

# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

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Suzanne D. Williams Photography

Happy Thanksgiving

## We Are So Thankful!

Thanksgiving is the season of our year that celebrates the abundant supply God provides for us every day. For just a moment, we cease our daily activities to count our blessings. We praise God not only for His merciful provision, but also for His overcoming power and His revealed purpose. He is more than enough for every need! We are **SO THANKFUL**.

Every year God helps us to prosper and to overcome. He enables us to face every challenge with His wisdom. The Scripture says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."<sup>1</sup> What a wonderful Father to provide knowledge and insight and to provide it liberally. We walk in victory because He orders our footsteps and we obey. He reveals His will so that we can always please Him.

With His knowledge in our heart, the day of careless behavior is over and random excuses are finally ended. Our retort is no longer, "I didn't know," or "I did the best I could," or "I thought that was right." The flood of God's light eliminates these empty words. Our words are now acceptable to Him, and our behavior represents the glorious gospel that has saved us. We are **SO THANKFUL!**

Now, when our heart vibrates with the pain

of ignorance or the drama of wrong choices, we remember that our great and mighty God knows the way through our wilderness. He is our light. Jesus said, "If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."<sup>2</sup> I love that verse of Scripture. The light of His wisdom illuminates our darkness. This light shines in our life and into the world around us. We are like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see.<sup>3</sup> Suddenly, our life has meaning; it has purpose. We belong to God and He works through us. We are **SO THANKFUL!**

Isn't it comforting to know God will advise us and teach us? When He is our helper, we overcome every difficulty. I don't have to tell you, because you already know, life happens. Yet, God is not like Santa Claus. The myth of Santa Claus teaches that Santa is making a list, writing down what we do that is good and what we do that is bad. According to this fictional story, Santa is not helping us do the right thing or delivering us from danger. However, our God watches over us to help us and to rescue us. He is the God of wisdom AND the God of power.

The apostle Paul records that God's great power is for us who believe.<sup>4</sup> As a student of the Scripture, this is not a surprise. God has always poured out His power to aid His people. From the supernatural opening of the Red Sea for Israel to Peter's release from prison by an

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angel, God has continually set men free by His mighty hand. The cry of His heart is, "Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."<sup>5</sup> What a glorious promise! God is for us! When we trust Him, He will help us. We are **SO THANKFUL**.

This is the impact of Psalm 107. Here, the psalmist talks about those who are homeless, hungry, thirsty, rebellious, sinful, and imprisoned. He speaks vividly of gloom, death, terror, misery, and darkness. But, don't despair. This psalm is full of good news. Four times, this psalm records, "Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses." Our God – our great and mighty God – rescued these desperate and foolish people when they looked to Him for help.

This, of course, does not license us to leap first and look later. In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul addressed this erroneous thinking. He said, "Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid."<sup>6</sup> Our heart's desire must always, always, be to hear and obey our Father. He will keep us from stumbling if we follow the pathway He has outlined for our success. We are **SO THANKFUL!**

Wholeheartedly we say with the psalmist, "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his

goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men."<sup>7</sup> We follow his counsel to "sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing."<sup>8</sup> With him, we exalt our Lord "in the congregation of the people and praise him in the assembly of the elders."<sup>9</sup>

This praise comes from the depths of our being because the words of the psalmists are true for us too. When these men called upon the Lord, He led them to safety and satisfied their thirst. He snapped their chains, broke the prison gates and delivered them from death and destruction. Then He gave them springs of water, bumper crops, herds of cattle and large families. They called upon their God and He blessed them.

We too can "ask and receive." Jesus said, "Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy."<sup>10</sup> This thanksgiving our joy overflows because God has answered our prayer and met our need. With the psalmist we testify, "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."<sup>11</sup> We are **SO THANKFUL**. Thank you, Father, for the blessings of 2012.

*Becky*

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<sup>1</sup>Jas 1:5 <sup>2</sup>Jn 8:12NLT <sup>3</sup>Mt 5:14NLT <sup>4</sup>Eph 1:19 <sup>5</sup>Is 41:10 <sup>6</sup>Rm 6:1 <sup>7</sup>Ps 107:8,15,20,31 <sup>8</sup>Ps 107:22 <sup>9</sup>Ps 107:32 <sup>10</sup>Jn 16:24NLT <sup>11</sup>Ps 34:10

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## Psalm 23

*Unknown Author*

*The Lord is my Shepherd. That's **RELATIONSHIP!** I shall not want. That's **SUPPLY!** He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. That's **REST!** He leadeth me beside still waters. That's **REFRESHMENT!** He restoreth my soul. That's **HEALING!***

*He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness. That's **GUIDANCE!** For His name sake. That's **PURPOSE!** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I*

*will fear no evil. That's **PROTECTION!** For thou art with me. That's **FAITHFULNESS!***

*Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me That's **COMFORT!** Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. That's **HOPE!** Thou anointest my head with oil. That's **CONSECRATION!** My cup runneth over. That's **ABUNDANCE!***

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. That's **BLESSING!** And I will dwell in the house of the Lord. That's **SECURITY!** Forever. That's **ETERNITY!***