

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 23, MARCH 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

In THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from Living Stream Ministry
- 1 What Is the Rapture of the Overcomers?
- 2 Footnote from Matthew Chapter Twenty-Eight
- 3 Response from Listeners
- 4 The Path of Life—The Anointing, Part One

Pathway 2000

February 28
through
March 12

See letter from
Living Stream Ministry
at right for information

• Call us at
1-888-543-3788

Dear Life-study Listener,

This month is a busy one for us in the radio section at Living Stream Ministry as we conclude *Life-study of Matthew* and begin *Life-study of Revelation*. We are also in the midst of conducting our annual campaign to find out from you, our listeners, how we are doing. We have named our campaign for this year Pathway 2000, a fitting name, not only because we are planning our pathway for the year ahead, but because the pathway to glory is a major theme of the Gospel of Matthew. We hope you join us on the pathway to glory that our Lord Jesus pioneered for His seekers.

The past few years we have conducted campaigns similar to Pathway 2000, sending a free book to those who called us. We hoped to motivate listeners who had not previously called us to do so in order that we could properly evaluate the many stations we broadcast on. As we begin another new year, it is again important for us to know which stations are reaching God's seeking people.

Pathway 2000 will take place this year during our broadcasts from February 28th through March 12th. First-time callers will receive a free book, *A Brief Definition of the Kingdom of the Heavens*. But we encourage all of you to respond, so anyone calling or writing us during this time with specific comments concerning the life-study radio broadcasts will also receive the free book. Your feedback is important to us. We hope you contact us to let us know you are still listening and enjoying the broadcasts. Please pray for us as we continue to endeavor by His grace to consistently bring you the treasures of this ministry.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE RAPTURE OF THE OVERCOMERS?

To many of our listeners the term, the rapture of the overcomers, may be unfamiliar. In general, Christians have heard that at a certain point in time, when the Lord is ready to come, He will descend on the clouds and the multitude of His believers, both the living and the dead, will be caught up to meet Him in the air. This is based upon the statement of the apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17, which describes the general rapture of all believers at the end of this age just before Christ's descent to judge the world. It will take place at the time of the last trumpet (cf. 1 Cor. 15:52).

Through a careful reading of the New Testament, however, one can discover other events of rapture. In the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord cautioned the believers to be watchful: "Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes" (24:42). He tells of two men in a

(continued on page 2)

RAPTURE

(continued from page 1)

field—one shall be taken (in rapture) and the other left. Likewise, two women grinding at a mill—one is taken and the other is left (vv. 40, 41). That these ones are all believers is proven by the words “watch therefore” and “your Lord.” Then in the same chapter of Matthew, through the parable of a slave who is set over his master’s household, the Lord further warns the disciples to be faithful and prudent. If he is faithful, that slave will receive a reward at the coming of his Master. But if he is not faithful, thinking that his Lord is delaying his coming, he will be punished (vv. 45-51). (To be cut asunder indicates a cutting off from the glory of Christ in His kingdom for a season, not an eternal judgment in the lake of fire.) Thus there are some believers who, having been watchful, are ready for our Lord’s return prior to the great tribulation; they will be caught up in rapture, and will receive a reward for their faithfulness. According to the Scriptures, this occurs earlier than the general rapture described in 1 Thesalonians.

The book of Revelation speaks frequently of him who overcomes (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). Then in chapter 12 we are told that the man-child who would rule with an iron rod (cf. 2:26-27) “was caught up to God and to His throne.” This is a rapture to the throne (not just to the air), a rapture of the overcomers who will initiate the expulsion of Satan from the heavens to the earth. Later in chapter 14, we read of the firstfruits who are standing with the Lamb on heavenly Mount Zion, an indication that they, having ripened earlier, are raptured to the heavenly dwelling place for the Father’s enjoyment (vv. 1-5). They precede the general harvest (corresponding to the general rapture of 1 Thesalonians) which is depicted in verses 14 and 15 of the same chapter. Based on these portions of the Bible in Matthew and Revelation, we speak of the rapture of the overcomers. May the Lord’s word to us cause us to be watchful and live a life preparing for His coming that we could be raptured as His overcomers.

