

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

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“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 THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from Living Stream Ministry Radio
- 1 What Is Transformation?
- 2 Excerpt from *The Economy of God*
- 3 Response from Listeners
- 4 The Path of Life—The Way to Experience Life

*God's desire  
is to have  
a dwelling  
place on earth  
constituted of Christ  
and constituted  
according to Christ.*

*Life-study of Exodus,  
Message Eighty, p. 944*

*Dear Listeners,*

We return this month to *Life-study of Exodus* and particularly to the Christ revealed in the tabernacle. The tabernacle is one of those lesser-known items in the Old Testament that holds a wealth of spiritual insight. Witness Lee devoted more than one hundred messages to this topic in his *Life-study of Exodus*, conducted in 1979 and 1980. We might logically ask, “Can there really be so much to say about something as little known as the Old Testament tabernacle?” Inasmuch as God’s eternal purpose can be fully seen in the details of the tabernacle, the answer is an emphatic yes.

If you have been with us for our earlier life-study messages on Genesis or Exodus, you might have realized a distinctive characteristic of this ministry—that of seeing and bringing to light the very Christ of God and our salvation from the types and shadows in the Old Testament. Watchman Nee and Witness Lee saw that the Bible is fundamentally a book of Christ and that it unveils Christ. How we thank our Father God for such a ministry in this age that leads us to declare, as the Apostle Paul did, “. . . I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. . .” (Phil. 3:8).

To aid you in your own study of the tabernacle, we are offering our radio listeners a free copy of “Reference Guide to the Tabernacle,” a simple “road map” for our exploration of the wonderful aspects of Christ shining forth in the details of the tabernacle. To receive your copy, please call us toll-free at (888) 543-3788.

Our weekend listeners will be enjoying the riches in Acts and Hebrews again this month. And our new friends in Israel will go deeper into *Life-study of Genesis*.

*Living Stream Ministry Radio*

## WHAT IS TRANSFORMATION?

The Bible clearly reveals that human beings are tripartite—that is, we were created by God with a spirit, a soul, and a body (1 Thes. 5:23). The Bible also reveals that God’s complete salvation is a salvation that includes our entire tripartite being. First, our spirit is regenerated. This means that our human spirit, the organ by which we contact, receive, and assimilate God, is born of God the Spirit to have the life of God. This is the meaning of being born again. Regeneration, or being born again, is instantaneous. At the coming of the Lord, our body will be transfigured from a body of humiliation into a body of glory, like the resurrected, glorified body of the Lord Jesus. This transfiguration of our body, like regeneration, will also be instantaneous. But there is a very crucial aspect of God’s salvation that, unfortunately, is neglected by many very serious students of the Word. This aspect is transformation.

*(continued on page 2)*

## TRANSFORMATION

(continued from page 1)

It is important that we understand the basic truth concerning transformation.

Transformation is not a matter of the spirit or of the body, but of the soul—the mind, emotion, and will. Our spirit is regenerated, our body is transfigured, but our soul is transformed. Romans 12:2 says that we are transformed by the renewing of the mind. Second Corinthians 3:18 says that as we behold the Lord, we are transformed into His image from glory to glory. Transformation is an organic life process that brings about a metabolic change in our soul, to make our soul the expression of the Christ who dwells in our spirit. Transformation is not instantaneous but involves a long process beginning from the time of our regeneration. In transformation, the divine element spreads from our spirit into our soul, causing an organic and metabolic change. In this metabolic change, an old element is removed and discharged, and a new element is added to take the place of the old element. As the process of transformation is going on, the old natural element in our soul is discharged and a new divine element is added, causing our soul to be transformed from glory to glory. This results in a change in the constitution of the soul in that a divine element is now a part of our mind, emotion, and will. Furthermore, there is a change in the image within us so that our soul is more and more transformed into the Lord's image to express Him (Rom. 8:29).

