

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 82, FEBRUARY 2005

"He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit . . . does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5

In

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Dear Life-study Listener,

Recently we finished our life-study of First and Second Peter and Jude. Although short in length these epistles are by no means short in content. As we go through the nine chapters of these three books, we should not allow any minor points to distract us from God's economy, the central revelation of the Triune God becoming our enjoyment for His expression. God desires that Christ's life grow in us, resulting in our transformation for God's building. In order to enhance your studies, we encourage you to get the printed *Life-study of Jude* and read in particular the last two messages entitled, "The Basic Structure of the Epistles of Peter and Jude," or listen to the archived radio programs on cassette, CD, or the Internet.

Jude 19 says, "These are those who make divisions, soulish, having no spirit." Although Jude and Peter spoke strong words about the apostates, we believers should also be warned by their word. The footnote says, "They do not care for their spirit or use it. They do not contact God by their spirit in communication with the Spirit of God; neither do they live and walk in their spirit. They have been drawn downward by their flesh and have become fleshy, so that they have lost the consciousness of their conscience (see note 12² in 2 Pet. 2) and have become like animals without reason (v.10)." May the Lord have mercy on all of us that we would all take care of our spirit.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS A TYPE IN THE BIBLE?

The Bible is full of types to help us understand the mysteries it contains. We can see these types, or we may say pictures, in the Old Testament along with their explanation and reality in the New Testament. Webster's dictionary defines a type as "a person or thing [in the Old Testament] believed to foreshadow another [in the New Testament]." For example, comparing Adam in the Old Testament to Christ, Romans 5:14 says Adam "is a type of Him who was to come."

There is an old saying: "A picture is worth a thousand words." God surely used many pictures that are rich in meaning in the Bible, especially in the

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

BREMERTON, WASHINGTON

KCPR	104.9 FM
2:30 A.M.	DAILY
9:00 A.M.	
6:00 P.M.	
8:30 P.M.	
11:00 P.M.	

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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 have been blessed and challenged, and my spiritual life deepens by the privilege of hearing Life-Study of the Bible in both English and Spanish. In thirty years of walking with our Lord Jesus Christ I have read through many versions of the Bible, but I have never been as consistently impacted as I am in my current reading of the Holy Bible Recovery Version. I look forward to starting the Spanish version later this year. May God continue to bless your revolutionary transformational ministry.

Culver City, CA

I have been a "student" of many religions—constantly searching for the TRUTH. When I came upon Witness Lee's material, I instantly knew I had finally come to the end of my journey.

Dickson, TX

Your program on WTIS 1110 AM on the radio is a blessing to me. Your publication "The Hearing of Faith" is also a blessing and I enjoy it very much. Thanks for making these broadcasts so faithfully. May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you abundantly.

Bradenton, FL

Excerpt from

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE TABERNACLE AND THE OFFERINGS IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN

BY WITNESS LEE

From October 1982 to June 1983, Witness Lee gave a series of messages that comprise the book The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John. The following is an excerpt from chapter thirty-six.

SPIRIT AND LIFE

Two crucial matters in the Gospel of John are life and the Spirit. John is a book on eternal life, and eternal life is related to the Spirit. Without eternal life and the Spirit, we can have only a picture of the tabernacle and the offerings, but not the reality and practicality of the tabernacle and the offerings....

THE OFFERINGS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Perhaps you are wondering where in the Gospel of John we can find the sin offering, the trespass offering, the burnt offering, the meal offering, and the peace offering. We have the sin offering in chapter three, a chapter that describes the case of Nicodemus. Verse 14 says, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up." This verse speaks of Christ as the sin offering to deal with indwelling sin, that is, to deal with our serpentine nature.

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In chapter four, which describes the case of an immoral Samaritan woman, we have the trespass offering. Nicodemus' problem was the serpentine nature, but the Samaritan woman's problem was her trespasses, for she had had five husbands and was living with someone who was not her husband. She needed Christ as her trespass offering.

In chapter seven we see that Christ is absolute for God's glory and also absolute to do God's will. This is Christ as the burnt offering for God's satisfaction.

We find the meal offering in chapter six, a chapter that speaks of the bread of life. Here the bread of life is the meal offering.

Finally, in chapter twelve we see Christ as the peace offering. In a house in Bethany the Lord Jesus and some of the believers were feasting. Together they were enjoying the peace offering. Therefore, in chapters three, four, seven, six, and twelve we see Christ as the fulfillment of the five basic offerings in the Old Testament.

A FULL PICTURE OF THE TABERNACLE

Along with the altar and all the offerings, we need the laver. As we have pointed out, the laver is a place for washing. Chapter thirteen of the Gospel of John gives us the laver for foot-washing.

After the laver, we have the tabernacle. The laver is in chapter thirteen, and the tabernacle is in chapters fourteen through sixteen. In these chapters we have the tabernacle with the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Then in chapter seventeen we have the incense altar, for in this chapter we have Christ's intercessory prayer. If we put all these matters together, we shall see that in the Gospel of John we have a full picture of the tabernacle.

The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John, pp. 341-343

A TYPE IN THE BIBLE (continued from page 1)

Old Testament. One may compare the Old Testament to a picture book, full of vivid pictures. However, if a reader did not have the words to go along with the colorful pictures, the story would still be difficult to follow. The New Testament gives us the “words to the pictures,” explaining the reality of the Old Testament pictures or types. Moreover, the words of revelation in the New Testament become even more clear to us when we see and understand the types in the Old Testament.

