

PRAISE News

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Already Programmed



By Merlin Carothers



If you have problems, you are reacting to them in whatever way you have been programmed to react.

You are now

programmed to react to future problems. How were you programmed, and who did it? Learn the answers to these questions and you will understand how to deal with many difficulties!

The Bible compares our life to a race. Before a race, the runner has already programmed how well he will run. If he has prepared himself to win, he has a good chance of winning. If he has not disciplined himself, he has a good chance of ending up in last place. Outcomes are preceded by preparations.

If you have marriage problems, lose your job, a friend, your home, or health, you have already programmed how you will react! That's why the Bible tells us to be prepared for the future (Matthew 25:1-4).

If we do not prepare for crises, we often have the same consequences as the runner who fails to train for a race. What is the very best preparation we can make to prepare for any problem that may come? Learn to really believe that God will take everything that happens and make it work for our good. This is not a leisurely assignment. Winning an Olympic race isn't easy either. And, like winning a race, we must begin by doing the easy things first - walk, walk faster, run, and then run faster.



We have hundreds of opportunities every day to believe God is working for our good. Every time we thank Him for something that appears to be difficult, we strengthen our praise muscles. We get ready for the bigger problems that may lie ahead. But if we wait for the problems to become overwhelming, before we begin to learn, we will not be ready because we have already programmed ourselves for discouragement.

When a difficult trial comes, we will want to be able to handle it, but like the untrained athlete we may be unable to keep the problem from overwhelming us. To win "the race" we too must practice believing that God is using every trial or difficulty to bless us. Even pain! I Peter 4:1 says . . . *when your body suffers, sin loses its power* (TLB). Peter then explains that pain often prevents us from being led into sin. Satan wants to torment us, but when we have learned to trust Him, God compels even Satan's devices to work for our good.

We win against problems and difficulties to the degree that we have prepared ourselves. The tougher the problem, the more preparation we must make. And the more preparation we make, the more peace we have about the future. God recommends that we prepare ourselves by thanking Him *all the time for everything*. Difficult? Yes, but highly rewarding.

Do you not know that in a race, all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize (I Cor. 9:24 NIV). Prepare yourself to win!



(Reprint from March 2003)



Beyond the Boulder



By Mary Carothers

How God must long for His children to understand how great and tender His Fatherly love is for us. *I long for God's people to see the Christian life as a loving relationship - not as a trial, or a difficult walk - with Jesus.* Try to picture it like this. You're walking along a pathway with the One who loves you better than His own life. Let your eyes be opened to see the love in His eyes. Feel how tenderly and gently He holds your hand in His. You are so caught up in His love that you never see all the dangers or evils that lurk on either side of the pathway. Suddenly, right in front of you, there is a huge boulder blocking the pathway. This is a trial, a heartache or unsolvable situation. All at once you realize your Beloved is nowhere in sight. You look to the right and then to the left. He is not there, and now you see all the pitfalls surrounding you. In a panic you look back at the "boulder," and there is your Beloved on top of it, reaching down with

His hand to you with loving encouragement. (Why hadn't we seen Him there before? Because our attention was on all our problems!)

But now, as you keep your attention fixed on Him, and join your hand in His, He shows you how to scale this huge boulder. Finally, you reach the top, and the sight that greets you takes your breath away! There, spread all around you, is a view that defies description. The Lord of the Universe is there with you; His strong arm securely holding you in His love. You realize you have just had a tiny glimpse of how God sees the problems of this life through eyes of infinite wisdom. Hopefully, each of us then says something like this: *Oh, thank You Father for bringing me up another step higher! Help me to see Your loving hand in my next problem. Help me to remember to thank and Praise You - as You help me climb above it.*



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IN LOVING MEMORY OF:



Merlin Carothers
By Barbara Brooks
of Elmira, NY
and
By George & Gwen Dilworth
of Cape May, NJ



IN HONOR OF:



Mary Carothers
By Barbara Brooks
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Thankful for Prison to Praise



We want to thank you for the *Prison to Praise* books you sent to the VA Medical Center. It is through the efforts of partners like you that allows us to continue to serve our deserving Veterans.

THEO, WASHINGTON DC

Thank you for the donation of *Prison to Praise* books. I am excited to make them available to the men here at Green Rock Corrections. I know they will be encouraged and grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ as they read these books.

DOUG, VA

I am thankful every day for our blessings, and I thank God for the practice of praising God in ALL things that I learned through reading *Prison to Praise*.

SUSAN, E-MAIL



I came across this photo and my dad's post from 2001 and thought I'd share it again. Joann

“Here I am at our PO Box 2518 – the exact place where your letters to the Foundation of Praise arrive. I smile when I receive letters from you. Actually, I try to smile all the time!”



I just stumbled upon *Prison to Praise*, and I have been a Christian for over forty years. But what a treasure trove I have discovered in Merlin's books! I am overwhelmed with joy at this new pathway I have discovered.

LAURIE, CA

Thank you for your ministry. I found *Prison to Praise* at my church in Holland and have praised ever since the '70's.

SALLY, CA

The Foundation of Praise has made an enormous impact on my life. Through *Prison to Praise* I learned to consider it all joy... and the lesson took hold!

TOM, TX

I was so, so blessed when I read *Prison to Praise*.

LINDA, WV



Be God's Messenger

Whether we are young or old, rich or poor, the Bible tells us:

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatian 6:9 NIV).

Make these years the most productive of your life! Be enthusiastic about what you can do to build God's Kingdom. Merlin used to place tracts in the restroom of restaurants. He heard from a man who was so impressed by reading one that he searched the internet and found *Prison to Praise*, read it, and then gave his heart to Jesus. Be God's messenger during these very difficult times in our world.

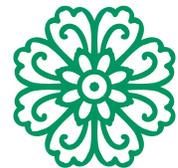
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