

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 25, MAY 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

HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND

COMMUNITY RADIO

HAMILTON, INC.

1206 AM

6:30 P.M.

FRIDAY

Dear *Life-study* Listener,

This month *The Hearing of Faith* takes on a new look. We have redesigned our newsletter to improve its readability and make it easier for you to enjoy. Each month we try our best to provide you with information and healthy ministry to keep you up-to-date, nourished, and strong in the faith.

It was helpful to get feedback from you about our radio program a few months ago during Pathway 2000. Now we are asking you for feedback on our monthly newsletter and its different components such as the "What Is" article, our "Highlights," "Footnotes from New Testament Recovery Version," "Response from Listeners," and "The Path of Life." We hope you will take a few moments to let us know your thoughts by filling out the enclosed survey card and sending it back to us in the return envelope.

Recently we added a new station in New Zealand. If you have friends or relatives there, they can hear *Life-study of the Bible* not only through the Internet, but on the radio as well. Next month we will include a complete list of all stations broadcasting *Life-study of the Bible* in English.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS AN OVERCOMER?

The Bible sounds a definite call to God's people to overcome a multitude of things: Satan, sin, the world, the flesh, and the fallen human life. Those who love the Lord Jesus sense a corresponding echo within, calling them to live an overcoming life. In order to live the life of an overcomer and be rewarded as an overcomer by Christ at His second coming (Rev. 22:12), we must first know what the Bible calls an overcomer.

The first qualification of an overcomer is faith. First John 5:5 asks, "Who is he who overcomes the world except him who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" Belief in Christ is the initial, most fundamental component of overcoming. In 1 John the apostle John linked overcoming with faith because he was battling false teachings that denied a central point of the faith—the deity of Jesus. Therefore, to overcome the tide of heresy, one must first believe in Christ's divinity by confessing that Jesus is the Son of God. This faith thus becomes the basis, the foundation, of an overcoming life. Nevertheless, simply believing does not guarantee that at the end of our life's journey we will receive an overcomer's reward. While all overcomers are believers, not all believers, though they are eternally saved, will be overcomers. Believing is only the initiation into the overcoming life.

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OVERCOMER

(continued from page 1)

Following this initial step of believing is the Lord's lifelong call to all His believers to live and serve Him faithfully that they may be qualified to receive the overcomer's reward. Every believer receives eternal life as a gift (Rom. 6:23) through faith, not by works (Eph. 2:8). However, in Revelation 2 and 3 there is a further call to the churches for overcomers with the promise of a *reward* for faithfulness. This is the same reward promised in 1 Corinthians 3:14 to the believers whose life and work passes through the testing fire at the coming judgment seat of Christ (v. 15, 2 Cor. 5:10). First Corinthians 3:15 tells us a believer can still be saved, yet suffer the loss of this reward. He forever keeps the free gift of God, eternal life (John 10:28), but he may lose the prize Paul spoke of in Philippians 3:14: "I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward." This prize is the wedding feast of the Lamb with His overcoming believers (Rev. 19:7, 9), who will rule and reign with Christ in His heavenly kingdom for a thousand years.

Since the call for overcomers in Revelation 2 and 3 is to the *churches*, it is obviously a call to those who have taken the first step of believing. Such a call from Christ to His believers was necessary because the condition of the church had already degraded by the end of the first century.

The hope of our calling—actually, God's hope in calling each of us—is that all His believers would also be overcomers, those who love Him supremely and daily choose to live by Him and unto Him. Romans 5:17 promises, "Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ." May the Lord gain our loving response to His call for overcomers!

For further reading on this subject, please see footnotes for Revelation 2 and 3 in the New Testament Recovery Version; The Overcomers by Witness Lee; and God's Overcomers and The Overcoming Life by Watchman Nee, all published by Living Stream Ministry.

