

# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.



*"Monarch Butterfly Chrysalis" Suzanne Williams Photography*

## I Know That!

One of the fascinating elements of the writings of the Apostle Paul is the number of times he gives reference to the little word "know". It seems that he expected Christians to "know" – to possess knowledge of – certain spiritual truths. There were revelations that he was certain the saints should understand and embrace. Among my favorites is the very familiar "know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?"<sup>a</sup> In the King James version of God's Word, this is a question with an obvious answer. We can almost hear his voice saying, "Of course, you 'know' that you are God's temple." It is a question, yet it is a statement and a phenomenal revelation. We are God's dwelling place!

There is another very important "know" that is frequently quoted. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to His purpose."<sup>b</sup> This verse, in direct reference to Holy Spirit-led prayer, is of great comfort to every Christian. Oh, I realize it has been abused and misunderstood, but if we grasp the fullness of its truth, it will set our hearts free. The foundational truth of this verse is that our magnificent Father answers prayer. We can "ask and receive".<sup>c</sup> And if we don't know how to pray or what to say, the Holy Spirit labors with us to declare God's will.<sup>d</sup> Then we can know that good things are happening.

But we dare not stretch this wonderful "we know" verse beyond the realm of truth and declare destructive events are a "good thing". Listen as the Psalmist declares, "Thou *art* good, and doest good."<sup>e</sup> The Apostle James voiced this same fact saying, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above."<sup>f</sup> We

also have the testimony of our Lord. "How much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"<sup>g</sup> These verses simply mean that good things are from God and bad things are NOT from God. The words of Jesus in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly," prove this beyond any doubt.

Another very important "we know" verse surfaces in the writings of the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth. In 2 Corinthians 5:1, he announces, "For we know that if our earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." What a

## Complete Confidence

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?...though war should rise against me, **in this will I be confident.** (Psalm 27:1,3)

What are you the most confident of?

The meaning of the word "confident" involves trust and reliance on someone or something. If you think about this definition in reverse, it cannot be "confidence" if there isn't some form of reliance. Reliance rests entirely on the performance and the strength of whatever that object is. In fact, one explanation of the word "rely" reads, "Rely is used when the person is needed to physically do something." (Thesaurus.com) Reliance depends on the actions of something else.

(Continued from "I Know That!")

grand declaration! We "know" we have an "eternal house". We are far more than aging flesh and blood. We are spirit beings with eternal life. Because Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord, we know that "to be absent from the body" is "to be present with the Lord."<sup>h</sup> Can there be any better news?

There is great strength in these "we know" verses. Yet the Apostle Paul challenges us to "know" more. His own confession is "that I may know him."<sup>i</sup> When He speaks to the church of Ephesus, he prays that they might "know" God's calling, God's inheritance, and His power.<sup>j</sup> He also asks that they might "know the

love of Christ."<sup>k</sup> This is God's desire for every Christian. We must grow in "knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man."<sup>l</sup> We must "know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings."<sup>m</sup> We must "know whom [we] have believed".<sup>n</sup> We must KNOW our God, Jesus our Lord, and the Holy Spirit. We must know and we can know!

*Becky Combee*

<sup>a</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:19

<sup>b</sup> Romans 8:28

<sup>c</sup> John 16:24

<sup>d</sup> Romans 8:26

<sup>e</sup> Psalm 119:68a

<sup>f</sup> James 1:17a

<sup>g</sup> Matthew 7:11

<sup>h</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:8

<sup>i</sup> Philippians 3:10

<sup>j</sup> Ephesians 1:18-19

<sup>k</sup> Ephesians 3:19

<sup>l</sup> Ephesians 4:13b

<sup>m</sup> Philippians 3:10

<sup>n</sup> 2 Timothy 1:12

(Continued from "Complete Confidence")

...and are confident that **you yourself** are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. (Romans 2:19-20)

Much is said today about being "self-confident". But self-confidence is opposite to God's instructions. Jesus informed us in order to follow Him, we must first "deny ourself". (Matthew 16:24) Romans 8:8 says, "They that are in the flesh **cannot** please God." Even stronger is the word given in James 3:16. "For wherever there is jealousy and **selfish** ambition, there you will find **disorder and evil** of every kind." (NLT) That doesn't sound too good to me!

Yet we are self-confident all the time. And in being that way, we deny God the right to "do" something in our life. Instead of depending on His actions on our behalf, we trust in ourselves. Remember those silly exercises where someone falls backward expecting someone else to catch them? Well, there is something to be said for that image. That is how we are to "be confident" in God.

I the Lord have spoken it, and **I will do it**.  
(Ezekiel 36:36)

Throwing away all confidence in yourself is a huge task. It means deliberately choosing to live your life dependent on God. Think about this. Every step you take for every day of your life, every decision, every choice, are entirely God's. No matter what your mind says to you, no matter what your body says, no matter

how afraid you are, or how confident you are in your own abilities, your every choice is what your heavenly Father has asked of you.

The good news is He has said, "I will do it." That which He has promised, He is also able and more than that, willing to perform. (Psalm 27:4) Having confidence in God is like being backed by the ultimate supplier. Whatever I need, whenever I need it, He is there to provide it. He is always able, always loving, never weak, and never failing.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and **he shall lift you up**. (James 4:10)

This brings me to the opposite of self-confidence - humility. God has said if we will humble ourselves, if we'll throw away the pride we have in our own abilities, and become subservient to Him, if we'll allow Him to DO for us what He has promised to do, then we'll find success. Humility requires we take an action on our part. Colossians 3:12 instructs us to, "PUT ON...humbleness of mind." In other words, if we have to "put it on" then sometimes it is not "on" to start with.

Self-confidence is pride, but humility is trust. I live every day knowing that in myself I can do nothing. (John 5:30) I am entirely dependent on God coming in behind me and stepping out before me, and this gives me boldness. (Psalm 139:5) For I know that God is bigger and stronger than anything I'm ever facing. In Him I am completely confident.

**Being confident** of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you **will** perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

*Suzanne Williams*