If we read the entire New Testament, we can see that interpreting the pictures from the Old Testament

and Christ as our Passover (Exo. 12; 1 Cor. 5:7). The types in the Old Testament and the clear words in the New Testament together unveil to us how wonderful our Christ is.

The Lord Jesus said in John 5:39, “The Scriptures...testify concerning Me.” Since the Scriptures testify concerning Christ, we should not take any Scripture for granted. This is why types are so important to us as New Testament believers. We live by faith, and what we believe in depends on what we hear of the spiritual things (Rom. 10:17). In Ephesians 3:8, the apostle Paul said that his commission from the Lord

Since the Scriptures testify concerning Christ, we should not take any Scripture for granted.

is not only legitimate but necessary. The Lord Jesus Himself used this principle with His sad disciples as they walked on the road to Emmaus: “And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, He explained to them clearly in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:27). By this we see that all the Scriptures lead us to know Christ in a more detailed and intimate way. How could we clearly understand and appreciate the things concerning Christ as the Lamb of God in John 1:29, for example, without seeing all the aspects of the lamb in the Old Testament type? A few other examples of types portrayed in the Old Testament and explained in the New Testament include Christ as the brass serpent (Num. 21:4-9; John 3:14), Christ and the church typified by Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:21-24; Eph. 5:25-32),

was “to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel.” Since the riches of Christ which Paul announced are “unsearchable,” we need to learn from him to see the spiritual reality behind the physical examples used by the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. Otherwise, the Old Testament would remain merely a story book to us, unapplicable today, and we would miss seeing and enjoying so many rich aspects of Christ as revealed in His Word. “To you therefore who believe is the preciousness” (1 Pet. 2:7a).

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of Ephesians*, message 30 and *The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John*, both by Witness Lee; and *Affirmation and Critique*, Volume 4, no. 3 (July 1999), all published by Living Stream Ministry.

HOW TO BE USEFUL TO THE LORD

This book is composed of messages given by Brother Witness Lee in April and May of 1955 in Baguio, Philippines. It consists of six chapters on how a Christian can become useful in the Lord's hands to accomplish the divine commission in the economy of the grace of God.

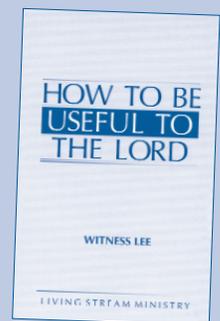


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How to be Useful to the Lord
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The PATH OF Life

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.

THE LORD'S RECOVERY—EATING

The Lord's recovery is to recover what He ordained in the beginning. God ordained that man should eat Him, and this would become man's destiny. Our lot is not to do this or that but to eat the Lord. For forty years in the wilderness the Israelites did nothing but gather manna and eat it every day. Eating was their occupation. Likewise, today God wants us to eat and enjoy Christ every day. It is not how much we do for the Lord but rather how much we eat the Lord. This is the Lord's recovery.

One can never graduate from eating.

Christianity is a religion with activities and works. There are many laboring Christians, but very few of them enjoy Christ in their spirit by eating Him. The whole church must enjoy Christ in this way. In Revelation 2 and 3, in the seven times the Lord calls for overcomers, the matter of eating is mentioned three times. The first time is with regard to eating the tree of life, the second time to eating the hidden manna, and the third time to eating the feast. These are like the three kinds of eating by the people of God in the Old Testament. Revelation 2 and 3 are for the recovery of the eating that was in the Old Testament. Christianity has lost this, and the Lord is calling us to overcome and to be recovered back to the beginning. When you eat Christ and are filled with Him, your temper is terminated, and the world is gone. Therefore, just take care of eating Christ.

One can never graduate from eating. Every day there is a repetition of eating. Hardships from husbands, problems from wives, and difficulties on the job can all be dealt with by eating Christ. When you eat Christ a little more, your problem will be solved. This way might seem to be too simple, but once you enter in, you will find that the more you eat Him the sweeter He is, and the more you enjoy Him the richer He becomes. . . .

At the end of the book of Revelation, it says, "Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree

of life" (22:14). This blessing is for those who come to the tree of life. Thus, ultimately man is destined to eat the tree of life, that is, to eat the Lord. Man will eat the Lord for eternity.

To be sure, after a person is fed he will work. Well-fed children are very active and may even act like a destroying army. Therefore, we must first feed ourselves and then feed others. When everyone is fed, the church will be living. It is not a matter of doing things outwardly but of being alive inwardly. When we are filled by eating Christ, we become energetic. Today we do not need mere outward encouragement; we need only the inward supply. . . .

In the Lord's recovery we must practice calling on the Lord. When we call on the Lord, our spirit is opened, and when we breathe the Spirit in as air, we are refreshed and enlightened within. In the New

Jerusalem there is only one tree of life yielding fruit for us to eat; everyone there simply will be eating daily. The church in Ephesus became degraded because she neglected the eating and was devoted to working. The Lord told her to repent. The elders and co-workers should not consider too much about how to work; they should take the lead to eat. Let us all come to keep the feast, to come and dine together. What is the Lord's recovery? Eating! What is the Lord's way? Eating! What is it to be over-coming? Eating! What is it to be spiritual? Eating! Eating! Eating! Eating!

The Lord's Recovery of Eating, pp. 10-12, 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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