

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 1, MAY 1998

“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

In

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Dear Listener,

We are happy to announce the publication of our radio newsletter, *The Hearing of Faith*. It is being sent to all listeners who have responded to our radio program, *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. It is our desire to provide you with encouraging responses from listeners like yourself, supply you with enlightening excerpts from the ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee, update information concerning radio stations that broadcast our program, make announcements of interest, and build you up in the faith. Each issue will be sent with these goals in mind along with our prayers.

We concluded our broadcast of the *Life-study of Genesis* on February 3, 1998. (See article “The Central Message of Genesis.”) This was a historic journey through Genesis, consisting of one hundred thirty-four radio programs, all of which can be heard on the Internet (see inserted radio log). We are now presenting the *Life-study of Romans*. At our current rate it will take us eight years to finish the *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* on radio. The printed version of the life-study consists of 1,983 messages. Witness Lee originally spoke these messages, book by book, from 1974 until he finished his study on the entire Bible in 1995. Before going to be with the Lord whom he loved in June 1997, Witness Lee encouraged us by saying that before the Lord he felt the time was now right for the spread of the ministry through radio. We are grateful to the Lord for His leading in this undertaking. *The Hearing of Faith* will have a special column each month entitled “The Testimony of Witness Lee In His Own Words” relating his personal testimony gathered from his published ministry.

Thank you for journeying with us through the depths of the riches in God's holy Word. We hope you stay with us.

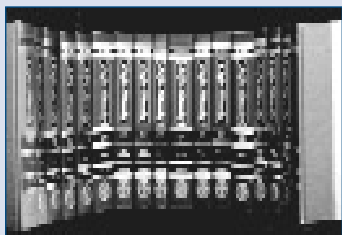
Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE?

“In the Bible mainly life is revealed. Life is the focus of the whole Bible. But what is life, or who is life? The answer is in the word of the Lord Jesus. He says, ‘I am life,’ and ‘I am come that you may have life.’ The Bible is a revelation of Christ as life. Whenever we come to the Bible, we must realize that we are coming to contact Christ as our life.” (Life-Study of Genesis, Vol.1, Msg.1, p.3)

So begins the *Life-study of Genesis* by Witness Lee. On April 6, 1974, our Lord, through one of His chosen vessels, initiated one of the truly remarkable undertakings in the history of the church—a book-by-book study of the entire Bible with the focus on life. Many have written

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34 volume set of Life-study messages given by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry



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LIFE-STUDY

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commentaries, expositions, and studies on various books of the Bible. However, most have touched only the objective and doctrinal side of the divine revelation and have failed to stress the side of life. Because of this, Witness Lee became burdened by the Lord to prepare this life-study of the Bible.

The Life-study of the Bible is a detailed study which, while honoring the contributions of our forebears, builds upon and develops all that the Lord has revealed to His church throughout the centuries. The emphasis on unveiling and ministering Christ as life is what distinguishes *The Life-study of the Bible* from other commentaries or expositions.

The Life-study of the Bible, consisting of thirty-four volumes, capped the life and work of Witness Lee. He was nearly seventy years old when he began this task. At its conclusion twenty-one years later, he reflected upon the previous years in humility and appreciation to the Lord for granting him the time to carry out this burden. In so doing, he fulfilled not only his own dream but that of Watchman Nee, with whom he labored in China. As he finished the last book of his study, the Song of Songs, in July 1995, he testified that he could rest now because he had fulfilled the wish and desire of his senior co-worker, Watchman Nee, to conduct such a study of the Bible. Witness Lee went to be with the Lord on June 9, 1997, at the age of ninety-one. 

THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF GENESIS

Genesis is a book of life. It reveals in a wonderful and comprehensive way the believer's experience of the Triune God—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—as life for the producing and building up of the corporate expression of Christ. Humankind was created in the image of God and placed in front of the tree of life in order to receive God as life and be saturated with God as life and eventually shine forth God as life for His expression. This shining forth, this expression, issues in reigning in life to exercise dominion on behalf of God.

The greater part of Genesis is devoted to the experiences of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. According to both the narrative and to history, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are three distinct persons. But together they actually signify the complete experience of a single believer. What is greatly lacking today is the full realization of this kind of spiritual experience. We need the experience of Abraham, that is, the experience of God the Father as our unique source, as the One out from whom and unto whom are all things. We need the experience of Isaac, the one who received everything as an inheritance from the father for his enjoyment. This means we need to be those experiencing Christ and enjoying Christ. In particular, we need the experience signified by Jacob, that supplanter, conniver, and natural man who was eventually dealt with, broken, transformed, and matured to be a prince of God.

If there's any message central to God's people from this broadcast on Genesis, it is, I believe, the word concerning transformation. Many know God as the source, and many know something of Christ as God's provision for our salvation, but very few know and even less are in the line of experiencing the Spirit's transformation signified by Jacob. There is a desperate, urgent, and compelling need today that we take seriously the Bible's revelation concerning the transformation of our souls. If we study Jacob's experience in this light, we will see a marvelous picture of the stages of our gradual transformation. If we have the experiences of transformation portrayed in Jacob's life, eventually we will have the experience of reigning in life signified by Joseph. In spiritual significance Joseph is actually the reigning aspect of Jacob's life.

Our burden in this life-study is not to add another study to a huge list of expositions. Our burden is to point out from Genesis the revelation of the experience of life required by God of His people and urgently needed by them for the fulfillment of God's purpose. We need to know God as our source, we need to experience Christ as our everything, and we need to be transformed by the Spirit from glory to glory. This is the intrinsic revelation of Genesis. We need God as life. We need to feed on Him as the tree of life and drink of Him as the Spirit of life that we may be men and women of life to express God in life for His glory.

As we reflect back upon the life-study of Genesis, consider God's purpose in the beginning to have a corporate man in His image exercising His authority. We hope that those who read and hear this life-study will enter into the spirit with which it was given, a spirit possessed by a burden that has its source in God to call out, even to cry out, to God's people to come back through Christ's redemption to the tree of life, depend on Him, enjoy Him, experience Him, grow in Him, be transformed by Him, and be built up in Him so that His purpose, which motivated the creation of the universe, will be fulfilled on earth today.

By Ron Kangas