

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 28, AUGUST 2000

"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

DALLAS, TX

KSKY 660 AM
4:30 A.M. MON-FRI
6:30 P.M. SATURDAY
5:30 P.M. SUNDAY

DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY RADIO DUNEDIN

1575 AM
5:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY
9:00 A.M. SUNDAY

PHILADELPHIA, PA

WVCH 740 AM
2:30 P.M. SATURDAY
9:30 A.M. SUNDAY

Dear Life-study Listener,

By the time you read this, we hope you have heard the first few weeks of *Life-study of Philippians* and enjoyed its subject, the experience of Christ. We will spend almost three enlightening months of radio programs on the four chapters of this book. Whether you listen to the programs or read the printed messages, we believe you will agree with us that this life-study is quite experiential in helping us magnify Christ (1:20), live Christ (1:21), take Christ as our pattern (2:5), our goal (3:8), and our strength (4:13). We hope you will give the Lord the time in His Word so that you are among those who are "holding forth the word of life" (2:16) found in Philippians.

If you are unable to hear the radio programs in your area, or if you want to go back and review the programs, you can hear all the past programs over the Internet at our web site, www.lsm.org/radio. If you don't have Internet capabilities, or if this is not convenient for you, all past programs are available on cassette tape by contacting us at (888) 543-3788.

We want to thank all of you who responded to our recent survey. It is helpful to us to get feedback from you, our listeners. If you still want to write us, it is never too late, and we appreciate all your comments.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE ALL-INCLUSIVE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST?

In the midst of his sufferings, Paul wrote to the Philippian believers of his experience of the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ: "For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:19). He did not refer here to the Spirit as the Spirit of God, but the Spirit of Jesus Christ. What is this all-inclusive Spirit of Jesus Christ that bountifully supplied Paul and enabled him to live and magnify Christ in his sufferings? If we could see and be inspired by this revelation, we also can be bountifully supplied to face any difficult situation as Paul did nearly 2000 years ago.

The "Spirit of Jesus Christ" is a unique phrase in the Bible used after Christ's resurrection. It was through Christ's death and resurrection that He became

(continued on page 3)

RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

We invite you to share your comments with us and other listeners so we all may be encouraged in the Lord. Responses should be addressed to *The Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 or radio@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

It is rare to have such good teaching. I thank God for Witness Lee's faithfulness throughout his lifetime. He has helped me to see the clearer meaning of the cross and God's redemptive purpose in Christ.

Berlin, NH

The newsletter is especially important to me since our local radio station no longer airs the life-study program. The newsletter never fails to make me long for even more of Jesus. It always inspires more prayer and fellowship with the Lord. I don't always understand all of the newsletters, so I save them to read again later. I wish I could have met Witness Lee in person. He was quite a lovable servant of our Lord, wasn't he?

Auburn, MA

I love listening to your program every day at 9:30 A.M. on KTEK. Witness Lee had great insight into God's Word and such a depth of understanding that I have never heard before. Thank you so much for your radio ministry.

Katy, TX

Thank you for giving us access to true Christian life principles that make life a workable proposition. Thanks for pointing me in the right direction to inherit the kingdom. If there is more material on subjects like A Brief Definition of the Kingdom of the Heavens, I would love to have it.

Brandon, MS

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

In Philippians 1:19 Paul says, "I know that for me this shall turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ." The words "bountiful supply" are not simply a translation of the Greek, but an interpretation of the Greek term used. Literally, the Greek word refers to the supplying of all the needs of the chorus by someone known as the choragus, the leader or director of the chorus. The Greek word Paul uses thus implies a bountiful supply. The choragus supplied all the needs of everyone in the chorus, the needs for food, clothing, lodging, and musical instruments. The supply of the choragus truly was bountiful, even all-inclusive. Once a person had joined the chorus, there was no need for him to be concerned about the necessities of life; the choragus would supply whatever he needed. In using the expression "the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ," Paul likens the supply of the Spirit to that of the choragus. Therefore, to have a proper understanding of 1:19, we need the word bountiful with the word supply. This bountiful supply of the all-inclusive Spirit was for Paul to live Christ and magnify Christ in his sufferings for Him. The supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ is bountiful and all-inclusive. What we have today is not a partial supply, but a bountiful, all-inclusive supply....

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We are not satisfied simply to have a doctrinal understanding of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. We must go on to experience the Spirit, the compound Spirit, and the seven Spirits of God. We need more and more experience of the compound, all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit who is the processed Triune God as everything to us. By such a Spirit Paul suffered for God's economy and simultaneously enjoyed a bountiful supply to strengthen him in resurrection. Paul was an overcomer not because he had a strong will. He could be an overcomer because he experienced and enjoyed the all-inclusive Spirit with His bountiful supply dwelling in him to be everything to him. Paul realized in his experience that the Triune God was working Himself into his being. May we also experience and enjoy the Triune God supplying us and working Himself into us as the compound, all-inclusive, life-giving Spirit.

Life-study of Philippians, pp. 39, 46

ALL-INCLUSIVE SPIRIT

(continued from page 1)

the Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) to breathe Himself into His disciples (John 20:22) and be poured out upon all flesh for the salvation of mankind (Acts 2:17, 21). Now this Spirit of Jesus Christ, which includes not only His divinity, but also His perfect humanity and human living, death, and resurrection, is the all-inclusive bountiful supply to meet our need so that we can magnify Christ. The Spirit of Jesus Christ is "the Spirit" mentioned in John 7:39 that was "not yet" before Christ's being glorified through His resurrection. This rich Spirit of Jesus Christ is typified by the holy anointing oil in Exodus chapter thirty.