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF REVELATION

"He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name." Rev. 3:12

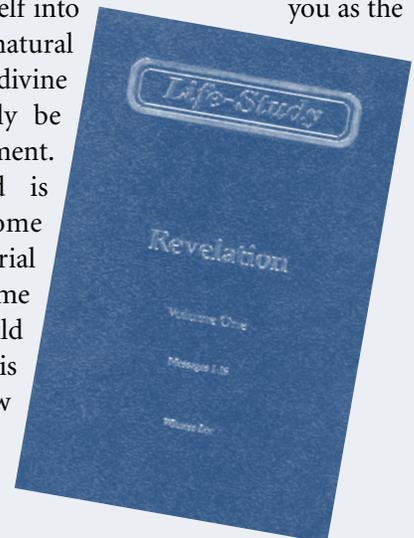
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BEING MADE A PILLAR

What is the significance of being made a pillar and of being written upon by the Lord? How can the Lord make us, who are so natural, being wood or mud, into pillars? The only way is by transforming us, that is, by carrying away our natural element and by replacing it with His divine essence. The meaning of the word "make" in 3:12 is to constitute us into something, to construct us in a creative way. This is transformation. . . .

The epistle to the church in Philadelphia has never been as open to the Lord's children as it is today. Throughout the years, Christians have lacked the genuine experience of God's transformation and building. Due to this lack, there has been no understanding of 3:12. Again I say that it is only through experience that we have begun to realize the significance of this verse. Today in the proper church life the Lord is making us, mere pieces of wood, into pillars in the temple of God. This sentence is simple, but its significance is profound. In the church in Philadelphia the Lord is not correcting us or even just burning us. He is in the process of making us, old ones and new ones alike, into a pillar in the temple of God. This certainly means something. The only way the Lord can accomplish this is by being the divine flow within us. Not even the Lord can do a quick work in this matter. He patiently works Himself into us as the divine flow, not to correct our outward behavior but to carry away our natural essence. God does not desire the mere improvement of our behavior. Today the Lord desires the proper church life. For this, He is eager to get into us at this very moment. Do not wait until tomorrow and do not wonder about others. Look at yourself. The Lord's work in the church is to work Himself into you as the

divine flow to carry away your natural being and to replace it with His divine substance that you may gradually be processed by His transforming element. This is all we need. As God is transforming us, we shall become something else—the precious material for His building. The more we become this material, the more He will build us into His building. Ultimately, this building will become the New Jerusalem.

Life-study of Revelation, pp. 376-377, by Witness Lee



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 just happened to catch the broadcast by playing around with my tuner on the radio. I caught a portion of Witness Lee on the radio. I've been listening to it on the way home every day ever since then. It's wonderful. I never heard anybody teach like that about the kingdom and I really like it. Witness Lee opened up some things to me just from the time I've been listening to him about five or six days now. I get off at work at 2:30 and that's when he comes on the air. I've been running out to my truck so I can turn it on and listen to him on the

words a hundredfold. It is truly remarkable how much one can receive from only thirty minutes. Please keep up the good work and thanks so much! Praise God!

B.F. Jacksonville, FL

I think a lot of Witness Lee's ministry and the revelation that the Lord has given him on the Word of God. My spirit bears witness with the things that he has said and everything that I've read. I do enjoy the books and studies

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way home. Is it on the air at any other time during the day? Is he in Spanish?

A.R., Hesperia, CA

[There is a Spanish broadcast in your area at 7:30 P.M. on KLITE every evening, Monday through Friday.]

Could you please send to me your free catalog of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* radio cassette tapes? I enjoy Witness Lee very much. He has such a unique way of expression. I also find it very rare to come across someone who can explain the Scriptures as he does. It is most uplifting to hear him. He is always so captivating. So much insight and understanding result from your broadcast! I feel so blessed to have come across this ministry.

I must say I also very greatly enjoy the commentary that goes along with Witness Lee. I think that it multiplies the wealth that is in Witness Lee's own

I've had by him. I want to tell you I surely enjoy the New Testament Recovery Version. That has been a blessing.

I've never been blessed and fed like I've been blessed and fed through Witness Lee and his studies. He has the meat of the Word. He has the Word of God that's real bread, the bread that feeds me. I wish I had more time. Once you get into it, you don't want to put it down. It's been a blessing. I listen to him every chance I can.

