

# PRAISE News

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## New Opportunities

by Merlin Carothers

Difficult times for ourselves or others, give us powerful opportunities! They are the life-changing, sometimes eternity-changing, moments that can make or break us.

During these extraordinary moments we can emerge into greater victories or sink down into a quick-sand kind of attitude that takes away our hope and happiness. God arranges these times to give us the opportunity to use our “created in His image” authority. **He gives the opportunity – we make the choice.**

The Bible is rich in portraying these God-given opportunities. The Jews were delivered from slavery and were on their way to a glorious future. Then God allowed them to become hungry and thirsty. The inhabitants of their Promised Land seemed invincible. The Jews chanted in unison, “Why, why, why?” They failed God’s test, lost their opportunity and died in the desert.

Joseph was hated and betrayed by his brothers, sold as a slave, unjustly charged and thrown into prison. Joseph responded to his problems by trusting God and believing that He was working for his good in each of these situations.

Judas saw Jesus being constantly harassed because of the hate and jealousy of the spiritual leaders around Him. Judas lost his faith and confidence in God. If He wouldn’t even help a man like Jesus, how could He be expected to help ordinary men? Judas gave up and

decided to make it on his own. He lost his opportunity to trust God.

We can accept difficulties and trust God when troubles, trials and seeming calamities come to us or to those we love. Since the book of Job was written, life has not changed. If we trust God – no matter what – He will honor us for all eternity. If we are bent or broken by circumstances, we fail to receive the blessings God desires to give us.

Jesus is our perfect example. He always saw God working in everything. He is now sitting at God’s right hand preparing for our grand welcome into His Kingdom.

Our potentials are unlimited! The Bible exhorts us to never doubt God’s goodness to us. We can be forgiven of a multitude of failures, but failure to trust God does not work for our good. I prefer to enjoy the fruits of trusting the One who created me. Faith always gives me joy and helps me to give joy to others.

Regardless of your circumstances, I recommend that you build an absolute, unwavering faith that your life is in God’s loving care. Paul considered his problems (being thrown into prison, beaten severely with rods, 39 lashes of the whip, stoned till he appeared dead, attacked by those he had thought were his brothers, hunger and thirst, not enough clothing to keep him warm, loss of sleep, etc.) as if they were nothing in comparison to the glory God had waiting for him. You and I can also consider *everything* as if it were *nothing*, because of our faith that God **is always working for our good.**

(Reprint from August 1997)

# What's Important to God

By Mary Carothers



I heard a pastor comment on the importance of a person's doctrine being correct. The thought occurred to me that my doctrine may very well not be perfectly correct. There's a good chance that my theology is not 100% right, either. Besides that, there are a lot of scriptures that I don't completely understand.

One of my long-standing prayers is, "Lord, give me a teachable spirit. Help me to always be receptive to correction and new understanding from you." I have a horror of ever feeling that I have all the answers. God, in His loving grace, has often brought me up short when my thinking was contrary to His Word, or when my attitude was wrong.

So, I began to pray, "Lord, show me where my doctrine or theology may not be just right. I don't want to write or teach anything that may cause someone to stumble because I'm off base." As I laid this prayer request before the Lord, I didn't expect Him to speak from Heaven in an audible voice to give me a revelation of His point of view. When the Holy Spirit corrects me or gives me understanding, He often speaks to me through Scriptures, sometimes by hearing or reading what someone else says, and other times, He just drops an insight into my mind. One minute it's not there, the next moment it is.

Expectantly, I waited for God to answer my prayer. Do you know what He told me? *Nothing.*

Nobody ever speaks of me as being brilliant or as having a great mind. That will never happen. I am smart enough to realize I will never have all the answers. I'll never know *all* there is to know about *anything*. However, I do understand *some* things about God.

By His silence, God was *not* saying that doctrine or theology are unimportant. Well, then, what *was* He saying?

Above all else, God wants personal, intimate fellowship with us. He wants to communicate how much He loves us. By drawing us into His presence, our Heavenly Father knows that we will gradually be changed until Christ is formed in us (see Galatians 4:19, Romans 8:29, II Corinthians 3:18).

Sometimes during prayer, the veil is pulled back, and we find ourselves in the very presence of Almighty God. When this happens, all questions are forgotten. We are simply swept up in His love. We are overwhelmed by His glory; undone by awareness of our own sinful nature (see Isaiah 6:5). Even so, in these times we experience His unconditional love for us. And we realize – that our Lord is much more interested in the attitude of our hearts than He is in the knowledge and understanding of our minds. As God told Samuel so long ago, we are often concerned with external matters, while He looks on our hearts – to see what is there (see I Samuel 16:7).

## The Foundation of Praise

has received gifts *In Loving Memory Of:*

**Catherine Wardell**

By her husband Weston,  
of Wilmington, DE

**Thomas Jay**

By his wife Deborah  
of Jacksonville, TX



**Merlin Carothers**

By Betty & Elvis North  
of Lineville, AL

**In Honor Of:  
Mary Carothers**

By Betty & Elvis North  
of Lineville, AL

### Our Apologies

We have recently discovered an error in the latest printing of *Power in Praise*. Some copies may have missing pages. Please check and see if pages 25-56 are in your book. If they are not, please let us know and we will replace them for you. Again, please accept our apologies.

