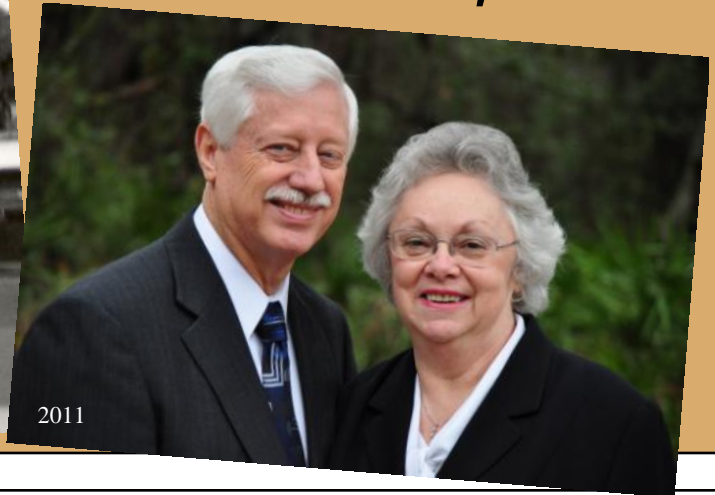


# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.



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## What could be better?

For years I was intrigued with the Scripture in Hebrews 8:6 that introduced Jesus as “the mediator of a better covenant.” I found this Scripture encouraging although I wasn’t quite sure why. It just seemed that anything “better” had to be good.

In natural situations, we are always looking for “better.” The other day, Wayne and I were hanging pictures on the wall, and after repositioning one picture several times, Wayne asked, “Is that better?” We refused to settle for good, okay, or a trite, “I guess.” No, the picture must be in a better position.

I have a favorite pound cake recipe that I believe is exceptional. I have used it for a long time and am certain it is one of the better pound cake recipes. Yet a friend wanted me to try her aunt’s recipe because she knew it was “better,” better than my recipe. After reading the ingredients, I thought to myself, “Could it really be better?”

In life, better is very important. Farmers want a better harvest, greater in quantity and quality. Athletic coaches look for better players who have superior abilities. The mechanically-minded search for a better tool with additional precision and speed. Our computer friends promote better

software for increased performance. A family desires a better house, a better car, or a better television. Sometimes (I hope not often) parents crave better behavior from their children. Better is good. Life is all about “better”.

But why is the New Covenant better? Some time ago, a gentleman who knew very little about God or the Bible answered an altar call at our church. His neighbor had bought him a Bible and invited him to church. Through her witness, he was born again. Several weeks after this experience, he came to my husband, Wayne, with a question. After studying his Bible, he noted that it was divided into two parts, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. He asked, “What good is the Old?” The answer to his inquiry is very important. Through it, we can know why the Word of God declares, “Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.”<sup>1</sup>

God’s Word answers our friend’s question in several ways. When the apostle Paul addressed the church at Rome, he declared that the Old Testament law made man conscious of his sin.<sup>2</sup> The *New Testament in Modern English* by J. B. Phillips translates this same verse, “Indeed it is the straight-edge of the Law that shows us how crooked we are.” What a vivid picture! Through the law, man saw his sin. Through the law, he knew he came “short of the glory of God.”<sup>3</sup> But

the law had a further purpose. The Old Testament law “was our guardian leading us to Christ.”<sup>4</sup> Like a servant or governess who protected a child and drove him to school each day, the law magnified the will of God, identified sin, and forgave repentant man until he could be brought to Jesus, “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”<sup>5</sup>

When we understand these phenomenal truths, we can discern the differences between the Old and the New Covenant. The Old Testament told us about sin and about Christ, who would die for man’s sin.<sup>6</sup> The New Testament followed our Lord Jesus Christ to the cross to “put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”<sup>7</sup> The Old said, “A virgin shall conceive,”<sup>8</sup> while the Gospels proclaimed, “Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”<sup>9</sup> The Old declared, “the government shall be upon His shoulder,”<sup>10</sup> but the New revealed that Jesus “sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high”<sup>11</sup> where He is “far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion.”<sup>12</sup>

The contrast of these two covenants is substantial. The Old required the continual sacrifice of animals to “cover” man’s sin.<sup>13</sup> The New has one sacrifice, Jesus, to blot out sin.<sup>14</sup> The sacrifices of the Old Covenant reminded man of his sin. The New Covenant hears God say, “Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”<sup>15</sup> Certainly, this New Covenant provision is better. Much better!

This magnificent, better covenant reveals that man is the “habitation”,<sup>16</sup> the dwelling place of God. The Apostle Paul declares this truth several times to the church at Corinth. In 1 Corinthians 3:16, he asserts, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”<sup>17</sup> Could there be any better news? Now, God lives in us by His Spirit. He did not dwell in His Old Covenant people. Instead, they were represented by prophets, priests, and kings. On the Day of Atonement, which was celebrated once a year, the priest entered ALONE into the Most Holy Place with the blood of animals as an offering for his sins and the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup>

Today in the New Covenant, we have been made kings and priests before our God.<sup>19</sup> We can “come boldly unto the throne of [His] grace.”<sup>20</sup> In Luke 1:9-10, Zacharias, the priest, was burning incense in the temple as the people prayed. God’s people did not enter the temple, but waited outside. We are not outside. We are not strangers, or foreigners. We are God's children. He invites us to come to Him and fellowship with Him.<sup>21</sup> This is the glorious New Covenant. What could be better?

<sup>1</sup> Heb 7:22 CEB

<sup>9</sup> Lk 2:12

<sup>16</sup> Eph 2:22

<sup>2</sup> Ro 3:20 Gspd

<sup>10</sup> Isa 9:6

<sup>17</sup> 1 Co 3:16

<sup>3</sup> Ro 3:23

<sup>11</sup> Heb 1:3

<sup>18</sup> Heb 9:7

<sup>4</sup> Gal 3:24, NCV

<sup>12</sup> Eph 1:21

<sup>19</sup> Rev 5:10

<sup>5</sup> Rev 13:8

<sup>13</sup> Lev

<sup>20</sup> Heb 4:16

<sup>6</sup> Isa 53:5

<sup>4:31,35;5:18;6:7</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Rev 3:20

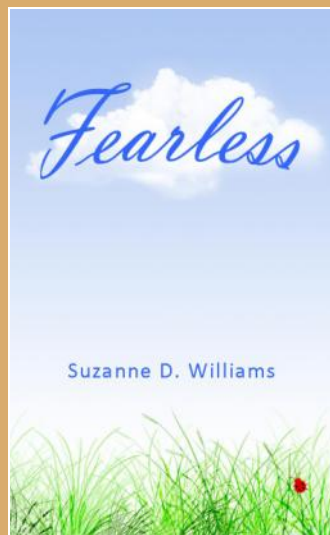
<sup>7</sup> Heb 9:26

<sup>14</sup> Ac 3:19

<sup>8</sup> Isa 7:14

<sup>15</sup> Heb 10:17

## Coming Soon In Print!



### Fearless

By  
Suzanne D. Williams

What does it mean to be fearless? And how do I get there? Where is the way out from hopelessness and despair?

Once crippled by fear, Becky’s daughter, Suzanne, shares her personal walk out of the darkness of fear into the health, peace, and freedom promised in God’s Word.