C.W., Sugarland, TX

The broadcast is just phenomenal. I get so much out of it. I work and I get to hear it in my vehicle. It's been a real blessing and it's things I've never heard before. There's some wonderful insight. I appreciate your ministry. Keep up the good work.

L.R., St. Petersburg, FL

eManna

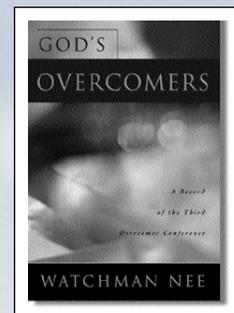
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www.livingstream.com/emanna

GOD'S OVERCOMERS



ISBN 0-7363-0433-9
Hard cover \$16.00

It is God's intention that every Christian would be an overcomer who gives Christ the first place, who ministers to Him in a pure way, and who is utterly consecrated to Him. God's Overcomers clearly sounds this call to the members of the Body of Christ.

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W A T C H M A N N E E

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.

EATING, DRINKING, AND BREATHING CHRIST

The Gospel of John tells us the way to take this very Christ, who is God as the Spirit and as the Word. The first way is by eating. This is revealed in chapter six. The Lord said, "I am the bread of life. . . he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me" (vv. 35, 57). The way to take Christ is to eat

*While you are reading, you need to pray.
This prayer is your breathing, and this breathing
is by calling upon the name of the Lord.*

Him. Christ is eatable. Some may think that it is too wild or crude to say that we have to eat Christ. But the Lord Himself told us to eat Him. Only the things that we eat, that we take into us as food, can be our life supply. . . .

Also today it is so simple to be saved and have Christ within us as our life. "Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13). It seems hard to believe that we could be saved in such a simple way. It is so marvelous, yet so simple. When God created man, He did not give man many instructions about how to behave himself. God only put him in front of the tree of life that he might take in the tree of life (Gen. 2:8-9). This is the unique thing we need. We need to take in Christ. We need to eat Christ. This is why we have to know that Christ is the Spirit and the Word. Where is Christ? Christ is in the Spirit and Christ is in the Word. We surely know that Christ is in the heavens, but if He were only in the heavens, we could not eat Him. He would be too far away from us. Christ today is the Spirit and is the Word. Whenever I touch the Spirit and contact the Word, I eat Christ.

Eating Christ is revealed in John 6, and drinking Him is revealed in chapter seven. The Lord said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink" (v. 37). Following the eating is the drinking. To eat is to take in the bread. To drink is to take in the water. So we need the eating and the drinking. But this is not all. At the end of the

Gospel of John, in 20:22, there is the breathing. We need eating, drinking, and breathing. After the Lord was resurrected, He came back to His disciples, breathed into them, and asked them to receive the holy breath. . . .

Hymns, #255 by A.B. Simpson is a hymn on breathing in the Lord. The chorus of this hymn says:

I am breathing out my sorrow,
Breathing out my sin;
I am breathing, breathing, breathing,
All Thy fullness in. . . .

Today the Lord is the Spirit, and He is also the Word. On the one hand, the Spirit is the pneuma, the breath (John 20:22). On the other hand, the Word is also the breath. Second Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is God-breathed. So every part of the Scripture is a part of the divine breath. As the Spirit and the Word, the Lord is the breath. Strictly speaking, you can never get the Word into you as life merely by reading it. The only way for you to get the Word into you as life is by breathing. All Scripture is God-breathed. If you are going to get the Word as the breath into you, you have to breathe. Of course, we need to read

the Bible, but mere reading does not work. We have to read the Word by breathing.

Let me illustrate a little bit to you. John 3:16 says that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. If I merely read this verse, nothing will happen. But if I breathe in this verse by pray-reading through calling on the name of the Lord, the Lord will come into me. You need prayer to match your reading, prayer to mingle with your reading. While you are reading, you need to pray. This prayer is your breathing, and this breathing is by calling upon the name of the Lord.

The Fulfillment of God's Purpose by the Growth of Christ in Us, pp. 16-18, 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.

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

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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