

# PRAISE News

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## Every Spare Moment



By Merlin Carothers

When we have to wait in traffic, doctor's offices, restaurants, or on hold on the phone etc., is that time lost? If we are forced to wait for some-

one to respond to our needs, and the time drags on for *months or years*, is that time lost?

Time, be it a moment, or years, cannot be stolen from us. We have to cast it away as though it were worthless. Once we understand the value of a moment of time, it becomes valuable to us. It is ours to spend as we will. Then no one can take it away from us.

Paul learned to use his time in such a way that each moment became a priceless treasure. He even learned to be content if his moments were spent in being beaten and imprisoned! He used that time to fellowship with God. As a result, Paul's gifts to humanity have been invaluable.

Our moments in congested traffic can be precious. We have those hallowed moments to talk with GOD! Those moments can be the best use we make of an entire day. Waiting in line can draw us closer to God than we were at our last worship service. Time spent standing in lines can cause us to either become frustrated or to concentrate on learning how to fellowship with God.

Those times when we are forced to wait – for months or years – can reveal deep problems within us. We may have goals for our lives that are opposed to God's plans. And once our goals become “carved in stone” it's difficult to relinquish them. Often, they become so deeply rooted that we believe God gave them to us. We

may misinterpret Scripture and be convinced that our will is His will. We could live and die and never realize our mistakes if He did not find some way to frustrate our plans.

Our frustrations often force us to cry out to God for help. While He has our attention, He works in His mysterious ways to open our hearts to His will. The heroes of Hebrews chapter eleven, had to wait many years for God to answer their prayers, but they learned patience. God rewarded their patience, and He will continue to reward them for eternity.

Reading this article may not change the way you react when you find yourself “waiting”. But – if right now – you ask God to forgive you for all the times you have complained and were impatient when waiting, a change can begin. Then decide how you will react in the future. Decide to rejoice whenever anyone or anything forces you to wait. Thank God for the opportunity He gives you to praise Him instead of hurrying off to accomplish your own goals. You will eventually look forward to those times when you can enjoy waiting!

But what if you are in a hurry to get to church, to do something for someone, to have your children become better people, or to be reunited with someone you love? Then you still have strong reasons to spend your time in being thankful to God. **Every moment is too valuable to waste in unprofitable anxiety.** Take the glorious plunge into believing God is in charge of you, your time and your future. Always remember that to God a thousand years are as one day. He will not “hurry up” to satisfy our frustration, but He will change the attitude of all those who trust Him!

(Reprint from April 1993)



# Thomas... He Did More Than Doubt

By Mary Carothers

When we think of the disciple Jesus called Thomas, what word do we think of next? Isn't it

"doubting"? When the other disciples told Thomas that they had seen the Lord, his response was that unless he could see the nail prints in Jesus' hands, and put his finger into the nail holes, he would not believe that Jesus was alive. And so, he earned the title of "Doubting Thomas."

When the women came back from the empty tomb, in Luke 24, telling the disciples that the angels had said Jesus had risen from the dead, did the disciples believe them? No, not one of them believed. They *all* doubted.

To single Thomas out as the only doubter is not fair. In fact, I think many Christians should be more like Thomas. Many times, we Christians are too gullible. We tend to believe anything we are told when what we need to do is seek the Lord for discernment.

It's so much easier and more comfortable to let someone else tell us what to believe. But we need to grow up. We need to mature in Christ, so we will not be swayed back and forth between conflicting doctrines. We must understand that God holds us responsible – individually – for what we believe.



One thing about Thomas – he was loyal and courageous. In John 11, Jesus told His disciples that He was going into Judea because Lazarus had died. The response of most of the men was, "But Lord! The last time you were there, they tried to kill you! And you're going back there anyway?" However, Thomas' response was different. He said, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him." Now, that's what I call loyalty and courage.

The first time Jesus appeared to His disciples after the resurrection, they were together (except Thomas) "with the doors barred for fear of the Jews." Why were they afraid? They reasoned that the same religious leaders who had wanted to crucify Jesus might also want to eliminate them. Death by crucifixion is something anyone would dread, and they were justifiably afraid. But Thomas was not with them. Why? Could it have been because he was not as frightened as the others? We cannot know the answer, but we do know he was courageous and loyal.

Someone once said Thomas wanted a "hands on" relationship with Jesus. Once Thomas was fully convinced that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, he would not be easily manipulated or led astray.

