

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 30, OCTOBER 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

LOS ANGELES, CA
KKLA 99.5 FM
10:30 A.M. SUNDAY

SAN BERNARDINO, CA
KLTH 1240 AM
6:00 P.M. MON-FRI

BIRMINGHAM, AL
WYDE 850 AM
10:30 P.M. MON-FRI
2:30 P.M. SATURDAY
10:30 A.M. SUNDAY

Dear *Life-study* Listener,

On October 6, we will finish *Life-study of Philippians*. As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, we will go on to *Leviticus* this month. But before we do, we have a special treat in store for you. We will take two weeks to revisit the Gospel of John to bring you some treasures from our life-study library. In case you didn't know, *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* began broadcasting on September 1, 1996 with *Life-study of John*.

We look forward to sharing with our audience once again the Scripture's emphasis on the divine life and God's building as revealed in the Gospel of John. Nine cases chosen by the Holy Spirit in John's gospel reveal all the different kinds of people whose needs are met through the divine life. We are sure that if you or someone you know are in need, you will see how the Lord's life can meet that need. Please tune in or call to get your printed copy of *Life-study of John*.

There is still time for you to order your copy of *Life-study of Leviticus* and the Holy Bible Recovery Version so that you can be prepared to follow the programs on *Leviticus* at the end of this month. We think as you listen to the programs and read the life-studies, you will find that *Leviticus* will be a new book to you.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE?

The subject of the book of *Philippians* is the experience of Christ subsequent to our initial salvation. So a proper understanding of the phrase "holding forth the word of life," as mentioned by the Apostle Paul in *Philippians* 2:16, must be related to our experience of Christ. The experience of Christ unfolds in progressive stages as the divine life grows and manifests itself in our life. Ultimately, the issue of the experience of Christ is to hold forth the word of life.

(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.

I receive The Hearing of Faith newsletter and would like to thank you for so much wonderful spiritual food. The issue with the article “What Is the Captivity of God’s People in Babylon” was a real heart-opening message for me. Thank you so much.

Granite, OK

Your ministry has been a blessing to me, opening my eyes to the truth that has been setting me free from the concepts of man and deception. Thank you.

Midland, TX

I listened to the program until it was taken off the air. It was on 1280 AM in Spokane, Washington. I listen to it now on the Internet. I have listened to all the messages on John and am now listening through Genesis.

Deer Park, WA

Each month when The Hearing of Faith comes, I am eager to see what the Lord would speak to me. I am so grateful to be included in His ministry. I feel one with you dear saints as well as with others who receive and are blessed by the radio broadcast and newsletter. I appreciate not only the selections of portions of the ministry, your letter to the life-study listeners, and the responses from listeners, but also your personal care for us manifested in your encouragement to us to respond with our comments and the opportunity to include friends on your mailing list. Thank you.

Omaha, AR

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF JOHN

THE NEED OF THE DYING—LIFE’S HEALING

We have been regenerated and, day by day, we may contact the Lord, the living Spirit, for our satisfaction. In addition to this, we need healing. We are all sick and dying people. We are fallen people, weak and fragile, who are dying and who need the Lord’s healing. If you have the healing of the Lord Jesus, your dying will become living....

Romans 8:11 says, “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from among the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from among the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you” (Recovery Version). If we allow the indwelling Spirit to make His home in our being, this indwelling Spirit will saturate our dying, mortal body with resurrection life. Our mortal body will be enlivened, quickened, and healed with the divine life. Romans 8 reveals that our spirit, soul, and body all may receive the divine life. When we believe in the

“Whenever the divine life enters into a part of our being, it heals that part.”

Lord Jesus, He, as the life-giving Spirit, comes into our spirit. Since He is the life-giving Spirit, the Spirit in Romans 8:2 is called the Spirit of life, meaning that the divine Spirit is life. When we called on the Lord Jesus, this divine Spirit who is life came into our spirit and enlivened it. Therefore, our spirit is life (Rom. 8:10). When we set the mind of our soul upon the spirit, our mind also becomes life (Rom. 8:6). If we give ground to the indwelling Spirit, the Spirit will spread Himself from within our spirit through our soul into our body, making our mortal body a body full of life. Eventually, this divine life becomes a fourfold life: the life in the divine Spirit, the life that fills our spirit, the life that will saturate our soul, and the life that will permeate our body. Our whole being—spirit, soul, and body—will be filled, saturated, and permeated with the divine life. This is healing. Whenever the divine life enters into a part of our being, it heals that part. This means that the divine life changes the death of that part of our being into life. Death is swallowed up by life—this is healing.

