

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 67, NOVEMBER 2003

"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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And it shall be
THAT EVERYONE
WHO CALLS
ON THE NAME
OF THE LORD
SHALL BE SAVED.

ACTS 2:21

Dear Life-study Listener,

On October 5 about 2,100 believers gathered at London's famous Wembley Conference Center for the seventh *Life-study of the Bible* seminar in London. This seminar was different from others we have held in London in that it included several hundred believers from five other continents and more than fifty nations. During the previous week, these believers had gathered for an international conference of leaders from churches throughout the earth that are a fruit of the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee.

The atmosphere, with all of the nationalities, languages, and cultures represented by the overseas guests together with the varied ethnic groups that characterize London's listener base, was remarkable. Every color, culture, and language group was present, yet the same Spirit and enjoyment of the resurrected Christ was the preeminent characteristic. It was truly a declaration to the heavens and the earth that the reality of the one new man spoken of in Ephesians 2:15 is not only possible but also present on earth today.

During the two-hour seminar, presentations were given on the focus and burden of Living Stream Ministry, the upcoming release of the Recovery Version of the entire Bible with footnotes, the history of the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee, and the global scope of the fruit of the ministry of these two servants of the Lord. There was also a video of Witness Lee and fellowship on the life-studies of Kings and Daniel, similar to what is heard on our daily program.

Please continue to pray for the broadcast in the United Kingdom and especially for the upcoming month-long trial broadcast during December in Birmingham, England's second largest city.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS CALLING ON THE LORD? PART 1

Calling on the name of the Lord is a central and crucial practice in the Christian life. By calling on the Lord's name we are saved initially, and we receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17, 21; Rom. 10:13). By

(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.

This ministry has blessed and strengthened me immeasurably. Thank you and your guests for all the effort that you put into each program. I love the format—the beautiful theme song, the Scripture readings, and the discussion between you and your guest. The wonderful tape recordings by Witness Lee are really special.

Atlanta, GA

Your broadcast always blesses me whenever I have a chance to listen. It has helped me build a closer relationship with my Lord and Savior.

Missouri City, TX

Continue steadfastly in dispensing the riches of the ministry of the age. I feel so privileged to be under such a Christ-centered, Christ-capturing, and Christ-gaining ministry! Hallelujah! I appreciate all of the brothers and sisters who labor on the Hearing of Faith and other Living Stream Ministry publications. Continue laboring with the Lord for all of our supply.

Medina, OH

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF FIRST TIMOTHY

"But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth."

1 Timothy 3:15

THE HOUSE OF THE LIVING GOD

According to Paul's word in verse 15, the church is the house of God. The Greek word rendered house may also be translated household. The same word is used in 3:4, 5, and 12. The household, the family, of God is the house of God. The house and the household are one thing—the assembly of the believers (Eph. 2:19; Heb. 3:6). The reality of this house as the dwelling place of the living God is in our spirit (Eph. 2:22). We must live and act in our spirit so that God can be manifested in this house as the living God.

As God's dwelling place, the church is both God's house and His household, His family. In the Old Testament, the temple and God's people, His family, were two separate things. But in the fulfillment in the New Testament, the dwelling place and the family are one. The family is God's dwelling place, and God's dwelling place is His family. As we have indicated, the Greek word for house may be translated either as house or household. According to God's New Testament economy, God's family is His house. These are not two separate things; they are actually one. We are God's family and also His temple, His dwelling place.

A
living
God and a
living church
live, move,
and work
together.

In speaking of the church as the house of God, Paul specifically refers to God as the living God. The living God who lives in the church must be subjective to the church rather than merely objective. An idol in a heathen temple is lifeless. The God who not only lives but also acts, moves, and works in His living temple, the church, is living. Because He is living, the church is also living in Him, by Him, and with Him. A living God and a living church live, move, and work together. The living church is the house and the household of the living God. Hence, it becomes the manifestation of God in the flesh.

Life-study of 1 Timothy, pp. 55-56

CALLING ON THE LORD *(continued from page 1)*

calling we are also rescued from distress, trouble, sorrow, and pain (Psa. 18:6; 118:5; 50:15; 86:7; 81:7). By calling we can enjoy the riches of the Lord and His full salvation (Rom. 10:12-13; Psa. 116:13).

Although calling on the name of the Lord can be considered as praying, it is different from praying. Calling is to invoke the living person of the Lord Jesus in a simple, direct, genuine, and pure way. With prayer, it is possible to have a motive other than to simply contact the Lord Himself.

By calling we can enjoy the riches of the Lord and His full salvation

However, when we call upon the name of the Lord, it is as when a child calls for his mother, desiring her presence. This kind of prayer by calling is not for the purpose of obtaining an answer but to have a direct contact with the Person of the Lord Himself. Second Corinthians 3:17 tells us that the Lord is the Spirit, and this resurrected Lord's name is Jesus. Because the Lord Jesus is a living Person, when we call on His name, saying, "Oh, Lord Jesus," or "Jesus is Lord," He responds, and we get the reality of His person, the Spirit. Moreover, while prayer may be silent, calling on the name of the Lord is something audible. When Saul of Tarsus went to Damascus to persecute the believers, he found them by hearing them call on the name of the Lord

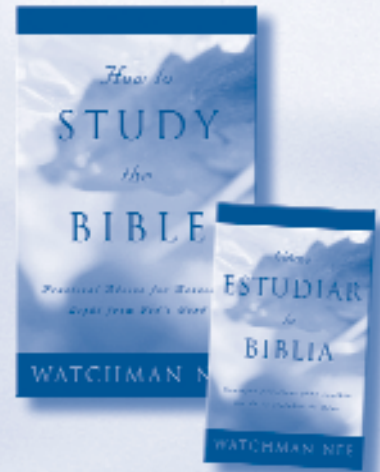
(Acts 9:14). As Stephen was being martyred, he loudly called upon the name of the Lord (Acts 7:59).

