

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 36, APRIL 2001

*“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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The  
HEARING  
OF Faith  
NEWSLETTER

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monthly articles  
we have published  
over the last 2 years  
on the Internet

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Dear Life-study Listener,

Recently we began the radio broadcast of *Life-study of Numbers*. If you have not had a chance to order your printed life-study to follow along with the broadcast, we have included an insert for your convenience. We think you will enjoy seeing the journey of God’s people to the good land from the perspective of the experience of life, which is the viewpoint of every life-study book of the Bible. Among the children of Israel, Joshua and Caleb had another spirit. Why were they different? For a hint, see “What Is Faith?” in this issue.

Last month in the *Hearing of Faith* we included an advertisement from Bibles for America. Living Stream Ministry is thankful to the Lord for raising up this nonprofit organization to do a great work of spreading the Word of God. We thought it would help our readers to explain their offer. Bibles for America is offering a single complimentary edition of the New Testament Recovery Version to whoever wants one and contacts them. We hope the Lord will bless their endeavor to reach many of His lovers and seekers with the riches in the New Testament Recovery Version. We have included their ad again on page three this month. Living Stream Ministry as the publisher of the New Testament Recovery Version sells a regular economy edition, small and large leather bound editions, and editions without footnotes. For details, please see the enclosed insert.

Living Stream Ministry

## WHAT IS FAITH?

The word *faith* in the New Testament has two aspects. The objective aspect (1 Tim. 1:19b; Jude 3) refers to the things we believe in—the entire New Testament revelation concerning the person of Christ and His redemptive work. The subjective aspect (1 Tim. 1:19a; Heb. 11) refers to our act of believing. This subjective aspect of faith is the focus of this article.

Many think faith is something we must summon up in ourselves in the face of any environment or condition to believe in God and please God. It is true

*(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.

*Thanks for Living Stream Ministry. I have a new hunger and thirst for the Word, and I have absolutely fallen in love with the Lord! The whole Body of Christ needs to hear your teaching. It has changed my life.*

Dallas, Texas

*I have been a listener for over a year and always look forward to your programmes. I am sure many of your listeners can express better than I how much your messages mean in their lives. Please keep bringing the Word to us.*

Dublin, Ireland

*Thank you so much for your faithful service in presenting Life-Study [of the Bible with Witness Lee] over the radio. Surely our sovereign God has inspired and led you in your selection of format, participants, Brother Lee's excerpts, and commentary. I find the program as fresh and enlivening today as when I began listenening to it in Houston several years ago. I rarely miss a program since I record the programs each day for later enjoyment at home or in my car. May our Lord bless you as you continue your endeavor.*

Houston, Texas

*Your ministry is a real blessing from Almighty God. It has increased my walk and life with God. It also shows the actual truths of the Scriptures, and the ministry is a blessing, too. It has established my going in the pathway of holiness and light. Thank the Lord Jesus Christ for this ministry. Amen.*

Homer, LA

## Highlights

### FROM LIFE-STUDY OF NUMBERS

#### THE GENERAL SKETCH

Although Numbers is a long book, the general sketch is simple. The general sketch of Numbers is that the redeemed and sanctified Israelites were formed into a holy army of God, which was to proceed by following God's leading and was to fight for Him.

*Christ is the  
meaning of life, the  
testimony, the center of  
God's people, and the  
Leader, the way, and the  
goal of their journey  
and fighting.*

Whatever is written in the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses, is a type. In particular, in these books we see that the entire nation of Israel was a type of the church. As Israel was formed into an army, so the church should be formed into an army. Concerning this, we should not look at the present situation, at the outward appearance. If we do this, we will be disappointed and wonder where the army is. Although we may have doubts about the existence of a church army, Satan knows that there is such an army. We need to believe that today there is an army formed with all the faithful ones, journeying and fighting all the time that God may have a kingdom with a house.

#### THE CENTRAL THOUGHT

In a general way, we may say that the central thought of the entire Bible is Christ, for the Bible is focused on Christ as the center. But what is the central thought of the book of Numbers? The central thought of Numbers is that Christ is the meaning of life, the testimony, the center of God's people, and the Leader, the way, and the goal of their journey and fighting.

#### Christ as the Meaning of Life

In Numbers Christ is revealed as the meaning of the life of God's people. It seems that during the forty years in the wilderness, the two million Israelites were doing nothing. They did not engage in industry, commerce, or farming. But day by day they were busy with one thing—the ark of God's testimony (Num. 7:89). The ark of the testimony was the center of the tabernacle, which was called the tabernacle of the testimony (1:50, 53). For forty years the Israelites worked for the keeping of the ark with the tabernacle. The ark with the tabernacle was the meaning of their life. If there had not been an ark, the life of the Israelites would not have had any meaning. Both the ark and the tabernacle were called God's testimony. Since the ark typifies Christ, the meaning of the Israelites' life was to take care of Christ as the testimony of God.

