

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 36, APRIL 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

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monthly articles
we have published
over the last 2 years
on the Internet

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Dear Life-study Listener,

Recently we began the radio broadcast of *Life-study of Numbers*. If you have not had a chance to order your printed life-study to follow along with the broadcast, we have included an insert for your convenience. We think you will enjoy seeing the journey of God’s people to the good land from the perspective of the experience of life, which is the viewpoint of every life-study book of the Bible. Among the children of Israel, Joshua and Caleb had another spirit. Why were they different? For a hint, see “What Is Faith?” in this issue.

Last month in the *Hearing of Faith* we included an advertisement from Bibles for America. Living Stream Ministry is thankful to the Lord for raising up this nonprofit organization to do a great work of spreading the Word of God. We thought it would help our readers to explain their offer. Bibles for America is offering a single complimentary edition of the New Testament Recovery Version to whoever wants one and contacts them. We hope the Lord will bless their endeavor to reach many of His lovers and seekers with the riches in the New Testament Recovery Version. We have included their ad again on page three this month. Living Stream Ministry as the publisher of the New Testament Recovery Version sells a regular economy edition, small and large leather bound editions, and editions without footnotes. For details, please see the enclosed insert.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS FAITH?

The word *faith* in the New Testament has two aspects. The objective aspect (1 Tim. 1:19b; Jude 3) refers to the things we believe in—the entire New Testament revelation concerning the person of Christ and His redemptive work. The subjective aspect (1 Tim. 1:19a; Heb. 11) refers to our act of believing. This subjective aspect of faith is the focus of this article.

Many think faith is something we must summon up in ourselves in the face of any environment or condition to believe in God and please God. It is true

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FAITH

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that without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6), but we ourselves are not the source of that God-pleasing faith. Hebrews 11:8 says, “By faith Abraham being called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive as an inheritance.”

Abraham obeyed by faith, but his faith issued from God’s calling and appearing to him. Acts 7:2 tells us that the God of glory appeared to Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, an idol-worshipping country. This appearing of God was an infusion of God into Abraham, attracting and strengthening him to obey God’s

of the gospel (Col. 1:5), we are presented with the lovely scenery of the New Testament (the objective faith). As the scenery of Christ is presented to us, the Spirit works with the word as power and light. When the light shines on the scenery, our heart “clicks”—opens a little—and there is an exposure “inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh” (2 Cor. 3:3b). That exposure brings in a reaction, which is our faith. As we hear of Christ and appreciate Him, faith is born in us (Gal. 3:1-2). Our subjective faith is

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calling to leave his idolatrous homeland. Through God’s repeated appearing to him (Gen. 11-24), Abraham believed not only God’s promise concerning the land he would inherit but also the son that would be born to him through Sarah (Rom. 4:20-22).

Abraham’s experience shows us that the source of our faith is God; faith is not something initiated by us. It is not our endeavoring or striving to believe, for we do not have any believing ability in ourselves. Faith is something allotted to us by God (2 Pet. 1:1) and is actually “the faith of Jesus Christ” (Gal 2:20; Rom 3:22), which becomes ours through our hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:14, 17; Acts 4:4a; Gal. 3:2).

To explain how this faith comes into us, a picture is worth a thousand words. Our heart is like a camera. When we hear the word of the truth

our spontaneous response to the truth of the objective faith, the scenery of the New Testament.

Faith is the unique way for God to carry out His New Testament economy with man (1 Tim 1:4 and footnote 4). When we continually look unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2), He as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b) transfuses us with Himself as the believing element—faith. The more we see Him in all His beauty with all His riches, the more we appreciate Him and the more faith we have. This faith enables us to receive all His “precious and exceedingly great promises” (2 Pet. 1:4) and to take His way (Heb. 12:1).

For further reading on this subject, please see footnote 3 of Hebrews 12:2 in the New Testament Recovery Version; *The Stream 20*, (December 2000); *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, message 121; and *Elders’ Training Book 6, The Crucial Points of the Truth*, chap. 5, published by Living Stream Ministry.

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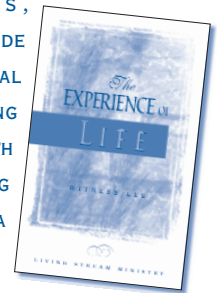


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