"Moreover Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, You also take the finest spices...and a hin of olive oil. And you shall make it a holy anointing oil, a perfume compounded according to the perfumer's art; it shall be

environment, signifying Christ's resurrection. Cassia was a spice used as an insect and snake repellent, signifying the power of Christ's resurrection which is able to keep all the "bugs" and "snakes" away from us.

In the Old Testament, the tabernacle with its furnishings and utensils as well as the priests were anointed with this compounded ointment (Exo. 30:26-30). Today the church is God's house (1 Tim. 3:15), and all the New Testament believers are priests (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6). The Spirit of Jesus Christ is the sweet and effective compound ointment, which includes the wonderful ingredients of His divinity, humanity, human living, death, and resurrection. As such a rich and all-inclusive Spirit, He is in us as the bountiful supply to meet our every need. May we learn

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a holy anointing oil" (Exo. 30:22-25). The spices in this holy anointing oil were myrrh, cinnamon, calamus, and cassia (Exo. 30:23-24). Olive oil signifies the Spirit of God with His divinity, and each spice that was compounded with the oil is an excellent picture of what was added to the Spirit of God through Christ's incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection. Myrrh signifies the sweetness of Christ's death and cinnamon the effectiveness of Christ's death. Calamus is a reed that grows in a muddy

to enjoy this bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, as Paul did, by applying Him through our prayers in the midst of the sufferings which come to us that Christ may be magnified in us.

For further reading on this subject, please see The All-Inclusive Spirit of Christ; The Spirit with Our Spirit; and God's New Testament Economy, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Life-Study of the Bible
with Witness Lee

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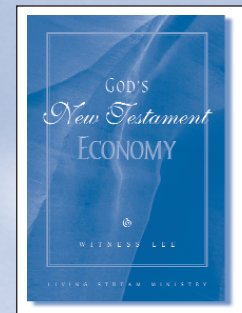
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Drawing upon nearly 60 years of studying the Holy Scriptures, Witness Lee provides a comprehensive view of God's purpose and plan. God's New Testament Economy is a thorough study of the New Testament. It does not provide superficial inspiration nor is it a dry, systematic analysis. However, it presents a revelation of the Triune God's plan that will both inform and encourage the reader to pursue a full experience of our wonderful Triune God.

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The PATH OF Life

Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of the spiritual 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 WORD, FAITH, AND THE SPIRIT

According to the New Testament, whenever we hear the Word, faith is produced within us. Faith is a marvelous thing; no one can fully explain it. When I was young, I heard a preacher define faith by saying that faith is like the assurance a member of a political party has that the policy of that party will be a success in practice. This may be a definition of secular faith or worldly faith, but it has nothing to do with the faith spoken of in the New Testament. We simply are not able to define adequately what genuine faith is. But

Gradually I learned that the way to have faith is not just to pray for it, but to take in the Word in a proper way. By reading the Word again and again, my faith was strengthened.

by our experience we know that when we come to the Bible in a proper way and repeat a certain verse, we are inspired, and faith is produced within us. The more we repeat a portion of the Word of God, the more we are inspired. There is no true inspiration, however, in repeating the words of Plato, Confucius, or any other philosopher.

The Bible is inspiring because it is the Word of life, the living Word. It is living because it is the expression of the living God. According to John 1:1, the Word is God. According to John 6:63, the words spoken by the Lord Jesus are spirit and life. Thus, the Word is both God and the Spirit. John 4:24 says, "God is Spirit." The Bible reveals that it is impossible to separate the Word, God, Christ, and the Spirit. The Word is God, Christ, and the Spirit.

When we read the Bible in a proper way, especially when we pray-read it, we receive inspiration. This inspiration is the moving of the living Spirit within us. This moving of the Spirit is the function of the Spirit, and in the New Testament this function is called faith. Faith is always intimately related to the Word and the Spirit. Whenever we read of faith in the New Testament, we should realize that both the Word and the Spirit are implied. For example, Ephesians 3:17 says, "That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith."

The phrase "through faith" implies the Word and the Spirit. The same is true of Ephesians 2:8, which says that we are saved by

grace through faith. The faith through which we are saved is the faith that implies the Word and the Spirit. In Colossians 2:5 Paul speaks of "the firmness of your faith in Christ," and in verse 7, of "being established in the faith." In these verses also faith implies the Word and the Spirit.

If we did not have the Word, we could not have the Spirit. Likewise, if we did not have the Word and the Spirit, there would be no way for us to have faith. But when we are filled with the Word, we are automatically filled with the Spirit. Then we are spontaneously filled also with faith.

When I was young, I often heard Christians talking about faith. I began to pray that the Lord would give me a strong faith. But the more I prayed for faith, the less faith I had. Gradu-

ally I learned that the way to have faith is not just to pray for it, but to take in the Word in a proper way. By reading the Word again and again, my faith was strengthened.

Brother Nee encouraged us to take a few verses every morning and repeat them and muse upon them. When I did this, I found that I had faith spontaneously. As I look back on my experience, I realize that I had not only faith, but also the inner sense that I had been filled with the Spirit. Thus, from our experience we know that when we have the living Word in us, we also have the Spirit and faith.

The Secret of Experiencing Christ, pp. 117-119, 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 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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