

BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

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Happy New Year!

Believe and Rest

Becky Combee

This month my heart is captured by one verse of scripture in the *Passion Translation*. It reads “*For those of us who believe, faith activates the promise and we experience the realm of confident rest!*”¹ I love this verse! The promise of holding fast to God’s Word and peacefully resting in His care floods our heart with great joy. We rest peacefully because God cannot lie, and He always keeps His Word.

The Word of God is more than a sacred book. It is more than magnificent promises and strong covenants. It is the voice of God speaking to our heart. When we embrace the written Word as God’s voice to us, faith arises to lead us to victory. Faith in God’s Word is our source of strength and confidence. I have great confidence in my husband, Wayne. I believe in him. He is always here for me – to help me, to provide for me, and to hold my hand. You may have figured out that most everyone needs a helping hand from time to time. How great is the help of our mighty God! His Word is true,² and He always – yes, always – honors His Word.

God speaks clearly to us through His Word and by His Spirit. If we have confidence in Him, His Word begins to work in our lives. Our faith activates His promises! That’s the word I like in the *Passion Translation*. **Activates!** Faith activates the promises of God. A stamp activates a letter and

sends it to its destination. Electricity activates our coffee pot, and without its power, we will not successfully brew a cup of coffee. An open door activates our dog and suddenly, he feels led to escape. He moves! In like manner, faith moves the hand of God, and He works mightily in our lives.

When faith says, “I trust God. I believe His Word. I have confidence in Him,” then His Word pours into our circumstance and begins to work. Anyone can read a book on gardening without planting a seed. If there is a harvest, the ground must be cultivated, and the seed must be planted. God’s Word is a seed, and we must plant it in the soil of our heart.³ It begins to grow exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think if it is planted in faith.⁴

The result of faith’s increase is rest. The New Strong’s Concordance defines rest as repose and writes, “God’s rest is entered when the believer is confidently assured within and outwardly lives peaceably in the assurance of God’s daily provisions.”⁵ This agrees with the *Passion Translation* that we quoted earlier. It says that faith activates God’s promise so that we experience the realm of confident rest.

This godly rest is not dependent on circumstances or measured by feelings and emotions. It is not promoted by financial security. Money in the bank does not assure us of victory nor does a brilliant mind with great plans. We achieve victory by our faith in God and His Word, and through our faith, there is rest.⁶

Rest is peace beyond understanding.⁷ It is

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freedom from worry, frustration, anxiety, and despair. It is the quiet calm in the midst of life's storms. Rest is God in us, working mightily through His Word. It is the assurance that our powerful God and loving Father can be trusted.

Numbers 23:19 asks a profound question about God. First, it says, "God is not, a man that He should lie." Then it asks, "Hath He said, and shall

He not do it?" It is the obvious answer to this question that assures us of rest. Because we know God will do what He said He would do, we have peace even in difficult situations. We have perfect peace and rest through our faith. Faith always enters into rest.⁸ Let's believe in Him today and rest!

¹Heb 4:3 ²Jn 17:17 ³1Pe 1:23 ⁴Eph 3:20 ⁵G2663 ⁶1Jn 5:4
⁷Php 4:7 ⁸Heb 4:3 ⁹Num 13:32 ¹⁰1Pe 2:24 ¹¹Eph 3:20
¹²2Chr 7:14

The Report of the Lord

Suzanne D. Williams

There is a church song I remember from my youth, one of those upbeat ditties penned in the 1980s. It goes something like this:

Whose report will you believe?
We will believe the report of the Lord.
His report says I am healed.
His report says I am filled.
His report says I am free.
His report says victory!

The heart behind the song is the story of the Israelites in Numbers 13. Moses sent men into Canaan to spy out the land, but only Joshua and Caleb returned with confidence in God's promise. God had said they would conquer the land, so in their eyes, they would conquer it! To them, it seemed cut-and-dried.

But others, who had also walked the land, saw only failure. "The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people THAT WE SAW in it are men of a great stature."⁹ As a result of their words, the Israelites became deathly afraid. When presented with the choice of victory or defeat, they chose the report of their eyes, instead of the report of the Lord. A report with great evidence, I might add. They had crossed the Red Sea on dry land, after all, and watched their enemy drown.

Now, fast forward to this year and ask yourself whose report you believe. The doctor's report? It says you have cancer, second stage. Your bank

account? It looks like you're dead broke. The media? Watch their report too long and you will get depressed.

Those aren't God's report. His report says, "By whose stripes ye were healed."¹⁰ His report says, He will give "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."¹¹ His report says, "[I will] hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."¹²

He WILL do it.

Here's the thing, though. We shouldn't struggle to believe God's report. Minister Bill Johnson said we should live a lifestyle where we "think His thoughts, speak His words, and it's not a strain" to hear from God. In other words, God's perspective should be our perspective and our reaction to any stresses we come up against should be automatically like God's.

Speaking personally, I spent all of 2007 locked up in my house. Tell me I must fear the world around me and, no thanks! I will not go back to being that tormented person. I've already read God's report!

He is Emmanuel, God with me. I will not fear what man might do. I won't worry about my finances or about my health. I won't lose one minute of sleep dreading what could happen tomorrow. I know God's desire for me too well to fall into that trap.

I know what God saved me from, and that changes my perspective forever.

God's report says I am healed.

God's report says I am filled.

God's report says I am free.

God's report says victory!