

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 11, MARCH 1999

"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

KANSAS CITY, MO
KCWJ 1030 AM
1:30 P.M. MON-FRI

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Dear Listeners,

You might have heard people make the comment, "I like radio, because the *pictures* are better."

Radio does have a special ability to engage the mind in a "visual" way. We are discovering that the book of Exodus, our current radio life-study, is extremely well suited for radio, because the pictures conveyed in this book are so vivid. But more than that, the pictures in Exodus of the children of Israel bring into focus many crucial elements of our own spiritual experiences. In 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul uses the imagery of Exodus to make clear the significance of several items of the Christian life, such as baptism and the enjoyment of Christ as our real food and drink. He says in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, "For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And all ate the same spiritual food, And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ."

By now, if you have been following our broadcast of the journey of God's people out of Egypt and through the wilderness, you have realized that these pictures in the Old Testament are really for us, to assist us in our own "exodus." Like the children of Israel, we need an exodus out of the usurpation of the world, our "Egypt," and we also need to be set free from the bondage and tyranny of sin and Satan, our "Pharaoh."

Exodus may be a historical Old Testament book, but there can be little doubt that its imagery depicts experiences that are altogether for the New Testament. Thanks for listening, and stay tuned, because some of the best pictures are still ahead.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

In the book of Exodus, which is a book of pictures, we have a remarkable picture of baptism. The New Testament speaks in various places regarding the significance of baptism. However it is exceedingly helpful to ponder the picture of baptism in the book of Exodus.

If we have the kind of understanding that was given to Paul in 1 Corinthians 10, where he speaks of baptism, we will see that in the sight of God the Red Sea was one huge baptistry. The children of Israel passed through on dry land, the sea having been divided. They emerged on the other side safe and sound. When Pharaoh with his armies attempted to follow them, they perished in the waters of the Red Sea. On the one hand, the waters of the Red Sea were a salvation to the people of Israel. On the other hand, these same waters meant the destruction of Pharaoh and his armies.

The waters of baptism signify both death and resurrection. When a believer enters into the water,

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BAPTISM

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that is a burial. When this believer emerges from the water, that is a resurrection. The people of Israel passed through the Red Sea, and, typically speaking, were buried and resurrected and came forth on the other side of the sea in the wilderness. On other occasions we have pointed out that from its positive perspective, the wilderness signifies separation unto God in resurrection. So regarding the children of Israel, who are a type of the believers today, the crossing of the Red Sea portrays baptism with the steps of death, burial, and resurrection.

What is particularly significant, however, is that Pharaoh and his chariots perished in the waters of the Red Sea. Pharaoh typifies Satan, and Egypt typifies the world as a realm of both enjoyment and slavery. The children of Israel were slaves under Pharaoh's tyranny. This indicates that as unbelievers we were slaves under the tyranny and usurpation of Satan. Once we believed in Christ and began to make our exodus from the world, Satan resisted and even pursued us. But God in His wisdom took this as an opportunity, through baptism, to deal drastically with Satan and the world. Recall how Pharaoh and his chariots perished in the waters of the Red Sea. This indicates that baptism signifies the termination of Satan and the world system organized by him to tyrannize us and usurp us.

If we have this picture in view when we speak of baptism, we will realize that baptism is a tremendously significant step in the completion of our experience of God's salvation. Through baptism we pass through death and enter into resurrection. Through baptism we are delivered from Satan and the world. We believe it is a spiritual fact and reality in the sight of God that in the waters of baptism lie buried not only our old man but also Satan and the usurping, tyrannizing world under his dominion. Is this not a striking picture? Is not baptism a momentous event in a believer's life? Is not the revelation of baptism both in picture and in word profoundly significant? We very much appreciate the picture in Exodus of our salvation through water and of Satan's termination through the same water that has saved us. This is baptism as portrayed in the book of Exodus.

For further reading on this subject, please see Truth Lessons, Level One, Volume 3 (Lesson 32 and 33) and New Believers Series: Baptism, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Excerpt from WATCHMAN NEE'S TESTIMONY

In 1936 Watchman Nee gave three testimonies concerning his personal experiences which have been compiled in the book Watchman Nee's Testimony. He spoke of his learning to serve the Lord, being dealt with by God, learning the lesson of the cross, living a life by faith, and many other matters. Below is a brief excerpt from the first testimony of his salvation and calling.

