

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 47, MARCH 2002

"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,

Today Christians in China are risking their lives to spread God's Word. This is not new. Believers in Russia and Eastern Europe did the same thing before the fall of communism, and this is a familiar story throughout the last two thousand years. The apostle Paul said he suffered "evil unto bonds as a criminal; but the word of God is not bound" (2 Tim. 2:9). No matter how much effort God's enemy exerts to hinder the Word of God, His Word is not bound!

Recently three believers were sentenced to imprisonment for attempting to get the Chinese edition of the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry, into the hands of Christians in China. This version is especially helpful with more than 9,000 explanatory footnotes, 13,000 cross-references, chapter outlines, charts, and maps.

The particular church in China that attempted to obtain these Bibles testified that only one out of four believers there has their own copy of the Bible. Please pray that the believers who don't have a Bible in China and elsewhere could get God's Word. Also pray for God's people to be protected under persecution throughout the world and for their receiving of the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ to sustain them through difficult times.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE RENEWING OF THE MIND?

The expression *renewed in the spirit of your mind* in Ephesians 4:23 speaks of a crucial matter in the walk of a believer. The apostle Paul testified that the mind needs to be renewed, urging the Ephesians to "no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind" (Eph. 4:17). The Gentiles are the fallen people who live without the consciousness of God and are controlled and directed by their fallen mind devoid of reality. This vanity of the mind can be traced to the fall of man. God placed Adam, representing all mankind, before the tree of life (Gen. 2:8-9), which signified God as the source of his living. God also warned Adam about taking in another source,

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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

BRANSON, MO

KLFC

5:30 P.M.

88.1 FM

SUNDAY

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 am overwhelmed by how these mysteries of the kingdom of God are brought out through the ministry of Witness Lee and Watchman Nee. I have finally found a ministry that is so deep into the ministry. I look forward to ordering tapes with which to enhance my study. I am in awe at how the anointing of the Holy Spirit worked in these two men in expounding the Word of God and bringing it to us to cause us to rise up in our spirit and to see how we can be transformed more into the bride of Christ. I thank God for the Living Stream Ministry, and I do recommend some of the literature for the members of our staff in our church. God bless you. It is our prayer that the borders of this ministry would be widened and this word would get out more and more.

Dallas, TX

I am really enjoying Life-study of Ephesians. I have been fortunate enough to hear every broadcast so far. All the broadcasts are edifying. I must admit I have not heard one program I did not thoroughly enjoy. Much wisdom is poured out from your radio program. I also enjoy the Hearing of Faith.

Jacksonville, FL

Your radio ministry, the Hearing of Faith, the Stream booklet, your tapes, your Life-study, and the Recovery Version Bible we have and receive daily. Please continue in the Lord Jesus Christ's purpose. Your work is helping many believers.

Renton, WA

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF EPHESIANS

THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS UNTO THE WORK OF MINISTRY

My burden in this message is to point out that all the saints should be building members. Ephesians 4:11 says, "And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some shepherds and teachers." These gifted ones are not high officials with a special rank. Rather, they are given for the perfecting of the saints (v. 12). The saints need to be perfected, equipped, furnished, unto the work of ministry. This work of ministry is the building up of the Body of Christ. Because so many saints are not yet doing the work of ministry, they need the gifted ones mentioned in verse 11 to perfect them, to equip them, that they may be qualified to carry out the work of ministry for the building up of the Body of Christ. The perfecting or equipping is related both to growth in life and to training in certain skills.

The light on these verses has never been as bright and clear as it is today. We have seen that the work of ministry is simply the building up of the Body of Christ. This work should be carried out not only by the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers, but by all the members. Hence, all the saints are building members. We are not only members who have been built up, but we are also members who build up the Body.

Firstly, the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and shepherds and teachers perfect the saints. This means that they build up the saints. Then the perfected saints become the building members. In these days the saints are being perfected. But after another period of time I expect that the saints who are being perfected now will also become the building ones.

All the saints should be building members.

UNTIL WE ALL ARRIVE

Verse 13 says, "Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." . . .

Paul expected all the saints to come up to his standard and to be the same as he was. Paul was a builder, and we all should be builders also. Paul was not some great official. At most, he was simply a member of the Body. The difference between him and most of us is that Paul was a building member, whereas most of us are just builded members. Nevertheless, the day is coming, perhaps after a few years, when we all shall be building members. Then we shall all arrive at the destination together.

Life-study of Ephesians, pp. 357-358, by Witness Lee

THE RENEWING OF THE MIND

(continued from page 1)

which represented a living independent from God and under the satanic influence. Adam's choosing to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, representing Satan, plummeted man into sin, causing his mind to become vain and his understanding darkened (Eph. 4:18; Rom. 1:21).

Although we received the life of God in our spirit when we were regenerated, as genuine believers we may still walk according to our fallen mind with its concepts, views, and philosophy. Through our faith in the Lord Jesus, we have put off the old man and have put on the new man by means of baptism (Eph. 4:22, 24; Rom. 6:6, 4). Although these are accomplished facts, we must experience the reality of these facts by being renewed in the spirit of our mind. Otherwise, we may be a new creation in our spirit through regeneration but remain unrenewed in our mind.