For further reading on this subject, please see the footnotes on 1 Thes. 4:17, Rev. 12:5, footnote 2 of Rev. 14:4, and the footnotes on Rev. 14:15 in the New Testament Recovery Version; Life-study of Matthew, messages 63-66; and The Kingdom, chapters thirty-nine and forty, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

FOOTNOTES FROM

Matthew

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

Matthew 28:19—Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the ¹Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

¹Matthew and John are the two books in which the Divine Trinity is revealed more fully than in all the other books of the Scripture, that God’s chosen people may participate in and enjoy Him. For our experience of life, John unveils the mystery of the Godhead in the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, especially in chs. 14–16; whereas for the constituting of the kingdom, Matthew discloses the reality of the Divine Trinity by giving one name for all three. In the opening chapter of Matthew, the Holy Spirit (1:18), Christ (the Son—1:18), and God (the Father—1:23) are present for the producing of the man Jesus (1:21), who, as Jehovah the Savior and God with us, is the very embodiment of the Triune God. In ch. 3 Matthew presents a scene in which the Son was standing in the water of baptism under the opened heaven, the Spirit like a dove descended upon the Son, and the Father spoke out of the heavens to the Son (3:16-17). In ch.

12 the Son, in the person of man, cast out demons by the Spirit to bring in the kingdom of God the Father (12:28). In ch. 16 the Father revealed the Son to the disciples for the building of the church, which is the life pulse of the kingdom (16:16-19). In ch. 17 the Son entered into transfiguration (17:2) and was confirmed by the Father’s word of delight (17:5), bringing about a miniature display of the manifestation of the kingdom (16:28). Eventually, in the closing chapter, after Christ as the last Adam had passed through the process of crucifixion, entered into the realm of resurrection, and become the life-giving Spirit, He came back to His

disciples in the atmosphere and reality of His resurrection to charge them to make the heathen the kingdom people by baptizing them into the name, the person, the reality, of the Divine Trinity. Later, in the Acts and the Epistles it is disclosed that to baptize people into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit is to baptize them into the name of Christ (Acts 8:16; 19:5), and that to baptize them into the name of Christ is to baptize them into Christ the person (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3), because Christ is the embodiment of the Triune God, and He, having become the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45), is available at any time and in any place for people to be baptized into. According to Matthew, being baptized into the reality of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit is for the constituting of the kingdom of the heavens. Unlike an earthly society, the heavenly kingdom cannot be formed with human beings of flesh and blood (1 Cor. 15:50); it can be constituted only with people who have been immersed into the union with the Triune God and who have been established and built up with the Triune God, who has been wrought into them.

“MATTHEW
AND JOHN ARE
THE TWO BOOKS
IN WHICH THE DIVINE
TRINITY IS REVEALED
MORE FULLY THAN IN
ALL THE OTHER BOOKS
OF THE SCRIPTURE, THAT
GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE
MAY PARTICIPATE IN
AND ENJOY
HIM.”

The verse and footnote above are from the New Testament Recovery Version, 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 *The Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; via fax (714) 765-8024; or email to radioresponses@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

I have been serving the Lord for fifteen years and I never realized how undernourished I have been in God's Word until I began listening to Witness Lee. Being undernourished, I was weak spiritually. Now I thank the Lord for Brother Lee and the Living Stream Ministry which have nourished me and have helped me to grow spiritually and in God's Word. Truly, this is the manna from heaven. God bless you.

F.R., Houston, TX

I listened to the broadcast today. I'd like to get the life-study resources and information on how I can get some of Watchman Nee's books and Witness Lee's books. I have a book by Watchman Nee. I got my hands on it at a Goodwill store. It was deep and a blessing. I appreciate God allowing me to experience that knowledge because it took me into an area and realm that I have not experienced before. I also appreciate the broadcast and that the Holy Spirit allowed me to tune in to that station today.

L.M., Houston, TX

My husband listens to your broadcast faithfully and loves it. He has ordered some of the volumes, uses them, studies them, and tells everybody about them. These things are great. Thank you for your work.

S.C., Le Marque, TX

I was happy to hear the Word explained so plainly that I could understand it. Through the Spirit of God and the revela-

tion of Him given to Witness Lee, I was able to understand it. The only thing is that the program is too short. I'm being blessed. I was listening when Witness Lee

R.N., Houston, TX

I was in traditional religion. I had a heart for God but I never got any answers until now. When I found out there was only one church and that is the Body of Christ, that answered the quest I always had. I was introduced to the Living Stream Ministry about a year and a half ago. Where I work, I listen to a lot of radio programs, and I started to listen to your radio station. It was a divine appointment. It wasn't an accident. It was God. I thank Him every day for that. I'm a different person in Christ. The Living Stream Ministry has one thousand percent shown me more of who I am in Christ.

G.S., Cartersville, GA

—————  —————
I'M A
DIFFERENT
PERSON
IN CHRIST
—————  —————

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.

