although prayer may be silent, calling must be audible.

Two Old Testament prophets help us to see what is meant by calling on the Lord. Jeremiah tells us that to call on the Lord means to cry to Him and to experience spiritual breathing. "I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, from the lowest pit. You have heard my voice; do not hide your ear at my breathing, at my cry" (Lam. 3:55-56). Isaiah also tells us that our calling on the Lord is our crying to Him. "God is now my salvation; I will trust and not dread; for Jah Jehovah is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation. Therefore you will draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation, and you will say in that day, Praise Jehovah; call upon His name! . . . Sing to Jehovah. . . . Cry out and give a ringing shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel" (Isa. 12:2-6). How may God become our salvation, our strength, and our song? How can we draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation? The way is to call on His name, to praise the Lord, to sing a hymn, and to cry out and shout. All of these match the calling mentioned in verse 4!

CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

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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Calling on the Lord began in the third generation of the human race with Enosh, the son of Seth (Gen. 4:26). The history of calling on the Lord's name continued throughout the Bible with Abraham (Gen. 12:8), Isaac (Gen. 26:25), Moses (Deut. 4:7), Job (Job 12:4), Jabez (1 Chron. 4:10), Samson (Judg. 16:28), Samuel (1 Sam. 12:18), David (2 Sam. 22:4), Jonah (Jonah 1:6), Elijah (1 Kings 18:24), and Jeremiah (Lam. 3:55). Not only did the Old Testament saints call on the Lord, they even prophesied that others would call on His name (Joel 2:32; Zeph. 3:9; Zech. 13:9). Although many are familiar with Joel's prophecy regarding the Holy Spirit, not many have paid attention to the fact that receiving the outpoured Holy Spirit requires our calling on the name of the Lord. On the one hand, Joel prophesied that God would pour out His Spirit; on the other hand, he prophesied that people would call on the name of the Lord. This prophecy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17a, 21). God's outpouring needs the cooperation of our calling on Him.

PRACTICED BY NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS

Calling on the name of the Lord was practiced by the New Testament believers beginning on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:21). While Stephen was being stoned to death, he was calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 7:59). The New Testament believers practiced calling on the Lord (Acts 9:14; 22:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Tim. 2:22). Saul of Tarsus received authority from the chief priests to bind all that called on the name of the Lord (Acts 9:14). This indicates that all the early saints were Jesus-callers. Their calling on the name of the Lord was a sign, a mark, that they were Christians. If we become those who call on the name of the Lord, our calling will mark us out as Christians.

Paul the apostle stressed the matter of calling when he wrote the book of Romans. He said, "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him; for whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:12-13). Paul also spoke of calling on the Lord in 1 Corinthians when he wrote the words, "With all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours" (1 Cor. 1:2). Furthermore, in 2 Timothy he told Timothy to pursue spiritual things with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2:22). By all of these verses we can see that in the first century the Christians practiced calling on the name of the Lord very much. Therefore, throughout the Old Testament as well as in the early days of the Christian age, the saints called on the Lord's name. How regrettable that it has been neglected by most Christians for so long a time. We believe that today the Lord wants to recover calling on His name and to have us practice it so that we may enjoy the riches of His life.

(Calling on the Name of the Lord by Witness Lee, pp. 1-5)