SAVED AND CALLED AT THE SAME TIME

I was saved in 1920 at the age of seventeen. Before being saved I experienced some mental conflict concerning whether or not to accept the Lord Jesus as my Savior and whether or not to become the Lord's servant. For most people, the problem at the time of salvation is how to be delivered from sin. But for me, being saved from sin and my life career were linked together. If I were to accept the Lord Jesus as my Savior, I would simultaneously accept Him as my Lord. He would deliver me not only from sin but also from the world. At that time I was afraid of being saved, for I knew that once I was saved I must serve the Lord. Of necessity, therefore, my salvation would be a dual salvation. It was impossible for me to set aside the Lord's calling and to desire only salvation. I had to choose either to believe in the Lord and have a dual salvation or forfeit both. For me to accept the Lord would mean that both events would take place simultaneously.

FINAL DECISION

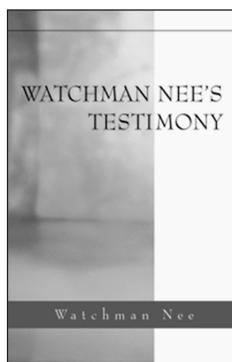
On the evening of April 29, 1920, I was alone in my room. I had no peace of mind. Whether I sat or reclined, I could find no rest, for within was this problem of whether or not I should believe in the Lord. My first inclination was not to believe in the Lord Jesus and not be a Christian.

However, that made me inwardly uneasy. There was a real struggle within me. Then I knelt down

to pray. At first I had no words with which to pray. But eventually many sins came before me, and I realized that I was a sinner. I had never had such an experience in my life before that time. I saw myself as a sinner and I also saw the Savior. I saw the filthiness of sin and I also saw the efficacy of the Lord's precious blood cleansing me and making me white as snow. I saw the Lord's hands nailed to the cross, and at the same time I saw Him stretching forth His arms to welcome me, saying, "I am here waiting to receive you." Overwhelmed by such love, I could not possibly reject it, and I decided to

accept Him as my Savior. Previously, I had laughed at those who believed in the Lord, but that evening I could not laugh. Instead, I wept and confessed my sins, seeking the Lord's forgiveness. After making my confession, the burden of sins was discharged, and I felt buoyant and full of inward joy and peace. This was the first time in my life that I knew I was a sinner. I prayed for the first time and had my first experience of joy and peace. There might have been some joy and peace before, but the experience after my salvation was very real. Alone in my room that evening, I saw the light and lost all consciousness of my surroundings. I said to the Lord, "Lord, You have really been gracious to me."

Watchman Nee' Testimony, pp. 15-16, published by Living Stream Ministry.



RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of our broadcast *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners so that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All responses should be addressed to *Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; via fax (714) 765-8024; email radioresponses@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

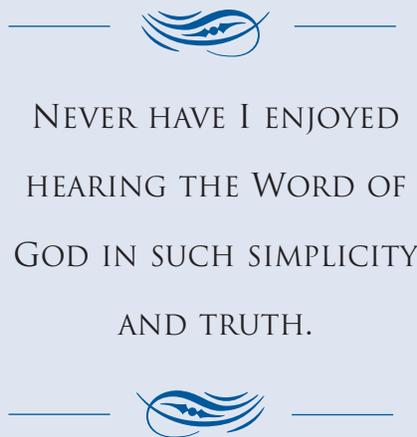
I am so blessed to be able to hear the life-study broadcast on KTEK-AM, Houston, TX. With the Lord's help, I hope to be able to acquire all of the life-study books eventually. So far, I have the volumes for Acts and Isaiah. May the Lord continue to richly bless your ministry.

C.S., Cypress, TX

I've been wanting to write for a long time to thank you for your labor to put out the radio broadcasts. I'm in one of the [local] churches in Southern California and listen regularly to the broadcasts. I'm not usually still up at 10:30, but my husband programmed our tape recorder to tape the broadcast each night, and then I listen to it in the car or in the kitchen. I recently started sharing the tapes with another sister so we can both get the enjoyment.

When I first started listening last year, you were covering Hebrews. I particularly enjoyed it since I was going through that life-study on my own at the rate of one or two messages per week. Eventually, you moved on to Acts (which happened to be where I was in my nightly reading through the Recovery Version). I am so thankful to the Lord for

His doing in this; it has really increased my appetite for the Word and for the ministry. I was raised in the church life [under this ministry] and am realizing more and more how much I have taken for granted all these years. I have been around the infusion of the ministry in many ways, but only in the recent



months do I really feel that I have a genuine appreciation for what I've been under. Thank you, Lord!

I feel as though I have been getting soaked with the Life-study of Acts and Isaiah through the radio broadcasts. I am so thankful to the Lord for his arrangement that I could get constituted with the ministry from this angle.