Living Stream Ministry
P.O. Box 2121 • Anaheim, CA 92814 • Phone: (714) 765-8020
Fax: (714) 765-8024 • Email: radio@lsm.org • Web site: www.lsm.org/radio

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.

© 2000 Living Stream Ministry. All rights reserved.
No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means – graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval system – without written permission from the publisher.

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 ANOINTING, PART 1

First John 2:27 says, "And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him." The Christian life is a life under the anointing, the Christian walk is a walk guided by this anointing, and Christian service must be a service guided by this anointing. Moreover, in order to preach the gospel, we must preach not only in power but also by the anointing.

THE ANOINTING BEING THE MOVING OF THE SPIRIT WITHIN US

This verse uses the word *anointing* as a gerund, a verbal noun. In some versions this word is translated as *unction*, which also implies a motion or action. It is not merely a substance but a substance in motion. That we have received this anointing and it abides in us means that a certain kind of motion or action abides within us. We cannot say that this is the Holy Spirit alone, because the Holy Spirit is not an action. Rather, the anointing is the working of the Holy Spirit. If we have the action, the motion, of the Holy Spirit, then to be sure we have the Holy Spirit Himself. Likewise, if we do not have the Holy Spirit, we cannot have the motion or action of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who dwells in our spirit is moving and acting all the time. This working, moving, acting, or motion of the Holy Spirit is the anointing. . . .

REALIZING THE ANOINTING THROUGH FELLOWSHIP IN THE EXERCISE OF OUR SPIRIT

We can learn and realize the anointing only through our fellowship with the Lord. As we know, the book of 1 John is a book of fellowship. In the first chapter of this Epistle there is the fellowship of life. The apostles proclaim the divine life, that is, the eternal life, to us, and when we receive the life, we have the fellowship of life. The fellowship is the current of the divine life.

**"THE MORE WE HAVE THIS ANOINTING,
THE MORE WE ENJOY OUR
PORTION OF THE TRIUNE GOD."**

We fellowship with the Lord not only when we close ourselves in a room to spend time with Him. This is a good time to fellowship with the Lord, but we must always keep ourselves in fellowship with Him. Even when we are working at our job, cooking in the kitchen, walking on the street, or driving in our car, we need to keep ourselves in fellowship with the Lord and contact Him. To keep ourselves in fellowship with the Lord is simply to exercise our spirit, because it is

in our spirit that the Holy Spirit dwells and communicates with us. Therefore, we must contact the Lord by exercising our spirit. . . .

To be in the spirit and not in the soul is simply to go long with the inner anointing. To be sure, if we go along with the inner anointing, we are in the spirit, while to not go along with the inner anointing means that we are out of the spirit and in the soul. This is simple and practical.

When we speak, we should check whether or not we are speaking in the anointing. Many times when I minister, I thoroughly check with myself in this way. To taste or sense the inner anointing is the only way for me to decide what to minister. We need to sense all things by the inner anointing. With the inner anointing there is a certain inner sense, inner feeling, and inner consciousness, which we must follow. There is something with us as a living consciousness, registration, or feeling. We need to take care of that feeling and go along with it.

ADDING THE ELEMENT AND ESSENCE OF THE TRIUNE GOD INTO US

The anointing is the working of the Triune God. The more we have this anointing, the more we enjoy our portion of the Triune God. The more we have this anointing, the more the Triune God is applied to us, and the more the very essence of the Triune God becomes ours.

We have often illustrated the anointing with painting. The more we apply paint to a wall, the more the element of the paint is on it. In the same way, the more anointing we have, the more of God we have. While the anointing of the Holy Spirit is working within us all the time, the very essence and element of God is applied and added to us. In this way we have more of God. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is not merely to let us know what is God's will and what is not. The main purpose of the anointing of the Holy Spirit is to apply the very element of God into us. The more constantly the Holy Spirit works within us as the anointing, the more the Spirit brings God's essence into us. By the anointing of the Holy Spirit, more of the essence and element of God are added and increased within us all the time. . . .

The primary purpose of the anointing of the Holy Spirit is to bring more of the essence and element of God into us, while the secondary purpose of the anointing is to let us know the will of God. Knowing the will of God by the anointing is like knowing the color of a wall by its paint. The more we paint a wall, the more clearly the color can be seen. We can see whether it is green, red, brown, or something else. It is by the painting that the color is made known. In the same way, it is by the anointing of the Holy Spirit within us that God's will is revealed to us. If we have much of God within us, we automatically know what the Lord's will is, what we must do or must not do. The "paint" is so thick that the "color" becomes very clear and prominent.

Basic Principles of the Experience of Life, pp. 155-160, by Witness Lee