



# Focused Perspective



## by Barbara Bach

Life is busy, especially this time of year. We can feel all kinds of pressures like:

1. Decorating for Christmas
2. What to buy for presents? (especially for those who have everything)
3. Writing Christmas cards (you have to write in each one since you only correspond once a year)
4. Baking, cooking
5. Money pressures

Anxiety can take over and our FOCUS is about all we have to do and we forget what the season is all about. We are not singing "Joy to the world." ANXIETY AND JOY DO NOT GO TOGETHER! We lose our perspective.

The 9/11 tragedy helped me put into perspective, what's important. I wept in REPENTANCE the week of 9/11. The concerns that I allowed to affect me seemed minimal in comparison.

The Holy Spirit has been speaking to me through all that the news media and individuals from New York are saying:

1. I heard over & over that the **#1 priority is FAMILY** – I told our son & daughter-in-law that they are the most important people in our lives (even though we have a wonderful Eastern Region family) We love you!
2. **TOM BROKAW** – His comment after the anthrax scare in his

office was, "We are stronger than ever."

3. An **individual** from New York said on the *Today Show* – "I have never seen so much love and unity."
4. After death of service men – "We have to put our hurt aside and press on to do our task."
5. **PRESIDENT BUSH** – "We are resolute, we will win."

*bears all things, love never fails."*

4. Do we **put our hurt behind** or carry it around on our back? Philippians 3:13 – "...forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."
5. Do we have a **winning** attitude or do we feel like losers? Romans 8:37 – "...we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

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I am always paralleling what's been going on in the world with the church. There's no secret that there is sometimes conflict in the church. We can learn from difficult situations and even from the world!

1. Are we **stronger** than ever? Ephesians 6:10 – "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."
2. Are we **united** more than ever? Philippians 2 – "One in spirit and unity, having the same mind as Christ"
3. Do we **love**? 1 Corinthians 13 talks about unconditional love – "...love believes all things,

**FOCUS** – What should our focus be during the Christmas season? Look for opportunities to help people EXPERIENCE JESUS!



What does this mean? Jesus is:  
**JOY — PEACE — HOPE — LOVE**

**JOY** – How is the church modeling these words? Are we anxious? Anxiety & joy do not go together. How are we handling anxiety around family, work, etc? Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." The Word works if we choose to apply it!

Were you anxious after the tragedy? How did you model that anxiety? This is a great opportunity to witness in conversations.

We can choose to model **JOY**  
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