

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 44, DECEMBER 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

In

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Dear *Life-study* Listener,

Recently we introduced you to Bibles for America, a nonprofit organization with the goal of offering a complimentary edition of the New Testament Recovery Version to every home in America. On October 17, 2001, Bibles for America began a two-month trip across the United States called the “Word of Truth USA” tour. If you would like more details, go to their Web site at www.biblesforamerica.org or call (888) 551-0102. Bibles for America is a separate entity from Living Stream Ministry. We are inspired by their endeavor, and we pray that the Lord would bless America through their trip.

We hope you are enjoying *Life-study of Ephesians*. The apostle Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians is our prayer for you and all our listeners: “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, the eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling” (Eph. 1:17-18).

Your feedback is important, and we would like to know whether you are reading this monthly newsletter. As a token of our appreciation, we will give a free copy of *The Key to Experiencing Christ—the Human Spirit* to those who call us at (888) 543-3788 or request it on the enclosed reply card.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
KSFB 1220 AM
5:30 P.M. SATURDAY

CARROLLTON, GA
CPR 88.7 FM
2:00 A.M., 5:30 A.M.,
NOON, 9 P.M.,
& 11:30 P.M. DAILY

WHAT IS THE HUMAN SPIRIT?

“There is a spirit in man” (Job 32:8), and this human spirit is man’s key to experiencing Christ. The Lord Jesus said that God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit (John 4:24), that is, in the human spirit. If we *must* worship God in spirit, it is important for every believer to understand what the human spirit is.

(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.

Witness Lee leads you into the secret place where you want to be, and when you are finished [listening to the broadcast], you just want to stay there.

Houston, TX

Your programs on Life-study of Deuteronomy are outstanding, as usual. I enjoy listening daily as a review of the life-study printed material. Christ is everything.

Sarasota, FL

I have several of Watchman Nee's books, which I have read and reread, especially The Normal Christian Life. One Saturday morning I heard this wonderful message by Witness Lee on the radio. I can't wait to get some of his books.

St. Petersburg, FL

Mr. Witness Lee's clear and concise description of our relationship with God and the Holy Scriptures certainly helped make straight my path of life. Thank you very much.

Pittsburg, PA

The teachings of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee seem to always show another way of seeing God's meaning, and it's all good. Thank you for your insight.

Tacoma, WA

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF EPHESIANS

A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION

In order to have revelation, we need a spirit of wisdom and revelation. The spirit in [chapter one] verse 17 must be our regenerated spirit indwelt by the Spirit of God. Such a spirit is given to us by God that we may have wisdom and revelation to know Him and His economy. Actually, the spirit in this verse is the mingled spirit, the regenerated human spirit indwelt by the Holy Spirit. However, the emphasis is upon our regenerated spirit, not on the Holy Spirit....

Paul prayed that we would have a spirit of wisdom and revelation. Wisdom is in our spirit that we may know the mystery of God, and revelation is of God's Spirit to show us the vision by opening the veil. We firstly have wisdom, the ability to understand spiritual things; then the Spirit of God reveals the spiritual things to our spiritual understanding.

Wisdom is different from cleverness and deeper than cleverness. It is possible to be very clever, yet not be wise. Cleverness is in the mind, but wisdom is mainly in our spirit. Our need is to be wise in our spirit, not to be clever in our mind. The problem with certain saints is that they are very clever in the mind, but lack wisdom in the spirit. There was a brother like this in Shanghai in 1933. He was a good business man, very clever at making money....Although he was clever in business, he was lacking in wisdom and could not understand when we spoke about the Scriptures. His mind was very active, but his spirit was not keen. Nevertheless, this brother had a heart for the Lord, came to the meetings of the church, and trusted in us for everything concerning the Lord. He was an excellent example of the difference between cleverness and wisdom.

Let us also give an example of one who had wisdom, but not much cleverness. In 1938 I visited the countryside in northern China, where most of the people had little education. Among them was a certain elderly sister. Although she was not educated, she was very wise concerning the things of the Lord. Whenever you spoke with her about the Lord, she was wise in her spirit. In talking about business this sister had no understanding, but in talking about the Lord she knew much more than most saints because she had wisdom in the spirit....

After wisdom comes revelation. As we have pointed out, revelation means unveiling, the opening of the veil. Revelation is of God's Spirit to show us the vision of the mystery of God (3:3-5).

Wisdom is in our spirit that we may know the mystery of God, and revelation is of God's Spirit to show us the vision by opening the veil.

Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 123-125, by Witness Lee

THE HUMAN SPIRIT

(continued from page 1)

Over the centuries, there has been confusion concerning man's inward parts. Some Bible teachers argue that the spirit is no different from the soul. For our experience of Christ, to say this may be comparable to the dangerous endeavor of having cardiac surgery performed by a doctor that believes there is no difference between the heart and the liver. First Thessalonians 5:23 clearly tells us man is made of three parts: body, soul, and spirit. Hebrews 4:12 says that "the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart." This shows us that the spirit and the soul are not the same thing and can be divided. We need the living word of God to help us know the distinction between our soul and our spirit.

When we believe in the Lord Jesus, it is our human spirit that is born of the divine Spirit, regenerating us with the eternal life of God (John 3:6). So the apostle Paul says that the Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God (Rom. 8:16). In Ephesians, Paul speaks of the human spirit in a crucial way in every chapter (1:17; 2:22; 3:5; 4:23; 5:18; and 6:18). Paul also told Timothy that the Lord's dwelling place is in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22). In the book of Revelation the apostle John saw four major visions and to see each one, he was "in spirit" (1:10; 4:2; 17:3; and 21:10).

