

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 47, MARCH 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

In

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Dear Life-study Listener,

Today Christians in China are risking their lives to spread God's Word. This is not new. Believers in Russia and Eastern Europe did the same thing before the fall of communism, and this is a familiar story throughout the last two thousand years. The apostle Paul said he suffered "evil unto bonds as a criminal; but the word of God is not bound" (2 Tim. 2:9). No matter how much effort God's enemy exerts to hinder the Word of God, His Word is not bound!

Recently three believers were sentenced to imprisonment for attempting to get the Chinese edition of the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry, into the hands of Christians in China. This version is especially helpful with more than 9,000 explanatory footnotes, 13,000 cross-references, chapter outlines, charts, and maps.

The particular church in China that attempted to obtain these Bibles testified that only one out of four believers there has their own copy of the Bible. Please pray that the believers who don't have a Bible in China and elsewhere could get God's Word. Also pray for God's people to be protected under persecution throughout the world and for their receiving of the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ to sustain them through difficult times.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE RENEWING OF THE MIND?

The expression *renewed in the spirit of your mind* in Ephesians 4:23 speaks of a crucial matter in the walk of a believer. The apostle Paul testified that the mind needs to be renewed, urging the Ephesians to "no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind" (Eph. 4:17). The Gentiles are the fallen people who live without the consciousness of God and are controlled and directed by their fallen mind devoid of reality. This vanity of the mind can be traced to the fall of man. God placed Adam, representing all mankind, before the tree of life (Gen. 2:8-9), which signified God as the source of his living. God also warned Adam about taking in another source,

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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

BRANSON, MO

KLFC

5:30 P.M.

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SUNDAY

THE RENEWING OF THE MIND

(continued from page 1)

which represented a living independent from God and under the satanic influence. Adam's choosing to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, representing Satan, plummeted man into sin, causing his mind to become vain and his understanding darkened (Eph. 4:18; Rom. 1:21).

Although we received the life of God in our spirit when we were regenerated, as genuine believers we may still walk according to our fallen mind with its concepts, views, and philosophy. Through our faith in the Lord Jesus, we have put off the old man and have put on the new man by means of baptism (Eph. 4:22, 24; Rom. 6:6, 4). Although these are accomplished facts, we must experience the reality of these facts by being renewed in the spirit of our mind. Otherwise, we may be a new creation in our spirit through regeneration but remain unrenewed in our mind.

When we were regenerated, the Spirit of God entered into our spirit, causing the two spirits to become one mingled spirit (Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17). To be renewed in the spirit of our mind indicates that our spirit, indwelt by the Spirit, "invades" our mind, spreads into it, and even becomes the spirit of our mind to rule over our thinking, speaking, and acting. This is how our mind is renewed. The renewing Spirit renews our mind by bringing a new element into our mind to replace our fallen thoughts and old concepts (Titus 3:5) that the mind of Christ may be in us (Phil. 2:5). By this renewing of our mind, which is the principle part of our

soul, the rest of our soul—the emotion and will—is renewed resulting in the transformation of our whole soul (Rom. 12:2).

We should not be content only to be regenerated with the Spirit of God in our spirit. We must be renewed in our mind by the Spirit's spreading into our mind. By praying to take the Lord Jesus within as our life and our view, reading the

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holy Scriptures, and setting our mind on the mingled spirit (Rom. 8:6), our old thoughts and concepts will be washed away and our mind will gradually change. As the Spirit in our spirit spreads into and saturates our mind, our old mind that is full of vanity will be a renewed mind with the proper concepts and view. Our mind will even be one with the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16). Then our walk will be in the newness of life (Rom. 6:4).

For further reading on this subject, please see the footnotes for the above referenced verses in the New Testament Recovery Version; *The Organic Aspect of God's Salvation*; and *Salvation and Life in the Book of Romans*, both by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

*Life-Study of the Bible
with Witness Lee*

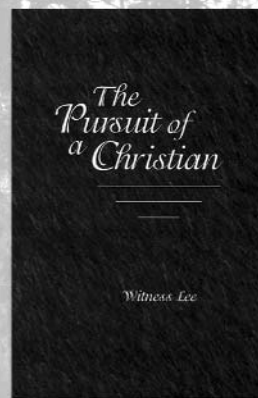
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A CHRISTIAN SHOULD POSSESS AND ENJOY four indispensable items: Christ, the Bible, the church, and spiritual companions who pursue after Christ. He also should have four distinguishing characteristics: he should be peculiar to unbelievers because his manner of life is sanctified; he should be inwardly aware that the Lord's leading often is in contradiction to his personal desires; his living should originate from his innermost part rather than from his natural considerations; and he should seek the will of God and be led by God in everything he does.

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