

# BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

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## *Who I Am*

Becky Combee

I have been a Christian since I was nine years old. I asked Jesus to be my Savior without any knowledge of the vastness of the benefits and blessings of God's great grace, but I was saved. I was going to heaven. That's what I knew! That's *all* I knew about the gift of salvation. Of course, as a child who was raised in church, I was schooled in the details of the many Bible stories. I knew the people, the places, and the events, but I did not comprehend God's love or the change He had made in me that day in 1956.

I was a young mother with two children in elementary school before I learned that man was a tri-part being – spirit, soul, and body. The apostle Paul writes to the church in Thessalonica, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."<sup>1</sup> What a difference that truth makes! The door of the gospel swings wide open when we learn that we are spirit, soul, and body.

The day we were born again our spirit man became a NEW CREATURE—a NEW BEING. The Word of God declares, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, He is a new creature."<sup>2</sup> This means I am not who I was or what I was. Now, my spirit is new. The Good News Translation says, "Anyone who is joined to Christ is a NEW BEING; the old is gone, the new has come."

Our body and soul are not new. For this reason, the Scripture says the soul (the mind, will, and emotions) must be renewed, and the body

must become a living sacrifice. Why is that so? It is because our body and our soul connect us with the world and with our physical senses. They do not represent the voice of God and His Word.<sup>3</sup> Humorously, I tell my classes the body is for red lights and that together, the body and soul record pain, allowing us to activate our faith in God's great covenant. Faith is of the spirit!

In my NEW SPIRIT I have eternal life. Usually, when I ask a class what eternal life is, someone says it means to live forever. However, the sinner is going to live forever, but he does not have eternal life. Eternal life means to have the life of the eternal one, to have the life of God. **When I have the life of God, I have a NEW NATURE. I am a NEW BEING with a NEW NATURE. I am saved!**

As a NEW BEING with a NEW NATURE, I am transported into a NEW KINGDOM. In Colossians 1:12-13, we read that the Father delivers us from the power of darkness and translates us into the kingdom of his dear Son. I don't have to tell anyone that the Kingdom of God is better! It is glorious! Now, we are God's child with His nature, and we live on earth in His kingdom until He comes. Oh, what a wonderful day that will be!

As a NEW BEING we have a CLEAN RECORD! Every sin has been blotted out, eliminated, and cancelled. Colossians 2:14 says God blotted out "the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." I love many of the new translations of this verse. Today's Passion Translation declares, "He canceled out every legal violation we had on our record and the old arrest warrant that stood to indict us. He erased it all – our sins, our stained soul – he deleted it all and

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they cannot be retrieved!" I love that last phrase. THEY CANNOT BE RETRIEVED.

With all our sins forgiven and our record eliminated, His love dominates our life. It is the essence of our NEW NATURE. His love is poured into our lives, and it enables us to love the weak, the sinner, the ungodly, and the enemy. What an aggravation these people can be, yet our heart embraces them in love. We love them as God loves them.

The love of God is called *agape*. There are many words for love in the Greek language. They are easily understood when we note that love which is called *eros* is all about me. It is personal. Then love which is called *phileo* is all about us. It is

corporate. *Eros* says, "I want and I need," but *phileo* says, "We want and we need." God's love which is called *agape*, always says, "You need." God SO LOVED the world that He gave His Son as a sacrifice FOR YOU.

When we accept Jesus as God's sacrifice for our sin and believe in His Resurrection, we confess Him as Lord. He becomes supreme in authority over our lives. He fills us with His Spirit, and the Spirit leads us, guides us and teaches us.<sup>4</sup> Now, we are a NEW CREATION with A NEW NATURE who is filled with *agape* love and led daily by God's Spirit. We are KINGDOM kids who know abundant life, healing power, and divine provision.

Does it get any better than that? Oh yes! He is coming and we will be with Him forever. Even so come Lord Jesus!

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## Love. Bless. Do Good. Pray.

Suzanne D. Williams

*"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Mt 5:44)*

**LOVE.** This means you treat your enemy like you'd treat your best friend. Like you'd treat your family. You feel love for them to that same measure. For God's love sees no difference between man and woman, between ages, cultures, or upbringings. Denominations. Callings. Faiths.

**BLESS.** This means when they spit in your face, when they call you names, when they simply say something you completely disagree with; whether these are people you know or those you don't, whoever makes the offensive remark, you reply with a blessing. You wish them well. You wish their families well. Prosperous. Successful. Happy.

**DO GOOD.** This means taking action. You'd walk with them the extra mile. You'd give the coat off your back. You'd DO something profitable for them. Something GOOD. Like love instead of hate, instead of complain. Like bless instead of scorn and mock. Instead of tearing them down, giving them a piece of your mind, choosing revenge, you roll your cares about that person, all your anxieties and anger, all the words you want to say but don't, over

on God and let Him take care of them. Let God have vengeance. And sometimes, His vengeance is mercy. Often, it is. You choose mercy.

DO GOOD means you choose to not take offense. You don't harbor a grudge. You don't rehearse what was said. You don't retaliate mentally, thinking evil of them, or vocally, with your negative response. You MOVE ON with your day, your week, your life.

You **PRAY** for them. And you are sincere. You swallow that big ball of gall and think of them like Jesus does. Because when faced with His own death, when looking day-in and day-out at a man who would betray Him, when hearing the lies and accusations He didn't deserve, which would hang Him on the cross, Jesus said NOTHING. When hanging on the cross, next to a pair of thieves, who did the crime, He offered one paradise.

Do you get that? He gave a thief the best gift He could give – eternal life. He would see that man for the rest of forever. He would speak to Him and not think about who he was, except to see love and blessing and forgiveness.

He looks at you that way. Through His blood. He doesn't see that thing you did, that mistake you made, nor the thoughts in your head which you let run freely. The hate, the sarcasm, the jeering. He sees Himself. He looks at you and sees His death, His suffering. His Resurrection.

We should LOVE like that. We should BLESS like that. We should DO GOOD like that. We should PRAY like that.