

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 83, MARCH 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*

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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 12<sup>2</sup> 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 ZION, IN THE PSALMS?

Psalm 128 speaks of Jehovah’s blessing to Israel from Zion and the prosperity of Jerusalem in Israel’s enjoyment. Psalm 129 concerns God’s righteous dealing with the persecutors of Israel and the haters of Zion. On this earth there is a people chosen by God as His elect, and this people is always persecuted. This is true of the believers today, who may be persecuted for preaching the gospel and teaching the Bible. Furthermore, Zion, the highest peak of that range of mountains, signifies the overcomers in the church, the higher ones among the believers. Just as Zion was hated, so the overcomers also are hated. But God comes in to deal righteously with those who persecute Israel and hate Zion. Israel is God’s elect, and God deals with those who persecute His people, but this does not mean that Israel is perfect and

*(continued on page 3)*

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

W E L C O M E S

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

KCPR 106.5 FM  
2:30 A.M. DAILY  
9:00 A.M.  
6:00 P.M.  
8:30 P.M.  
11:00 P.M.

## ZION, IN THE PSALMS *(continued from page 1)*

sinless. On the contrary, Israel has many sins and iniquities. Thus, in Psalm 130 we have a psalm of forgiveness and redemption.

Psalm 131 indicates that after we experience God's forgiveness, we become humble. Formerly, we were proud and even haughty, thinking that we alone were right and that others were wrong. But after we are enlightened concerning our real

divided. When God has His rest, His dwelling place, in Zion, we can come to Him in Zion and dwell there in unity with the brothers. How good and how pleasant this is! It is like the fine oil, signifying the anointing, upon Aaron, and it is also like the morning dew, signifying grace, that descends from Mount Hermon to the mountains of Zion. This indicates that, as God's people, we need both the

*When our heart is humbled and our soul is quiet, we are in a condition that is suitable for God to come in to rest. In such a situation God can have a resting place, a dwelling.*

situation, make a thorough confession, and receive God's forgiveness, we become humble. We humble our heart, lower our eyes, and our soul becomes quiet "like a weaned child with its mother" (v. 2). I have had this experience many times, realizing that I am nothing, that I have nothing, and that I can do nothing. When our heart is humbled and our soul is quiet, we are in a condition that is suitable for God to come in to rest. In such a situation God can have a resting place, a dwelling. However, when we are proud and our eyes are haughty, God has no rest, no dwelling place, in us. Only when we are humble, calm, and quiet is the situation right for God to rise up, enter into us, and take us as His resting place. This is Zion becoming God's habitation, His resting place, as revealed in Psalm 132.

Next, Psalm 133 shows us that Zion is the unique place where the brothers can come together in unity. Zion is the uniting center. In any other place we are scattered and

anointing and the watering. Moreover, in Zion God has a place where He can command His blessing. Therefore, in Zion we receive the commanded blessing of God, even life forever....

The sequence of Psalms 128 through 134 is logical and reasonable. We enjoy God's blessing from Zion and the prosperity of Jerusalem, and then God deals with those who persecute us and hate us. Nevertheless, we are sinful and need God's forgiveness. When we receive His forgiveness, we become humble, calm, and quiet, and God comes in to rest, to dwell, in us. Then we come up to Him to dwell in unity. As a result, we become Mount Zion; that is, we become the highest people, those who are even higher than the priests.

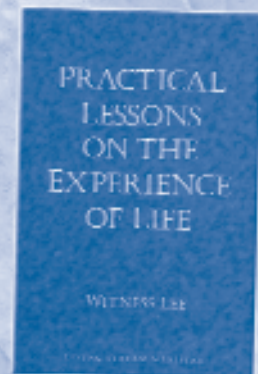
For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of Ephesians*, message 30 and *The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John*, both by

### PRACTICAL LESSONS ON THE EXPERIENCE OF LIFE

According to the Scriptures, God's intention is to be life to us in His Son through the Spirit. Christ came that we may have life, that is, the divine, eternal life, which is Christ Himself. This requires that we not only be instructed in the scriptural truths concerning life, but that we enter into the experience of life. In this way we will grow in the divine life to be built up together as the church that He desires.

In *Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life* Witness Lee presents the basic truths concerning God as life to us. Going beyond mere teachings, however, he also leads us into the practical experience of life. These basic and indispensable lessons can help every believer enter into the central thought of God for the full recovery of the experience of life for growth and for the building up of the church.

*Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life*  
by Witness Lee  
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