Life-study of John, pp. 160-161

HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE

(continued from page 1)

“Holding forth” means to apply, present, or offer, whereas “the word of life” refers to Christ Himself (1 John 1:1) with His living word. So “to hold forth the word of life” means that the believers as children of God present the living Christ to those around them. The word of life is different from the doctrine of dead letters. In John 5:39-40 the Lord condemned the persecuting Jews because they searched the Scriptures but were unwilling to come to Him that they might have life. As a result, they were deadened by the killing letters of doctrine (2 Cor. 3:6a). In contrast, when the Scriptures and Christ go together,

objective pattern, but through Christ as the indwelling Spirit (1:19; Rom. 8:9, 11), this pattern becomes wonderfully subjective to us. In this way, Christ Himself as our pattern also becomes our daily salvation (Phil. 2:12). Thus, we work out our own salvation by living out Christ. This salvation is by God operating in us (v. 13) the willing (inwardly) and the working (outwardly) to save us in a practical way. Eventually, as we cooperate with God who is operating within us, we live out Christ, presenting Christ to others as the word of life. The Christ we experience as the pattern becomes our salvation

The word of life is different from the doctrine of dead letters.

they are God’s living breath (2 Tim. 3:16), even words of life, enlivening all those who receive them (John 6:63). When we are filled with these “words of life” by prayerfully reading the Scriptures, we are supplied to present Christ to those around us.

How do we experience holding forth the word of life? This requires that we see the relationship between four crucial matters mentioned in Philippians 2:1-16: Christ as the pattern of our Christian life (vv. 5-11); working out our own salvation through obedience (v. 12); God operating in us both the willing and the working for His good pleasure (v. 13); and holding forth the word of life (v. 16). Christ, the self-emptying and self-humbling One who was exalted and glorified by God, is the pattern for our Christian life. His earthly life is not merely an

through God operating in us. Then in our living of Christ, we present Christ to others, holding forth the word of life.

This was Peter’s experience in Acts 5:20 when the angel told him, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the *words of this life*” [emphasis added]. Peter’s living out the divine life was so prevailing that even the angel observed it and pointed it out to him. In this way, Peter was holding forth the word of life. Therefore, “holding forth the word of life” is equivalent to living Christ (Phil. 1:21), expressing Christ, and working out our own salvation (2:13). It is an issue of the experience of Christ.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of Philippians*, messages 10, 35, 36, 39, 43, and 44.

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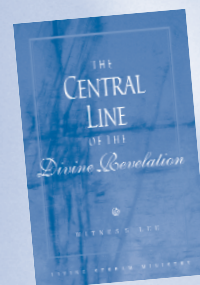
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A book by Witness Lee

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Christ, we will share in the consummation of God’s salvation in the New Jerusalem, which is a sign of the mutual abiding and enjoyment of God and man for eternity.

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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 SECRET OF EXPERIENCING CHRIST

If we would enjoy Christ and experience Him, we must have the Spirit, and we must also have faith. Without the Spirit, how can we experience Christ? And without faith, what way do we have to enjoy Christ? If we would have the Spirit and the faith to experience Christ and enjoy Him, we must come to the Word again and again. Faith and the Spirit are found in no place other than the Word. The more we get into the Word, the better. The Christian life is a life that is continually dealing with the

The Christian life is a life that is continually dealing with the divine Word.

divine Word. The Word must be before our eyes, in our spirit, in our heart, in our mind, in our mouth, and on our lips. Our whole being must be saturated with the Word of God. When the Word is outside us, it is simply the Word. But when the Word enters into us, it becomes the Spirit who gives us the faith to enjoy Christ and experience Him.

EXERCISING THE SPIRIT TO PRAY-READ THE WORD

The books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians all have a particular emphasis. But if we put these books together, we see five things that are crucial for our experience of Christ: the Word, faith, the Spirit, our spirit, and prayer. If God had not created us with a spirit, we would not be able to receive inspiration from the Word, no matter how many times we may read it or repeat parts of it. The inspiration which comes from the Word is not a matter of emotion. Human words may touch our emotion, but they do not touch

our spirit. I studied the classical writings of Confucius, but none of those writings touched my spirit. Certain writings may stir our emotions, but only the Word of God can inspire our spirit. Only one book—the Bible—is able to touch our spirit. According to Hebrews 4:12, the Word of God is a sharp sword that even divides soul from spirit.

John 4:24 says that God is Spirit and that those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit. In worshipping

God it is best to deal with His Word. But when we read the Word,

we should use not only our eyes and our mind, but especially our spirit. When many Christians read the Bible, they just read with their eyes and try to understand with their mentality. They stop short of allowing the Word to touch their spirit. If we want the Word to touch our spirit, we should pray-read the Word. . . .

Colossians 3:16 charges us to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly. If we would let the word of Christ dwell in us, we need to receive the Word by means of all prayer. According to the Bible, the ultimate way to receive the Word is to pray it. Let us use Philippians 3:17 as an illustration: "Be imitators together of me, brothers, and observe attentively those who thus walk as you have us for an example." You may be inspired by reading this verse. But only when you pray will this word get into you. How good it is to take such a verse into us by prayer! When we pray-read the Word, the Word does not stay in our mouth, but enters into our inner being. This is to receive the Word by means of prayer.

As we pray the Word, the Word enters into the very depths of our being.

As an elderly man with many years of experience, I can testify that the best way to take the Word is by means of all prayer. By praying the Word we drink the living water in the Word. Then this living water fills our inner being and causes us to be nourished and healthy. In 1 Timothy 6:3 and 2 Timothy 1:13 Paul uses the expression "healthy words." When we pray-read the Word, the Word becomes to us the healthy Word. By this healthy Word we experience Christ.

The Secret of Experiencing Christ, pp. 119-121, by Witness Lee

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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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