God's goal in His economy is to have a corporate expression of Christ through God's redeemed, regenerated people. For this it is not sufficient that we merely be regenerated in our spirit. We need our soul to be gradually transformed from glory to glory, saturated and permeated with the element of God, so that we express God, shine forth God, and glow with God for the glorious expression of God in Christ (2 Cor. 3:18).

*For further reading on this subject, please see the footnotes for the above referenced verses in the New Testament Recovery Version and Basic Principles of the Experience of Life, chapters seventeen and eighteen, by Witness Lee.*

*Excerpt from*

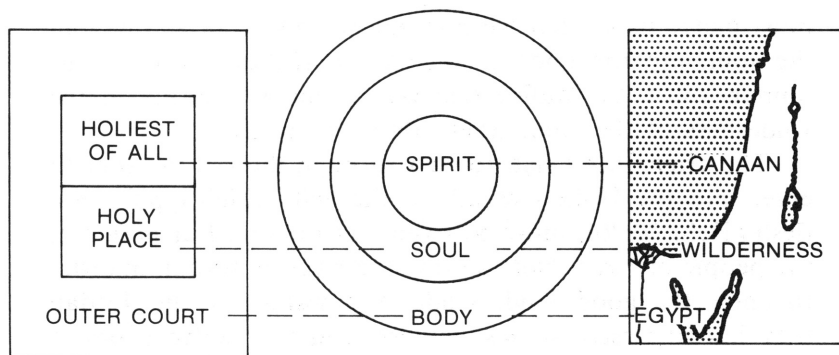
## THE ECONOMY OF GOD

BY WITNESS LEE

*In 1964 Witness Lee gave a series of messages that comprise the book The Economy of God. The following is an excerpt from chapter three entitled "The Residence of the Divine Spirit."*

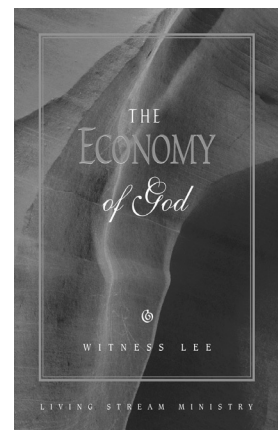
After the Israelites were delivered and saved from the land of Egypt, they were brought into the wilderness with the intention that they should go on into the land of Canaan. The land of Canaan was their land of rest, a type of the all-inclusive Christ. Christ is the good land of Canaan, and He is our Rest. If we are going to enter into the rest, we must enter into Christ. But where is Christ today? We answer that He is in our spirit. The Israelites, who were delivered out of Egypt, instead of going on into Canaan, wandered for many years in the wilderness. What does this typify? It means that many Christians after being saved are simply wandering in the soul. The reason the book to the Hebrews was written is that many Hebrew Christians were saved, but they were wandering in their soul. They would not press on from the wilderness into the good land—that is, into Christ who dwelt in their spirit. We must not continue to wander in our soul, but press on to enter into our spirit, where Christ is our rest.

Let us illustrate further by the following diagram:



In ancient times all the people of Israel had access to the outer court, but only the priests could enter the holy place. Furthermore, into the Holiest of all only one, the High Priest, could enter, and that only once a year. Moreover, of all the Israelites who were saved and brought out of Egypt into the wilderness, very few went on into the good land of Canaan.

Even though we may have been saved for years, we must ask ourselves whether we are presently a Christian living in the body, in the soul, or in the spirit. Are we now in Egypt, in the wilderness, or in the good land of Canaan? Ask the Lord and search yourself in order to be clear where you are. Frankly, many Christians are wandering all day in the soul, that is, in the wilderness. In the morning they have smiling faces, but by afternoon they are sorrowful with long faces. Yesterday, it seems they were in the heavens, but today they are down. They are wandering in the soul, the wilderness, without rest, circling in the same rut day after day. They may have been following the Lord for twenty years, but are still going in circles, just as the people of Israel, who wandered for thirty-eight years with no improvement and no progress. Why? Because they are in the soul. When we are in the soul, we are in the wilderness.



*The Economy of God, pp 31-32.*