

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 52, AUGUST 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*

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*Dear Life-study Listener,*

We hope our listeners have been enjoying the deep things of God as we go through *Life-study of First Corinthians*. Truly the apostle Paul wrote concerning some of the deepest matters in this book. Nowhere else can we find such clear words as the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit (15:45) or that we are joined to the Lord as one spirit (6:17). These two revelations are a critical part of the New Testament's message for our experience of Christ and are a focus of this ministry. The subject of our "What Is" article this month is the matter of Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit.

Romans 5:10 says, "For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled." Our greatest need as believers in Christ is to possess and grow in His divine life. Thank Him, we have the life-giving Spirit in our spirit to meet this need that we may be further "saved in His life."

Witness Lee wrote more than two hundred hymns, many of them on Christ becoming the life-giving Spirit and His being joined to our spirit for our intimate and closest experience of Him. One such hymn is included on page two of this newsletter. Aren't you glad He became the *life-giving* Spirit to indwell you?

*Living Stream Ministry*

## WHAT IS THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT?

The revelation of the Holy Spirit in the Bible includes many divine titles, such as, the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:20), the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:9), the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7), the Spirit (John 7:39), the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9), the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19), and the seven Spirits (Rev. 1:4). Each divine title has its own significance, revealing a different aspect of the Holy Spirit in the plan of God and in the experience of the believers. One of the

*(continued on page 3)*

### **Life-Study of the Bible**

W E L C O M E S

LOS ANGELES, CA

KPLS  
6:00 P.M.

830 AM  
SUNDAY

## THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT

(continued from page 1)

most profound titles in the New Testament concerning the Spirit is “the life-giving Spirit” (1 Cor. 15:45). This aspect of the Spirit is for imparting life. First Corinthians 15:45 says, “So also it is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living soul’; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.” The *last Adam* is Christ (Rom. 5:14) who terminated the old creation through His death on the cross (Rom. 6:6). Then in resurrection the last Adam, Christ, became a *life-giving Spirit* to germinate the new creation. Now in resurrection Christ as the life-giving Spirit imparts Himself as life into all of His believers. The life-giving Spirit is Christ in resurrection as the Spirit giving life to His believers; Christ with all His attainments and obtainments is now the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17).

God’s intention is to give His life to man (John 10:10b; 3:16; 1 John 4:9) and to be man’s life (Col. 3:4). But there were two problems preventing the accomplishment of His intention. First, man is sinful not only in his outward deeds but also in his inward nature. Second, God was not in a form that man could receive (1 Tim. 6:16). To solve the first problem, Christ came as the Lamb of God (John 1:29) to deal with the entire problem of sin, shedding His blood for our redemption (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5). To solve the second problem, God became a man; then through death and resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit. Through incarnation, God as life was embodied in the person of the Lord Jesus (John 1:14; 11:25; 14:6). The divine life was expressed and fully manifested through Him (1 Tim. 3:16), and His disciples observed His living while they were with Him in His earthly

ministry (1 John 1:1-2). Although the divine life, the eternal life, could be seen and appreciated, man could not participate in this life. The Lord Jesus said that He was indeed life (John 14:6), the bread of life (6:35), and the water of life (4:14; 7:37-38), but before His death and resurrection, He was not yet in a form man could receive. Through death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus

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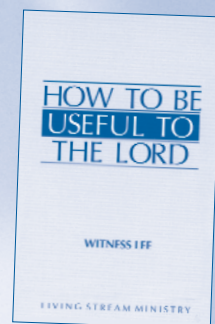
passed through a process that transfigured Him from the flesh into the life-giving Spirit. Hence, on the day of His resurrection, the Lord Jesus appeared to His disciples and breathed into them saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (20:22). In this way, the Lord imparted Himself as life into His disciples, fulfilling His intention. As the Spirit, His believers can easily receive Him. Today this life-giving Spirit is available to be received and applied by all of the Lord’s believers.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Stream*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 14-24; *Life-Study of First Corinthians*, pp. 613-619; *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, p. 861; and note 1 of John 20:22 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

## HOW TO BE USEFUL TO THE LORD

*A book by Witness Lee*

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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