**Joann**

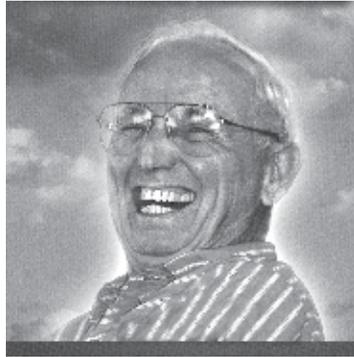


# Remembering Merlin



I know I speak for so many when I say, oh, how we miss Merlin!

“ I read all of Merlin’s books and enjoy the Praise News. Yes, our loss is Heaven’s gain and I know he is in Heaven watching over all of us. ”



“ I loved Merlin’s reprinted article, “Every Single Moment.” WOW, from 1993 and yet the words spoke to me as if Merlin had written it yesterday. ”

Merlin’s books encouraged and blessed so many over the years through this tremendous ministry. You have continued to drive home the simple but critically important message: praise and worship God in all circumstances, just as the Bible instructs us to do (but we generally tend to forget when a crisis hits). You will never know how many lives were changed until you meet those people in eternity.



I deeply loved the *Praise News* that you sent following Merlin’s passing in November 2013. I read it every time I feel sad, lonely, or ill. I know he and the Lord are having a good time together.

Merlin’s books have been a wonderful blessing in my life for many years. I pray that the Foundation will continue for many, many years. 

I first learned of Merlin and praise in the 80’s and his message still gives me hope and joy today.

I grieved when I first heard of Merlin’s passing, but I know you are still rejoicing knowing that we all will see him again.



Thank you for continuing Merlin’s work and ministry to shine a light for others to see Jesus. I pray that God continues to bless the Foundation of Praise.



Thank you for the lives you touch by encouraging people to draw closer to God by praising Him.

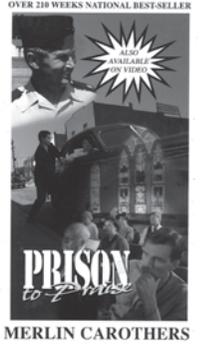
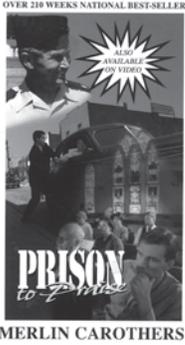
“ When I first ‘met’ Merlin through his books the idea of praising God for things that happen was very natural to me, and I quickly realized it was the strongest, most effective form of prayer you could use. I have seen many things resolved in my life as a result of praising the Lord. ”

*Merlin would have been 98 years old on August 21<sup>st</sup>. We still miss him very much and we rejoice in knowing he is celebrating a whole new BIRTHDAY in Heaven!*

COMING NEXT MONTH

## *Prison to Praise Bulk Price Offer*

We will be repeating the bulk price offer of *Prison to Praise* in the September *Praise News*. Pray and ask the Lord to lead you to those people who need to hear the message of praise and salvation and will be blessed by this book.



## *How To Pray*

**People sometimes ask how we should pray.**

**Here are some suggestions:**

Pray as if speaking with someone who knows all about you and still loves you more than you could ever imagine. Believe that you have presented your needs to the One who receives your requests, no matter how poorly you may have presented them. Know that God hears not only your words, but even more He hears and understands your heart.

*Your faithful support has enabled us to send free praise books to the following facilities!*

Towers Jail, Phoenix, AZ  
City Jail, Danville, VA  
Osage County Jail, Lyndon, KS  
Correctional Center, Vienna, IL  
Correctional Facility, Grants, NM  
Bannock County Jail, Pocatello, ID  
Juvenile Justice Center, St. Charles, MO  
Correctional Center, Carson City, NV  
County Detention Center, El Paso, TX  
Jefferson County Jail, Brookville, PA  
Jenkins Correctional Center, Millen, GA  
Correctional Center, West Liberty, KY  
Graham Correctional Center, Hillsboro, IL  
Estelle Corrections Unit, Huntsville, TX  
South Central Corrections, Clifton, TN  
Washtenaw County Jail, Ann Arbor, MI  
Yellowstone County Detention, Billings, MT  
Wende Correctional Facility, Alden, NY  
Community Correctional Center, Osceola, AR  
Donovan Correctional Facility, San Diego, CA  
Perry County Sheriff's Dept., New Augusta, MS  
Eastern Correctional Institution, Westover, MD  
Worcester County Corrections, West Boylston, MA  
Black Hawk County Sheriff's Dept., Waterloo, ID

## *God Has a Positive Answer*

You Say: I'm too tired.

God says: *I will give you rest*  
(Matthew 11:28-30)

You Say: I can't go on.

God says: *My grace is sufficient*  
(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You Say: I can't figure things out.

God says: *I will direct your steps*  
(Prov. 3:5-6)

You Say: I can't forgive myself.

God says: *I forgive you*  
(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)

You Say: I'm always worried and frustrated.

God says: *Cast all your cares on Me*  
(I Peter 5:7)