**Dear Lord, help me to be loyal and courageous like Thomas. Let me be strong in You, not easily swayed.**



## Praise God, He is Risen!

*And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But He said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him". (Mark 16:5-6)*





# The POWER of PRAISE



Next to the Bible *Power in Praise* is the #1 book and word in my life. It is powerful and thinking of it brings a smile to my face in memory of Merlin.  
**GAYNELL, MO**

*Power in Praise* was given to me in 1976 and it has given me a wonderful, solid basis for my walk with Jesus. I am ordering more to give away.  
**KATHY, NH**

My sister sent me *Power in Praise* here at the Harris County Jail. It is a gift I will cherish. The book was a blessing, full of wisdom and I am humbling myself before God.  
**ALBERTO, TX**

I am celebrating 44 years of being baptized in the Spirit while reading *Power in Praise*. I'll never forget the thrill of the Lord as I prayed the prayer Merlin wrote in the book. I was flooded with His love as I laughed and cried! As part of my celebration, I'm going to read it again. The pages are fragile and yellowed after all this time, but the Lord still speaks to me through it.  
**MARYBETH, E-MAIL**

*Power in Praise* has been a part of my library for many years. The book fell apart and I'm now going to replace it. Merlin truly was a man of God who has helped so many people.  
**JOHN, E-MAIL**

*Power in Praise* has lifted my life to joy through some challenging situations. As I praised God, I believed that He allowed these circumstances to work gloriously for my good and I count it all joy!  
**KINDLE READER**

I am in prison at Eastern Correctional and read *Power in Praise* and it changed my life!  
**JASON, MD**

*Power in Praise* should be a must read for everyone. We all have problems and often feel depressed in the circumstances, but this book puts life's difficulties in a much better perspective, and it is very liberating.  
**KINDLE READER**

*Power in Praise* is a definite read for everybody. One of the Christian Classics!  
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- Wilson Cuntj Jail, Lebanon, TN
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- Goose Creek Correctional Center, Wasilla, AK
- Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Dept., Cleveland, OH
- Bowie County Correctional Center, Texarkana, TX
- James T. Vaughn Correctional Center, Smyrna, DE
- Taycheedah Correctional Institute, Fond Du Lac, WI



## Go and Tell

We heard it in the Olympics – Go for the Gold!

We read it in the Bible – Go tell the world!

Jesus meant it when He said in Mark 16:15 to *Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation.*

Indeed, He called all His followers to go and tell.

I repeat His call to you and ask you to go and tell His Good News. In Matthew 9:37 Jesus said to His disciples: *The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few.* I

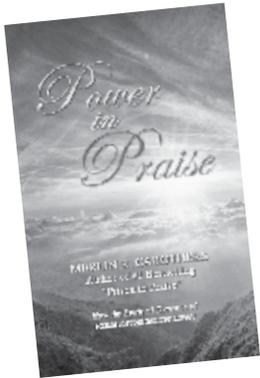
want to encourage you to set definite goals for what you believe you should do to go and spread the Good News of the Gospel. You will be more likely to fulfill your mission if you know what your mission is. Set aside a time of prayer and ask God to reveal to you the people He wants you to reach during the next few days, and those you should reach during your lifetime. He may give you specific individuals, or He may give you a section of the population that He wants you to reach for Him. As you fulfill His mission you will be blessed and filled with joy!



# Power in Praise

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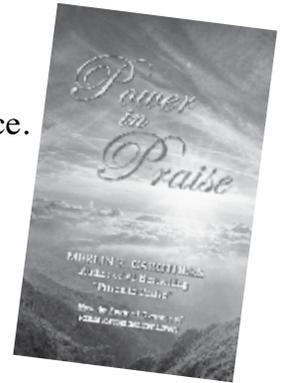
*Thank you for putting **Power in Praise** on sale. It changed my life and I love to share the book with others.*



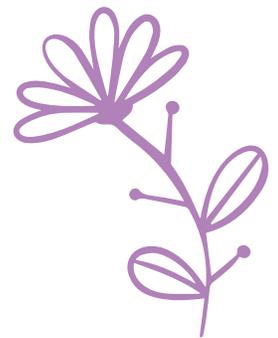
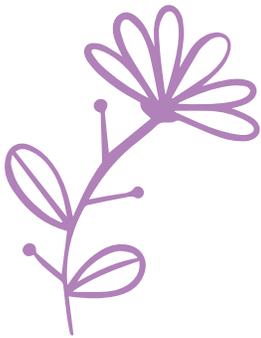
*Words cannot express how **Power in Praise** has touched my life.*

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