

# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.



February-March 2022

## DO GOOD Becky Combee

Be angry and sin not! What a challenge from the Word of the living God. It is a challenge I would rather not face. I want to be happy, content, and peaceful all the time. I hate angry words, harsh tones, and loud voices of discontent. BUT...it happens.

Then there is the inevitable. Regret! Apology! Guilt! Or, even worse, there is the blame game. We say, "It's not really my fault." Oh dear. We've all been there I suppose. Yet, the Scripture is clear—*"Let not the sun go down upon your wrath."*<sup>1</sup>

I remember a time many years ago that I was very, very angry. I was so grateful that the sun had already gone down because I had all day tomorrow to get my heart in tune with God's Word. At least, that is what I decided. We are always making excuses for ourselves, aren't we? But, when we stretch God's Word to protect our guilt, we are wrong.

The Word of God sanctions repentance, and usually, though we believe in repentance and forgiveness, it is only if the other party will repent. We are waiting on you to confess (perhaps grovel) and beg for our favor again. "After all, you started it!"

Years ago, a friend became angry with me for something I had not done. Weeks passed by, and we did not see or speak to one another. The Lord began to deal with me to call her and apologize. I told Him that she owed me an apology. I reminded Him that He knew I was not guilty. God knows all things. But God is so patient. He spoke to me about

apologizing to her many times, so many that I finally called and, perhaps in a spirit of compromise, I said, "I'm sorry there is this dissention between us."

She began to weep saying, "It was all my fault."

I wanted to say, "It sure was." But I kept silent. A victory won!

It was in that difficult moment that I realized the truth of God's Word. In Galatians 6:1 it says, *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."* Now I don't want to give the wrong impression. I have been guilty many times. But I found out that the spiritual person is the one who knows something must be done and does it. They are the first to apologize, even when they think they are not guilty. After all, the guilty party probably is not going to speak first. They seldom do.



## NEITHER GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL Suzanne D. Williams

I watched a program one day where a couple built a house off-the-grid. It was what is called a "passive" house, meaning self-sufficient, and because of its design, was required to be airtight. No air could come in and no air could go out.

This is an accurate depiction of our lives against the devil.

*"Neither give place to the devil."* (Eph 4:27)

*(Continued from "Do Good")*

The apostle Paul in the book of Colossians said, "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also you are called in one body; and be ye thankful."<sup>2</sup> When something rules, it dominates. It controls. It takes the lead. Peace rules! And did you note that we are "called" to peace! The answer is not in bitterness, revenge, or retaliation. The answer is forgiveness!

When we follow God, we walk in love, and love always forgives. The Scripture says that we are to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us. Remember, Christ forgave us when we were guilty. He became sin for us so that we could live in God's righteousness. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we have eternal life—the life and nature of God—and God's love is poured into our heart. His love always forgives.

In the Scripture, God's magnificent love and forgiveness is united with kindness. Kindness means to do what is benevolent, constructive, and useful. According to the great love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, the best friend of kindness is longsuffering. Longsuffering is the opposite of short-suffering, and everyone understands this impatient attitude. These three qualities—kindness, longsuffering, and forgiveness—are the team that runs the victory lap.<sup>3</sup> They form a tight bond that overcomes evil with good. They are unmoved by difficult and obnoxious people. They turn a deaf ear to loud voices and they never consider retaliation.

For many years, the scriptural command to overcome evil with good was the counsel that helped me through demanding times.<sup>4</sup> I quoted this verse so frequently that the class I taught knew what I was going to say before I said it. This verse, along with the words of Jesus, "Do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you,"<sup>5</sup> challenges us to actually "DO GOOD" as He commanded. DO GOOD is more than think good. TO DO GOOD means to send flowers, buy donuts, babysit, etc. My friend volunteered to mow the lawn of a very angry neighbor. A business associate was advised to send flowers, but she said, "I won't do it." However, there was reconciliation after she sent the flowers. The antagonistic person was overheard saying, "She does love me."

Does this always work? Yes, it always works in you. You have followed God, done His will, and so peace, peace beyond understanding, will mount guard over your heart. We can't answer for the other person, but we MUST answer for ourselves.

We must allow God's Word to dominate our decisions. We must love God with all our heart and love the world for whom He died.

Go ahead! Be bold! Bake that casserole for your neighbor, do that act of kindness, and say, "I'm so sorry." You will never regret following God.

*(Continued from "Neither Give Place To The Devil")*

The word PLACE has a number of definitions. Thayer's Word Dictionary defines it as "any portion or space marked off, as it were from surrounding space." In Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionary it says "location" or position, "condition," "opportunity," and "a scabbard." This last is where a soldier hung his sword.<sup>6</sup>

**In other words, don't MAKE SPACE for the devil.** Don't give him a POSITION to stand in. Don't create the right CONDITION for him to work. Don't give him any OPPORTUNITY against you. Don't give him a place to hang his weapons.

*(ISV) "and do not give the Devil an opportunity to work."*

The word GIVE also has several definitions. Thayer's says, "to give something to someone of one's own accord, to give one something to his advantage."

**Don't give the devil the ADVANTAGE.**

It also means "to follow someone as a leader." When you are following someone as if they lead you then it doesn't stop with one step, but leads to another and another.

**Don't give the devil LEADERSHIP.**

**Don't YIELD.**

*(MSG) "Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life."*

*(NLV) "Do not let the devil start working in your life."*

*(NTE) "and don't leave any loophole for the devil."*

*(VOICE) "Don't let the sun set with anger in your heart or give the devil room to work."*

**Stay airtight.**

<sup>1</sup>Eph 4:26 <sup>2</sup>Col 3:15 <sup>3</sup>Eph 4:32 <sup>4</sup>Rm 12:21 <sup>5</sup>Mt 5:44 <sup>6</sup>G5117