The Bible is replete with examples of ones who called on the name of the Lord. According to the Old Testament, men began to call on the Lord starting with Enosh showing that this practice existed with the third generation of mankind (Gen. 4:26). The Old Testament goes on to record how so many godly men called on the Lord. Abraham (Gen. 12:8); Isaac (Gen. 26:25); Moses (Deut. 4:7); Job (Job 12:4); Jabez (1 Chron. 4:10); Samson (Judg. 16:28); Samuel (1 Sam. 12:10); David (2 Sam. 22:4); Jonah (Jonah 1:6); Elijah (1 Kings 18:24); Elisha (2 Kings 5:11); and Jeremiah (Lam. 3:55) all continued this practice. In the New Testament, the believers were characterized as those who called on the name of the Lord (Acts 9:14). The apostle Paul, who began to call on the Lord Jesus at his conversion and baptism (Acts 22:8, 16), told us that as called ones, we call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place (1 Cor. 1:2).

The way to call on the Lord is to first open your heart to Him in a pure way (2 Tim. 2:22) and then to open your mouth and call on Him audibly (Psa. 81:10). Christians should not be silent, as those who worship dumb idols, but should worship God by calling on the name of Jesus (1 Cor. 12:2-3). As believers in Christ, we should call on the Lord daily (Psa. 88:9) and for as long as we live (Psa. 116:2). May we all be those who enjoy His riches by calling on Him!

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-Study of Genesis*, message 25; *Calling on the Name of the Lord*; and footnote 1 of Acts 2:21 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

How to STUDY THE BIBLE



Many good books have been printed on how to study the Bible, but most pay attention only to methods of studying the Bible; in How to Study the Bible Watchman Nee pays attention to the person who studies the Bible. Even with the right methods, we can receive very little in our study of the Bible if our person is not proper before the Lord.

Watchman Nee
How To Study the Bible
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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.

CALLING ON THE LORD IN OUR DAILY LIFE FOR THE CHURCH MEETINGS

BEING CALLED TO CALL ON THE LORD

Verse 2 of chapter one [of 1 Corinthians] continues to say, "With all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." We have to call upon the name of the Lord. We have been called to call. We are the called ones, and we are the calling ones. As to our position we are the called ones; as to our situation we are the calling ones. Day by day we call, saying, "O Lord Jesus! O Lord Jesus! Jesus Lord!" We are the calling ones, all the time making a cry. Even when we visit our relatives, we have to be the calling ones, all the day calling on the name of the Lord Jesus.

OUR CALLING ON THE LORD BEING OUR BREATHING

To call on the Lord is to enjoy the Lord, to breathe the Lord in. Calling is just breathing. Jeremiah was designated the "weeping prophet." After the book of Jeremiah, he felt he was not finished, so he wrote Lamentations as a weeping book. In this weeping book there are two wonderful, joyful verses: "I called upon Your name, O Jehovah, / From the lowest pit. / You have heard my voice; do not hide / Your ear at my breathing, at my cry" (3:55-56). Our calling is our breathing. We have to call on the name of the Lord because to call on the Lord is to breathe. Sometimes our dear husband or wife or our children put us into "the lowest pit." Whenever you get into "the lowest pit," do not murmur or complain. Simply call, "O Lord Jesus," and you will be in the third heaven. To call on the Lord is just to breathe

Him in. Verse 56 says, "Do not hide / Your ear at my breathing, at my cry." The Lord turns His ear to our breathing. This spiritual breathing is our calling, "O Lord Jesus, O Lord Jesus."

To call on the Lord is to take the Lord in. First Corinthians 15:45b is a very important verse which tells us, "The last Adam became a life-giving Spirit." *Spirit* in Greek is *pneuma*, the word for breath. Therefore, this verse may be translated as, "The last Adam became a life-giving Breath." Today Christ is the Breath, the Air, the Spirit, the life-giving *Pneuma* so we can breathe Him in. The way to participate in Christ and enjoy Him is to call on Him. Because He is the Breath, to call on Him is to breathe Him as the Breath into us.

Whenever we feel lonely, we should call on the Lord. Right away we will have the sensation that the Lord is with us. The more we call on Him, the more He is with us and the more we enjoy His presence. This is because the Lord is the Breath. When we breathe deeply by calling on the Lord, we have a refreshing sensation within. To call "O Lord Jesus" is refreshing and spiritually enjoyable because when we call on the Lord, we breathe Him in. He is the Breath; He is the Air; He is the life-giving Spirit.

OUR CALLING BEING THE KEY FOR ENTERING INTO THE RICHES OF CHRIST

First Corinthians clearly tells us that Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God to the called ones (1:24). He is also the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread (5:7b-8).

*The way to participate
in Christ and enjoy
Him is to call on Him.*

The only way to enjoy such a Christ is to call on Him. This book is in the hands of all Christians, and I believe most Christians have read it. Very few, however, have seen the matter of calling on the Lord. We all must know that this is the key to get into the riches of the Lord. If we have not seen calling on the Lord, we do not have the key.

Enjoying the Riches of Christ for the Building up of the Church as the Body of Christ, pp. 129-130, 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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