Hallelujah! Lord Jesus, I love You! I'm looking forward to the nightly infusion from Isaiah and Exodus.

Thank you all for your tireless labor. May the Lord be richly with your spirits and may He, as the intensified grace, be with you!

M.R., Long Beach, CA

May I thank you for your blessed ministry? Never have I enjoyed hearing the Word of God in such simplicity and truth. Brother Lee was truly an anointed witness. I'm sure he has a special place in heaven, no doubt enjoying his dear brother Watchman Nee.

G.G., Holiday, FL

I listen every Saturday and sometimes, when I can, I also listen in the evenings on 96.3 FM at 10:30. I enjoy the program because the life-study is much deeper than what you get elsewhere. When you have walked with the Lord for a while, you want something more. I find that I get this in Witness Lee's study. The word is very, very enjoyable and fulfilling. It does something for you when you hear it. I think it will help anybody who is truly seeking the Lord in a deep way. I'm sure that you receive many comments, because it certainly is a deep study, and it makes you feel a deeper sense of God in your life.

P.L., Sherman Oaks, CA

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.

THE PARTS OF MAN AND THEIR PURPOSES PART 1

THE THREE PARTS OF MAN—SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

A very important verse in the New Testament is 1 Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Man is of three parts: the spirit, the soul, and the body.

It is easy to confuse the spirit with the soul. Some people have thought that the spirit and the soul are synonymous terms. But the Spirit of God states clearly in his Word that the spirit and the soul are two different entities and that there are three parts to our human being. These are joined by two conjunctions: "spirit *and* soul *and* body" It is also this way in the Greek text. The grammatical construction clearly shows that the spirit differs from the soul just as the soul differs from the body. The soul is not the body; neither is the spirit the soul. These are *three* distinct parts of *one* human being. . . .

In Luke 1:46-47, we can also see the difference between the spirit and the soul. Mary said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God." Firstly her "spirit hath rejoiced in God," then her "soul doth magnify the Lord." These are two things done by her two different organs—her spirit and her soul. . . .

So, according to the Scripture man is a tripartite being, composed mainly of the spirit, the soul, and the body. This is very basic for our partaking of the Triune God. . . .

THE THREE WORLDS

Because man is of three different parts, he is able to contact three different worlds. First of all, there is the physical world with so many material things. We contact the physical world by our physical body through the five senses of hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, and feeling. Then there is the spiritual world. Is it possible for us to contact the spiritual world by the five senses of the body? Of course not. The spiritual world can only be contacted by our spirit. In our spirit we have a spiritual sense by which we can sense God and spiritual things. There is also a psychological world which is neither physical nor spiritual. Suppose someone gives you a gift and you are very happy. Does this happiness belong to the physical or to the spiritual world? Neither. Experiences such as happiness, joy, and even sorrow, belong to the psychological world. The English word "psychological" comes from the root of the Greek word that means "soul." Thus, the psychological world is of the soul, in which are the things pertaining to the soul.

Man has been created in three parts in order to contact the three different worlds: the physical, the spiritual, and the psychological.

CONTACTING THE SPIRIT BY THE SPIRIT

As man was made by God in three parts to contact the three different worlds respectively, so we must use the corresponding part of our being to contact each one. To contact the things of the physical world, we must use the body. To contact the things of the psychological world, we must use the soul, the psychological part of our being. If we would contact the things of the spiritual world, we must use our spirit. We can only touch the things of a certain world with a certain organ of our being.

The substance of everything requires the proper organ to substantiate it. If you would substantiate sound, you must exercise your ears, the hearing organ. For color, you need your eyes, the seeing organ. If you exercise your ears to listen to color, you cannot substantiate it, for you are using the wrong organ. To taste food, you must use your tongue. Each substance must be substantiated with the proper organ.

What kind of substance is God? John 4:24 tells us that God is Spirit. . . . Can we contact God by our physical body? No! This is the wrong organ. Can we contact God by the psychological organ, the soul? No! This is also the wrong organ. We can only contact God by our spirit, because God is Spirit. John 4:24 not only tells us that "God is Spirit," but also that "they that worship Him must worship in spirit." This is a very important verse, in which are covered two spirits. The first is the divine Spirit, God Himself. The second is our human spirit. Since God is Spirit, we must worship Him in our spirit. We cannot worship Him in our body or in our soul. Since God is Spirit, we must worship Him, contact Him, and fellowship with Him in our spirit and by our spirit.

The Parts of Man, pp. 5-12, by Witness Lee.

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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