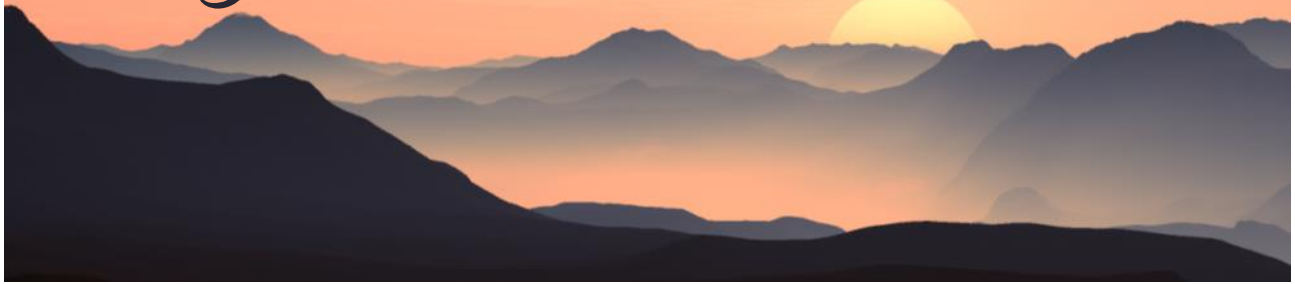


Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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The Unclouded Day

My heart was drawn heavenward today when Wayne noted that there were no clouds in the sky. His remark reminded me of a very old hymn entitled “The Unclouded Day.” It was written by Josiah Alwood whose life spanned 81 years ending in 1909. He was a circuit riding preacher with the United Brethren in Christ. In this song, he highlighted heaven as our home beyond the skies, a home where no storm-clouds rise.

Another great old song that declares a similar truth is called “No Night There.”¹ I love its glorious refrain, which like the first song, presents the marvelous truth of Revelation 21:4. In heaven, there will be no death, pain, or tears. All sorrows will be wiped away, and there will be no trauma. None of the vestiges of earth will challenge us or overwhelm us. Heaven will truly be a “land of cloudless days.”

Of course, in this life, we face many dilemmas. Sometimes our life is cluttered with obstacles, and each of these must be addressed with precise accuracy. We must know what to do and how to do it. The good news is that this is possible. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to send the

Holy Spirit to us. The Amplified Bible explains that He will be our Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby.²

This multifaceted role of the Holy Spirit causes every Christian to breathe a sigh of relief. We know that no matter what the dilemma, the Holy Spirit is here to help us. He came to live in our spirits the day we were born again, and, because of His presence in our lives, we can expect godly wisdom and counsel.

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We can know the plan of God our Father and Jesus our exalted Lord, walking confidently in heaven’s strength and power even when the clouds of distress obscure our path.

God wants each of us to overcome every obstacle that stands against us. In his letter to the church at Corinth, the apostle Paul assures us that God will always cause us to triumph.³ In his letter to the church at Rome, he declares that we are more than conquerors.⁴ The apostle John writes of world-overcoming victory through our faith in God.⁵ Each of these

words impacts our hearts in like manner. It doesn't really matter if we triumph, conqueror, or experience great victory. We know that God is for us, and He orders our footsteps until every enemy bows to His mighty name. In Him, we win!

The route of this victory is clearly spelled out in the Scripture. In the Old Testament, God commissioned Joshua to meditate in the



Scripture and to obey His commands so that he could prosper and succeed.⁶ Psalm 1 reiterates this same truth, writing that we will bear fruit and prosper when we meditate in God's Word.⁷ Similarly, in the New Testament, the apostle John says that we will prosper when we walk in the truth.⁸ Through these Scriptures, we perceive that our obedience to the commands of God brings us to triumph.

When we disobey God's Word, we drive on a collision course toward disaster. However, the pain and agony that we experience is not caused by our great and mighty God. He is a good God and He does good things.⁹ He is not the author of difficulties, but the source of abundant life. Yet, when we sin, He always stands with open arms to welcome us home. He is a merciful Father!

There are many Scriptural proofs of God's overwhelming mercy and forgiveness. If we could speak with the people of old, we might

ask Nineveh about God's forgiveness. Instantly, they would respond, saying God is gracious and merciful when we come to him in repentance.¹⁰ In the New Testament, we might call upon the prodigal son with our question. He would tell us of his father's open arms and warm welcome when he repented of sin.¹¹ In the ministry of Jesus, we could talk to the woman caught in adultery, and she would remind us of the words of Jesus. "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."¹² Truly, God is merciful!

Now, here is an important question for our consideration. The apostle Paul asked, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?" His answer is, "God forbid."¹³ This means we can never embrace a "do what you want to attitude" just because forgiveness is readily available. We choose to obey God's Word, always following the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Everyone, both sinner and saint, will know pain and trauma. Jesus said, "In the world, ye shall have tribulation."¹⁴ The apostle Paul writes, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."¹⁵ But, here is what we know. In Christ, we will triumph. Because of Him, we are more than conquerors. Our faith in Him brings great victory.

As we walk with our God toward victory, we look joyfully toward heaven's cloudless day. The peace we will experience there is captured by Rev. Alwood's song. There is a land where no storm clouds rise, a home beyond the skies, far away. The King in His beauty sits on the throne there and drives our sorrows away. It is a lovely land of an unclouded day.¹⁶

¹"No Night There" by John R. Clements, 1899) ²Jn 14:26 ³2Co 2:14 ⁴Rm 8:37 ⁵1Jn 5:4 ⁶Jos 1:8 ⁷Ps 1:2-3 ⁸3Jn 1:2-3 ⁹Ps 119:68 ¹⁰Jon 6:1-2 ¹¹Lk 15:20-22 ¹²Jn 8:11 ¹³Rm 6:1-2 ¹⁴Jn 16:33 ¹⁵2Ti 3:12 ¹⁶"The Unclouded Day" by Rev. J.K. Alwood, author's paraphrase)