So what does it mean to be in spirit? We all understand that to exercise our physical body is to engage in physical exercise such as walking or running. To exercise our soul, which is composed of our mind, emotion, and will, is to think, consider, use our emotions, or

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make decisions. We exercise our spirit when we contact God by prayer and when we come to the Word of God in a prayerful way (Eph. 6:17-18). We also exercise our spirit when we keep our conscience, which is a part of our spirit, without offense toward God and man (Acts 24:16).

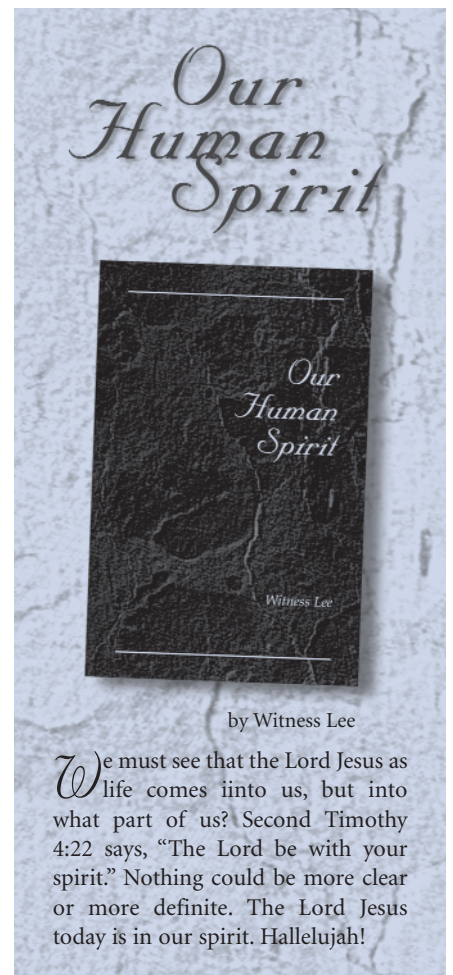
There are other references in the Bible to the human spirit—too many to mention here. It is vital, however, for all believers to see that the key to experiencing Christ is our human spirit indwelt by the Spirit. As believers, we are even joined to the Lord as "one spirit" (1 Cor. 6:17). We can experience Christ by exercising our spirit to contact Him by prayer and in His Word and by maintaining a clear conscience.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Our Human Spirit*; *The Key to Experiencing Christ—the Human Spirit*; and *The Parts of Man*, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

TO RECEIVE A
FREE COPY OF THE
BOOKLET ENTITLED

*The Key to
Experiencing Christ—
the Human Spirit*

please call us at
1-888-543-3788
or write "free booklet"
in the comments section
of the enclosed reply card
and send it to us.



by Witness Lee

We must see that the Lord Jesus as life comes into us, but into what part of us? Second Timothy 4:22 says, "The Lord be with your spirit." Nothing could be more clear or more definite. The Lord Jesus today is in our spirit. Hallelujah!

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1-800-549-5164 • www.lsm.org

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.

OUR HUMAN SPIRIT

THE LORD WITH YOUR SPIRIT

[The] divine life has been installed into our spirit. If we need to turn on the lights, we go to the switch. What we need today is to touch the "switch" of our spirit because the divine life is in our spirit. Nothing could be more clear or definite than 2 Timothy 4:22: "The Lord be with your spirit." We don't have to go to other places. We need to come to our spirit. We are used to going other places. Even when we come to the

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church meeting and the brothers say, "Hallelujah! Amen!" sometimes we would not go to the spirit. We still would keep ourselves in the mind. We may even question: "Do the brothers need to be so loud and noisy?" This is a strong proof that we are used to being outside of the spirit. We are used to being in the mind, but we must turn ourselves to the spirit. Forget about how loud and noisy the brothers are. You have to exercise your spirit. When you get into your spirit, you may be louder. The problem is that we Christians would not turn to the very spot where God is. Where is God today? "The Lord be with your spirit."

In Matthew 28:20 there is a great promise given to us. The Lord Jesus promises to be with us until the end, the completion of this age. This is one of the great promises in the

Bible. He is with us to the end of this age. Where is He with us? He is with our spirit.

Everything we need is in our spirit. The divine life in our spirit is inexhaustible and immeasurable. We have the divine life within us, which is just God Himself in our spirit. This is God Himself after incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Today this very God comes into us to be with us in our spirit with the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.

TURN TO THE SPIRIT

We need to turn to the spirit. We need to be strong in the spirit. We need to act and walk in the spirit because it is here that we have God, Christ, and the divine life. The soul-life and the biological life are secondary. We have the divine life which is God Himself. This is not God before incarnation, but God after ascension. The very God with His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension is within us as our life. All the day we should turn ourselves to this dear One by calling on His name (Rom. 10:12-13). You will see the riches, you will see the sweetness, and you will see the refreshment. You will see the power, even the authority.

THE STRATEGIC POINT

The human spirit is the strategic point for the inner life. We all have to know our human spirit. It is here that we have been born again and it is here that we worship God. "God is Spirit; and those who worship Him must worship in spirit" (John 4:24),

not in the Holy Spirit, but in our human spirit. In our reborn human spirit we worship God, we serve God, we fellowship with one another, and we grow in life. We even have the church life here. If you are not in the spirit, you cannot have the church life. The church life is a life absolutely in the human spirit. When we turn to the spirit, you are one with me, and I am one with you. Regardless of how much we talk about the church life, we are still not in it unless we turn to our spirit. When we turn to our human spirit, we are in the church life, and we are one.

Our Human Spirit, pp. 19-20, 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.

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

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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