

# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.



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## Why Worry?

By Becky Combee

*Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel. (Php 4:6-7 CEV)*

If you read our newsletter regularly, you will know that I grew up in church. My father was a church musician so we went to church every week, in fact, many times a week, with a song in our heart and the Bible in our hand. One of the choruses we sang began with this question, "Why worry when you could pray?"<sup>1</sup> It ended appropriately, "Why worry, worry, worry, worry / When you could pray?" Worry is the response of a troubled heart and mind. It leans on the inadequacies of the flesh and constantly lauds the evidence given by the physical senses.

Our physical senses report what can be seen, what has been heard, or what can be touched or tasted. This evidence is important, but it does not orchestrate victory in our lives. It simply prompts us to open the Word of God for the report of the Lord. It is the eternal Word of God that comforts our heart and assures our mind that our great and mighty Father knows our need and answers our supplications.

The word Greek word "supplication" means to make a request or to petition. It highlights a prayer for

## God of Trivial Things

By Suzanne D. Williams

My daughter lost her earring the other day. Problem was she didn't realize it until we'd gone all over town and were standing in the middle of Walmart. It wasn't a valuable earring. But she liked it, and so instantly my mom-side kicked in. You know, the side that is tormented over something **trivial** just because it matters to her.

So I did what moms do, I said we'd look for it, and I traipsed all over the store backtracking our footsteps, staring at the dirty tile, and getting more than a few odd looks. Praying a silent prayer I'd find it. To no avail. That was, after all, the third place we'd been that day. It could be anywhere. It could even be in the car.

But it wasn't.

The earring was simply gone. She joked about giving the remaining one to her friend as a nose piercing. I said, "We could always buy another pair," and then we both forgot.

Today I was vacuuming. Back and forth. Back and forth. And I spotted something shiny and round on the carpet in the doorway to her bedroom. Yep. You guessed it. The earring. Right there under our noses the entire time.

I had a revelation. Something so small, so minor, and yet finding it reminded me that **God cares even about the little things in our lives.** The things we think He doesn't notice.

So often we come to Him with only our large

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a particular need, especially an urgent need. One of several powerful examples in the Scripture is the plea of Zacharias and Elizabeth for a child. Another is Paul's heartfelt cry for the salvation of Israel. He writes, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved."<sup>2</sup> Today, this cry is echoed by many on behalf of friends and relatives who do not recognize Jesus as Savior and Lord. Indeed, it is the cry of the church for all men as we "go into all the world" with the gospel message.<sup>3</sup>

Another graphic example of supplication is the testimony of the apostle Paul to the church at Corinth. After he tells them of his suffering "so horrible and so unbearable that death seemed certain," he reports, "God saved us from the threat of death, and we are sure that he will do it again and again."<sup>4</sup> He asks the church to pray for him, declaring that he has received and will continue to receive an answer. His request, like that of Zacharias and Elizabeth, represents a particular, urgent need.

When we are faced with an urgent need, it is certain that worry, anxiety and fear CAN dominate our behavior. The trauma of our circumstances (or the expected trauma) CAN invade our being until peace escapes and despair orchestrates every moment of our time. Ah, but **God has said "Don't worry."** Now, you might ask, "How can I prevent worry?" Here is the word of the Lord. PRAY!

I love the study of words and am fascinated with the word "worry. The English word "worry" originates from the words "weryen," "werwen," or "wyrwyn," which mean to strangle, bite or harass. For instance, when one animal seizes another by the throat and shakes that animal violently, it is appropriate to say that he *worries* the animal. If a car is pushed uphill with great effort, it is proper to report that the car was *worried* uphill. Now, I have never heard the word "worry" used in these ways, but I share them because they paint an accurate picture of the distress, fear, and apprehension of worry. Obviously, worry is not a good option. Prayer is best!

**God answers prayer!** The apostle Matthew records, "Ask, and it SHALL be given you; seek, and ye SHALL find; knock, and it SHALL be opened unto you."<sup>5</sup> What wonderful words from the Lord. IT

SHALL be given; IT SHALL be opened; YE SHALL find! This does not mean God might or God could, nor does not leave us with our fingers crossed hoping for the best. With great certainty, it declares GOD WILL!

This same confident vision of answered prayer is given by the apostle John in his first epistle. He said, "Whatever we ask, we KNOW THAT WE HAVE the petitions that we have asked of him."<sup>6</sup> Yet he instructs us to ask according to God's will. We know this eliminates the immoral, illegal, and utterly ridiculous requests of some. Every honest Christian seeks the wisdom of God and the will of God BEFORE he prays. Then when we pray, "WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE the petitions that we have asked."

Does this eliminate worry? Yes, absolutely! "Why worry when you can pray? / Trust Jesus, He'll be your stay / Don't be a "doubting Thomas" / Rest fully on His promise / Why worry, worry, worry, worry / When you can pray?"

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<sup>1</sup>*Why Worry? Words by John W. Peterson, Music by John W. Peterson and Al Smith* <sup>2</sup>Rms. 10:1 <sup>3</sup>Mk 16:15 <sup>4</sup>2Co 1:8,10 CEV <sup>5</sup>Mt 7:7 <sup>6</sup>1Jn 5:15 NKJ

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requests. And those are important. God wants you to pay your bills. He wants you to walk in health. He wants to be your Source and Provider. **But He also wants you to find your earring.** He is, after all, a parent.

*Why then, if you, evil as you are, know well enough how to give your children what is good for them, is not your Father in heaven **much more ready** to give wholesome gifts to those who ask him? (Mt 7:11 Knox)*

God is more than ready.

He knew where that earring was all along. He knew we'd find it when I prayed while walking across the store. He knew when my daughter went in and out of her room for two days and somehow didn't step on it. He knew when I took out the vacuum. And He knew that I was the last person in my household who would spot anything that small on the ground.

Yet there it was. He cared enough to help me find it. Thanks, God.