

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

September 2011

Now and After While

BY BECKY COMBEE

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has opened the door of great bounty and abundant blessing to every believer. Frequently, however, lack of knowledge and erroneous thinking barricade the pathway to these blessings. Through religious traditions our faith in God's gracious generosity is often hindered and we forfeit God's abundant provision.

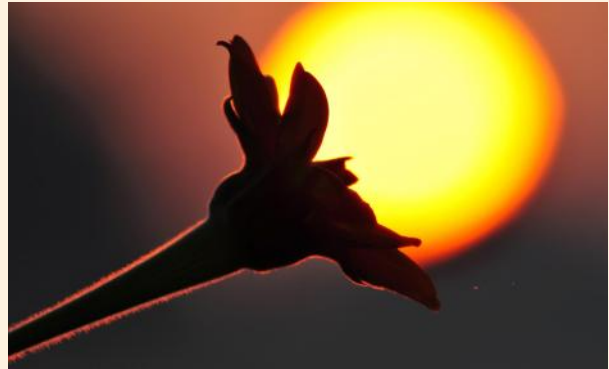
One of these barricades is the traditional cry that blessings await us after death; they are not for today. Now, I believe in the bounty of heaven! I am awestruck by the description of heaven in the book of Revelation – no death, no sorrow, no crying, no pain.¹ What glorious perfection! There is a great day coming! "Over yonder, after while" we will know the grandeur, the glory, of God's heavenly munificence. And yes, it will be wonderful! But what can I expect today? Is there provision for my life now?

Our first clue comes from the Lord's Prayer. Jesus said, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."² Imagine just a touch of heaven on earth! Facetiously I often ask our classes, "Isn't this earth? Didn't Jesus pray for heavenly benefits on earth?" Certainly, He did!

In the Old Testament, the Lord promised the people of Israel "days of heaven upon the earth."³ You will notice God did NOT limit Israel to days of heaven IN HEAVEN but He declared days of heaven IN EARTH. He specified an abundant harvest for Israel NOW. He spoke of rain in due season, and grass for the livestock. He further testified to an increase in land from the wilderness, from

Point of Focus

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS



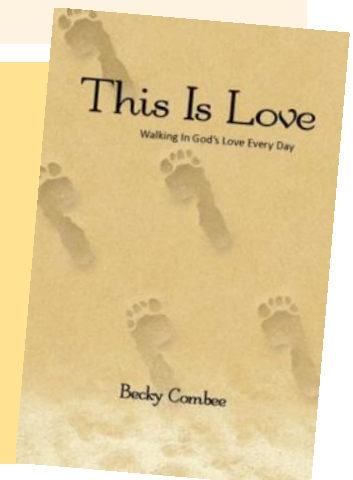
When I took this photograph, the sunrise wasn't really any different than other sunrises. The flowers in my garden were the same in appearance that they are at any other time of day, and I started to take the same old photograph I've taken from that vantage point. It would have been beautiful too. But instead, my gaze shifted to create an image a little out of the ordinary. I altered my focus from the sun, which was dominant in the sky, to the effect its light gave the flower. In photography, we call this "point of focus."

I read a statement the other day, which applies to this thought from outside of photography.

**Now
Available!**

\$15.00

Also available in
Kindle edition



P.O. Box 3283, Lakeland, FL 33802-3283 ~ beckycombeeministries.com ~ combee@beckycombeeministries.com

(Continued from Now and After While)

Lebanon, from the Euphrates River to the sea.⁴
What a wonderful God!

*Imagine just a touch
of heaven on earth!*

The apostle Paul gave divine witness to this grand truth of blessings for TODAY when he said, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."⁵ As we read this Scripture, we simply ask ourselves, "Do we have needs TODAY?" If so, our great and mighty God will supply our needs. It is very simple. He promised! The psalmist confirms this truth declaring, "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."⁶ He also said, "The Lord is my

shepherd; I shall not want."⁷

Oh, meditate on these truths. God shall supply! I shall not want! Lift your voice to heaven shouting, "The Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant."⁸ Honor the "Almighty God who sees ahead and provides." He is El-Shaddai. He is Jehovah-Jireh. Rejoice in His care. He will "give good things to them that ask him."⁹

TODAY, seek first His Kingdom!¹⁰ Serve Him with gladness NOW.¹¹ "Offer the sacrifice to God CONTINUALLY."¹² He is more than an AFTER-WHILE GOD. He is a NOW GOD! If we walk in godliness, He promises life NOW and in the world to come.¹³ TODAY, we can prosper if we live in His Word.¹⁴

¹ Rev 21:4 ² Mt 6:10 ³ De 11:21 ⁴ De 11:24 ⁵ Php 4:19 ⁶ Ps 34:10 ⁷ Ps 23:1 ⁸ Ps 35:27 ⁹ Mt 7:11 ¹⁰ Mt 6:33 ¹¹ Ps 100:2 ¹² He 13:15 ¹³ 1Ti 4:8 ¹⁴ 3Jn 1:2-3

(Continued from Point of Focus)

We must quit looking at our own abilities and failures and limitations and start looking to God.

In the same manner that I created this image of the flower holding the sun, the answer is in our point of focus. One writer described it as the struggle of a wrestling match. He said his mind and heart "teeter back and forth between attitudes that are life-giving and those that bring darkness." He then went on to state, "On a given day, I can be filled with praise and gratitude one minute and then overcome by fear or anger in the next." (Doug Sherman)

Oh, how well I identify with those statements! We must get our eyes off of what we can or cannot do and place them on who God is.

I like the words of 1 Corinthians 4:6 from The Message Bible. It says in part, "It's important to look at things from God's point of

view." Think about that - God's point of view! You see, the fact is, as long as we continue to look at the size of the problem, the problem will remain large, too big to handle. All we'll see is the sun, and we'll miss the beauty of the flower.

I say this all the time, but God is GREATER than your problem. He is BIGGER. He is HIGHER. He is MORE THAN ENOUGH. God's desire is for your success, so lift up your eyes and look at where your help comes from! (Ps 121:1-2) Look at WHO your help is! Change your point of focus.

Instead of failure, expect triumph. Expect God to DO what He said he would DO. You know, sometimes we can't see it. I have things facing me today that I can't explain, I can't fix, and I don't know what to do about. I have major decisions I must think about. Yet the solution is not mine to make. My job is to focus on God and let Him work the answer. He's strong enough and wise enough for that! (2Sam 22:30)