*Life-study of Numbers*, pp. 3-4, by Witness Lee

## FAITH

(continued from page 1)

that without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6), but we ourselves are not the source of that God-pleasing faith. Hebrews 11:8 says, “By faith Abraham being called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive as an inheritance.”

Abraham obeyed by faith, but his faith issued from God’s calling and appearing to him. Acts 7:2 tells us that the God of glory appeared to Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, an idol-worshipping country. This appearing of God was an infusion of God into Abraham, attracting and strengthening him to obey God’s

of the gospel (Col. 1:5), we are presented with the lovely scenery of the New Testament (the objective faith). As the scenery of Christ is presented to us, the Spirit works with the word as power and light. When the light shines on the scenery, our heart “clicks”—opens a little—and there is an exposure “inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh” (2 Cor. 3:3b). That exposure brings in a reaction, which is our faith. As we hear of Christ and appreciate Him, faith is born in us (Gal. 3:1-2). Our subjective faith is

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calling to leave his idolatrous homeland. Through God’s repeated appearing to him (Gen. 11-24), Abraham believed not only God’s promise concerning the land he would inherit but also the son that would be born to him through Sarah (Rom. 4:20-22).

Abraham’s experience shows us that the source of our faith is God; faith is not something initiated by us. It is not our endeavoring or striving to believe, for we do not have any believing ability in ourselves. Faith is something allotted to us by God (2 Pet. 1:1) and is actually “the faith of Jesus Christ” (Gal 2:20; Rom 3:22), which becomes ours through our hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:14, 17; Acts 4:4a; Gal. 3:2).

To explain how this faith comes into us, a picture is worth a thousand words. Our heart is like a camera. When we hear the word of the truth

our spontaneous response to the truth of the objective faith, the scenery of the New Testament.

Faith is the unique way for God to carry out His New Testament economy with man (1 Tim 1:4 and footnote 4). When we continually look unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2), He as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) transfuses us with Himself as the believing element—faith. The more we see Him in all His beauty with all His riches, the more we appreciate Him and the more faith we have. This faith enables us to receive all His “precious and exceedingly great promises” (2 Pet. 1:4) and to take His way (Heb. 12:1).

For further reading on this subject, please see footnote 3 of Hebrews 12:2 in the New Testament Recovery Version; *The Stream 20*, (December 2000); *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, message 121; and *Elders’ Training Book 6, The Crucial Points of the Truth*, chap. 5, published by Living Stream Ministry.

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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.*

## LIVING BY THE LORD IN SPIRIT

### TO LIVE BY THE LORD BEING TO LIVE AND WALK BY THE SPIRIT

Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20a). To be crucified does not mean to suffer, as most people would say; that is wrong.... Crucifixion does not cause you merely to suffer; instead it is to terminate you....

The result of being crucified with Christ is that "it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me" (v. 20b). I have been terminated, and now it is Christ who lives in me.

*When we live by the Lord, we abide in the Lord, and we enjoy the Lord Himself.*

Thus, I can say, "To me, to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). This experience equals to live and walk according to the Spirit. Where is the Spirit? The Spirit is within us. We do not need to be taught how to experience this; every saved person knows this. Every saved person knows that the Spirit is living within him. This Spirit is the Lord Himself (2 Cor. 3:17) living in the human spirit. Thus, to live by the Lord is to live and walk by the Spirit. Romans 8:4 says, "Do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit." In Greek, the word walk here means "live and move." It is not

only to move and walk but also to live. This means that our living and moving should all be according to this Spirit within us. To walk according to the Spirit is to live by the Lord. When we live by the Lord, we abide in the Lord, and we enjoy the Lord Himself.

When we view it from this angle and understand it from this kind of experience, we can realize more the meaning of "abiding in the Lord." If you reason even just a little with your spouse, then you know that you are not in the Lord because you have not lived by the Lord. This is just like the light bulb with a switch that is not securely installed. When the switch is turned on, the light bulb flickers and gets in and out of the electricity. In the same way, if your inward light bulb does not shine but is flickering, it means that you are not in the Spirit, nor are you abiding in the Spirit; you are a "flickering" Christian who is not firmly in the Lord. If you want to be in the Lord firmly, then your inward switch must be firm, and it must be always switched on. As a result, you will remain in Christ as the "electricity" to enjoy His supply, and you will shine brightly. This is the proper living that we Christians should have.

Thus, to abide in the Lord is to live by the Lord in all things. Even little things, such as combing our hair and

washing our face, we should do by the Lord. We who are saved have not received merely another life within; in reality this life is a Person, who is the embodiment of the Triune God and who is the eternal living Lord abiding in us. This is God's salvation. After we receive God's salvation, we should learn to let the Lord live in us, and we should allow Him to be magnified in us. When we live by the Lord who lives in us, we abide in the Lord. Hallelujah for God's salvation!

*Abiding in the Lord to Enjoy His Life*, pp. 27-28, 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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