When we were regenerated, the Spirit of God entered into our spirit, causing the two spirits to become one mingled spirit (Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17). To be renewed in the spirit of our mind indicates that our spirit, indwelt by the Spirit, "invades" our mind, spreads into it, and even becomes the spirit of our mind to rule over our thinking, speaking, and acting. This is how our mind is renewed. The renewing Spirit renews our mind by bringing a new element into our mind to replace our fallen thoughts and old concepts (Titus 3:5) that the mind of Christ may be in us (Phil. 2:5). By this renewing of our mind, which is the principle part of our

soul, the rest of our soul—the emotion and will—is renewed resulting in the transformation of our whole soul (Rom. 12:2).

We should not be content only to be regenerated with the Spirit of God in our spirit. We must be renewed in our mind by the Spirit's spreading into our mind. By praying to take the Lord Jesus within as our life and our view, reading the

We must be renewed in our mind by the Spirit's spreading into our mind.

holy Scriptures, and setting our mind on the mingled spirit (Rom. 8:6), our old thoughts and concepts will be washed away and our mind will gradually change. As the Spirit in our spirit spreads into and saturates our mind, our old mind that is full of vanity will be a renewed mind with the proper concepts and view. Our mind will even be one with the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16). Then our walk will be in the newness of life (Rom. 6:4).

For further reading on this subject, please see the footnotes for the above referenced verses in the New Testament Recovery Version; *The Organic Aspect of God's Salvation*; and *Salvation and Life in the Book of Romans*, both by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

*Life-Study of the Bible
with Witness Lee*

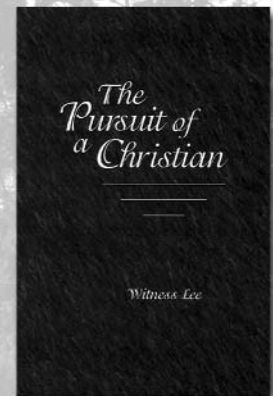
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The PATH OF Life

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.

OBEYING THE INNER SENSE OF LIFE

Many Christians can neither pray nor offer thanksgiving in the meetings. With some, of course, it is due to their timidity and shyness, but with most Christians it is because their spirit is void of joy and is oppressed. They may feel that they have not committed any sin or done anything wrong, yet their spirit cannot be uplifted. The main reason is that they have formed the habit of

*We should rather
keep our inner joy.*

neglecting the sense in their spirit. Some, when they feel that they are wrong, do not ignore their feeling. Thus, they are released and freed in their spirit. When they come to the meetings, they can pray and testify spontaneously. A difficult matter with most Christians is that they have a peculiar life with a marvelous sense, yet in their circumstances, due to their disobedience, they are unable to live out a proper condition. As a result, they are Christians inwardly but do not live as Christians outwardly. They have Christ within but do not look like Christ without. This is all because although they have the sense within, they do not have the obedience without. Consequently, there is no difference between their living and the living of ordinary people.

It is difficult to find an honest person, a person who tells the truth one hundred percent. Nonetheless, a Christian should not lie. Once when I was going to Shanghai, I had to buy a ticket for baggage transportation. A

porter told me, "Sir, your baggage is at least five kilograms, which is just a little over ten pounds, but you may declare that it is only two pounds." I felt uncomfortable because I could not lie, so I had my baggage weighed and ended up having to pay more freight charges. I knew that the porter wanted to help me, but he also wanted me to lie, so I could not listen to him. The porter stared at me angrily and said, "Do you not have a better place where you can use your money?" I simply smiled and did not say anything. He continued, "You are a foolish traveler. You simply do not know the rules of the game." I just stood there while he scolded me. Many times we will find ourselves in the same kind of situation. What should we do when we are being tempted? If I had cheated and said two pounds as suggested by the porter, I would have gained some monetary advantage but would have lost my inner joy. Therefore, we should rather keep our inner joy.

Another time, I was being interrogated by the Japanese authorities. The Japanese officer asked me, "Do you believe in God?" I said that I believed in God. Then he asked, "Who is greater, God or the Emperor of Japan?" I said that God is greater. Again, he asked, "Who is first, God or your country?" I said God is first. On the next day, before the officer began his interrogation, an interpreter came to see me and said, "Mr. Lee, since the Japanese officer wants you to say that your country is first, you should just say it. Why should you say that your God is first?" Saints, I hope that we can all see clearly that in such situations, the unbelievers are watching to see whether or not we are special and

different from them. We can either tell the truth and suffer or not tell the truth and escape suffering. The worldly people and even the demons are waiting and watching to see how Christians face temptations.

Thus, we can see that some brothers and sisters cannot pray because they act contrary to the nature of the life within them. . . . If we are Christians, we must be those who are genuine, proper, and on the right track so that we can live out the extraordinary nature of the life that is within us.

The Pursuit of a Christian, pp. 53-54, 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) 236-6020
Fax: (714) 236-6024
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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