



# BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

## *The Victorious Trio*

BECKY COMBEE

I was raised in an era of church music that saw the advent of many trios and quartets. To this day, I love the harmonious sound of these groups. Their voices blend together like a mighty marching band, each footstep in sync with the other. Although there are many instruments, there is one distinct sound.

**In the Word of God, there is a harmonious trio that is essential to victory.** The apostle Paul introduced them when he stated, “Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.”<sup>1</sup> These three divinely granted characteristics depend on one another. Together they bring victory into our lives.

The foundation of this trio is LOVE. The commandment to *love one another* is the law of the New Covenant. We were rescued, delivered, and saved by God’s love, and when we were born again, His love was poured into our lives. Every day, this love guides our decisions, orchestrates our footsteps, and operates our vocabulary. It is the groundwork of our life in God.

Our FAITH in God depends on this love. If love is absent, our faith is crippled and inoperative. Of course, faith comes by hearing God’s command, but the Scripture declares that faith works by love. I love the word “works.” Faith works! It always leads us to victory. Yet, it is clear that the work of

faith is hindered when the leadership of God’s love is rejected.

Years ago, I was briefly a legal secretary. One day, I could not get my typewriter to operate (yes, typewriter, not computer), so I called the office maintenance personnel. When they could not figure out what was wrong, they called the company that repaired our equipment. The representative of that company simply crawled

## *Peace In Motion*

SUZANNE D. WILLIAMS

Isaac Newton’s law of motion states in part, “A body at rest will remain at rest.”

I watched a preacher give an example of this in regard to faith. He stood a muscular man from his congregation on one end of the stage then wrapped his arms around him and tried to carry him across the stage. “This is what we expect God to do,” he said. “We ask Him to take us to our victory without us making any effort.” He then asked the man to walk, came up behind him while he was moving, and gave him a shove. Needless to say, the man launched ahead several feet.

I’ve prayed those type of prayers—“God, help me.” “God, something has to change.” “God, I need peace.”—without actually altering my behavior or taking any steps from where I’m at.

Faith is active. It requires movement.

I had another revelation of this while reading

(Continued from "The Victorious Trio")

under my desk and plugged the typewriter in. There was nothing wrong with the typewriter. In like manner, faith – even great faith – is crippled when love is not honored. Love is essential to victory. It must be "plugged in."

The next ingredient necessary for victory is HOPE. The apostle writes, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for."<sup>2</sup> This means that before faith can function, hope must be active. Hope is our God-given goal or desire. It is the plan of God that has been revealed to our spirit. I believe this is the least understood element of God's grand trio.

The apostle Paul writes that God works in us to will and to do of his good pleasure.<sup>3</sup> This is the birth of hope! God's will is revealed to us, and it becomes our hope or expectation. Jeremiah 29:11 explains this same principle when it declares that God has a plan for us—an expected end. Learned scholars translate the expression "an expected end," saying that God has a hope and a future for

us. Therefore, our future, our expected end, our hope is God's revealed will. His will is the utmost desire of our heart.

God's divine triangle – faith, hope, and love – work together. Jesus confirmed this when He spoke to the disciples about prayer. With His first words, "Whatever things you ask when you pray," He welcomed hope. He added faith when He said, "Believe that you receive *them*."<sup>4</sup> This declaration of faith is followed in verse 25 by the exhortation, "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him."<sup>5</sup> Certainly this is love.

Together, these three principles march toward victory. Hope leads the way, confidently declaring God's will and desire. Faith agrees with hope's decree saying, "I believe that. Yes, I believe." Love follows close behind with the grand acclamation, "I will undergird all you have asked for." When these three abide in us, we will triumph. We will overcome. This is God's grand plan!

<sup>1</sup>1Co 13:13 NLT <sup>2</sup>Heb 11:1 <sup>3</sup>Php 2:13 <sup>4</sup>Mk 11:24 NKJV <sup>5</sup>NKJV

<sup>6</sup>Rm 14:23 TPT <sup>7</sup>CSB <sup>8</sup>CJB <sup>9</sup>2Co 5:18; Heb 11:6

(Continued from "Peace In Motion")

Romans, chapter 14, in *The Passion Translation*. In verses 1 through 22, the church is given a series of instructions, of ACTIONS to take to bring peace. To summarize, the apostle Paul says, "Refuse to engage in debates. Don't sit in judgment. Stop being critical. Don't cause a brother or sister in Christ to stumble. Don't insist on behavior that offends someone. Stop deliberately causing offense. Refrain from causing other believers to be tempted."

I encourage you to read the verses in full and meditate on them, but especially note verse 19:

"Make it your **top priority** to live a life of peace ... **eagerly seeking to strengthen and encourage** one another."

Do you see it? Peace is a top priority. But also, peace requires ACTION. Now, notice the final verse. Here, Paul makes his final point.

"For **anything we do** that doesn't spring **from faith** is, by definition, sinful."<sup>6</sup>

ANYTHING we DO outside of FAITH is sin, which includes all those behaviors he's listed that walk us away from love and peace. Peace is active. It is motivated, and it is done through faith. This means that sometimes you won't see it. You'll be sitting there upset, tormented over what someone else said or did, by circumstances out of your control, but YOU DECIDE to take the step of faith and walk in peace.

We also see this in 1 Peter 3:11 where it says, "And let him turn away from evil and do what is good. Let him **seek peace** and **pursue** it."<sup>7</sup> One translation says, "**Chase** after it."<sup>8</sup> You cannot simply stand there, waiting for God to move you to the goal. If your goal is harmony (at work, at home, in your marriage) then YOU HAVE TO WALK BY FAITH.

God sees and honors faith. Faith brings results. They may not be instant. You might not get up the next day and have reconciliation, but God is working; and He is pleased with your efforts.<sup>9</sup> Exercise your faith, grow your faith in the area of peace.