

# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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## The Longing In My Heart

BECKY COMBEE

In the early hours of this morning, I awoke singing some old hymns of the church. As I'm sure you will remember, my dad was a church musician, and we were raised with the Bible in one hand and the hymnal in the other. As I took time to ponder the words of the songs, I realized God was calling me to walk closer with Him in 2024. Truly that is my heart's desire.

In the classic, "Break Thou the Bread of Life," we hear its author say, "I seek thee Lord, My spirit pants for thee." Oh, how true! **My heart so hungers for fellowship with God. When I abide in Him, I will be anchored in this troubled world.** I will enjoy peace beyond understanding. The prophet Isaiah writes by the Spirit, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."<sup>1</sup>

Our song writer Mary Artemesia Lathbury goes on to ask God to "Teach me to love thy truth." She says, "Touch my eyes and, and make me see." It is when we abide in union with God that the Holy Spirit can teach us God's Word of truth. Our fellowship with God by the Spirit will open our eyes to the grandeur and glory of our resurrected Lord. We will know the truth, and the truth will order our steps so that we are safe and secure.

Jesus is the light of the world. According to the author of this classic song, "We walk in the light when we follow our guide."<sup>2</sup>

In 1965, Wayne was in military service. We were soon to be married, and my every heartbeat

## A Loving Father

SUZANNE D. WILLIAMS

A man cannot change who he is through self-effort alone, not without great trial and tribulation. To go from being rash and insolent to a calm and unperturbed man comes at a cost when done through himself alone. He must isolate himself and tend to his own things rather than lay them on another lest conflict arise between them. He walks ever with a guard up, wary. Outside of the Spirit of God working in him, all his effort becomes a challenge which may succeed or fail.

Salvation gives man everything. **God did not simply save the spirit, or heart, of man then leave him to suffer in his mind and emotions.** Nor did He rescue us from our sins and turn His back on our physical suffering. God, the Father sent God, the Son to earth to die and rise again. Both Jesus' death and His Resurrection were needed to fulfill God's will as recorded in Scripture, so that God, the Spirit could come to earth as the breath of God blown upon every part of our lives. Whatever He is we are because of Jesus' sacrifice and victory. Jesus condemned sin in the flesh and the enemy of mankind, the devil, was judged and found guilty.

The fullness of our salvation must be grasped, or we will live below God's desire for us. And that is His heart—to give us all He desires. From salvation we have His life, which is eternal, He never dies so we will never die in our spirit man. From Him, we receive also all wisdom and physical sustenance. Did not Jesus state the Father's heart for us? Your Father in heaven knoweth what you have need of.<sup>4</sup> We need never worry about food and clothing, nor

(Continued from "The Longing In My Heart")

longed to be with him. It is this longing and MORE that draws us to our Father. I know you have had days that you needed, really needed, Granny's chicken and dumplings, or Mama's coconut cake, or some other family delectable. But Mama and Granny are both with our Lord. It's up to me to duplicate the recipe. Can I? Maybe!

But when I need the Lord, when I need truth, the longing in my heart is as close as the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. He is here! Yes, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, but He also lives in me by His Spirit. Fellowship is as close as my sincere desire!

Wayne's mother saved newspaper articles. She had a vast file, and periodically, Wayne reads one or two. He was not present at the event, but the written word draws him to the event. I was not at the Resurrection of our Lord. I did not see Jesus ascend into heaven, but when I read the record in Acts 1, I see it clearly. The Spirit of God shines the

light of heaven on the written record, and suddenly, I am there.

**Fellowship is continual and ongoing.** Perhaps you have a favorite book. You have read it many times but periodically your heart calls you to read it again. I took literature in Junior High and much to my dismay I could not decipher the hidden message of the author. I could read it and read it and read it again, yet I still couldn't explain it. Continual, ongoing fellowship didn't help me to understand.

But, when I seek the Lord, when I read His Word, when I celebrate His presence and abide in Him, the Spirit of the Living God gives me the understanding I need. He is always ready to give me wisdom and knowledge. Oh, how I love our Lord! I need His help every day and He is here! Hallelujah, He is here.

Draw close in 2024. The dividends are exceeding, abundantly above all you could ask or think.<sup>3</sup> You will never regret it. God bless you as you journey with Him!



(Continued from "A Loving Father")

our finances. He knows what we must pay and to whom and when it is due. He would not leave us short in money. We know how to give gifts to our children. How much more does our heavenly Father?<sup>5</sup> Nor does He overlook physical suffering. Jesus is God. He came to earth as God's gift to men, but in coming as a man, to live in a man's body, He set aside the power of His Godhead. This is recorded in Philippians 2:7. Jesus made Himself of "no reputation" in order to live among us and demonstrate the power of the Spirit of God upon the lives of men.

Jesus came to reveal the heart of God, to demonstrate a loving Father who would go so far as to give His only Son to redeem mankind. This was not a last-minute choice but one prophesied from the beginning of time. The Father and the Son with the Spirit set down their will through the hand of Moses that Jesus would crush the serpent's head.<sup>6</sup> All of man's being was designed for this, from before the foundation of the world.<sup>7</sup> **We were**

**designed in God's image after His likeness; He was born in ours and died like a man,** shedding His blood on a cruel cross, an agony beyond what the mind can grasp, so that His blood would cleanse the heart and make the way plain for us to approach the Father, who loved us SO MUCH.<sup>8</sup>

The prophet Jeremiah wrote, "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not."<sup>9</sup> And in the Psalms, we are told on repeat that God's mercy is everlasting. Something everlasting never ends or wears out or fades from view. It is not depleted but is a source of continuous action. God's Word never changes but every word is powerful to produce results. Jesus Christ never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.<sup>10</sup> As is the mercy and compassion which caused Him to do such a great thing for mankind. The mercy with which He viewed the multitudes as He stood before them will never end. The mercy with which we are saved and blessed with so great a blessing of God's goodness is eternal.

<sup>1</sup>Is 26:3 <sup>2</sup>"The Light of the World is Jesus" by Philip P. Bliss <sup>3</sup>Eph 3:20 <sup>4</sup>Mt 6:32 <sup>5</sup>Mt 7:11 <sup>6</sup>Ge 3:15 <sup>7</sup>1Pe 1:20 <sup>8</sup>Jn 3:16 <sup>9</sup>Lam 3:22 <sup>10</sup>Heb 13:8 <sup>11</sup>1Jn 1:2