

PRAISE News

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Blessings Not Curses



By Merlin Carothers

The following principle may be a little difficult to understand, but once understood it can release us from a multitude of burdens.

Remember the old song, “Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there”? Much of the time our “burden” is someone with whom we are associated. We want God to change that person, to make them “fit in” with us and our plans. But no matter how much we want that transformation, it often does not happen.

Here is something we *can* do. If we release that person to the Lord, we invite Him to do the work. In a way, God becomes our agent! But it is often extremely difficult for us to do the releasing part. And sometimes our efforts are half-hearted.

God is very clear about what He wants us to do with all our problems. He says, ***Cast all your care upon Him; for He careth for you*** (I Peter 5:7). Christ’s gift to us is His willingness to carry our burdens. He does not offer to solve the problems that we insist on carrying ourselves. So, if we are burdened about someone, it may mean that we are still trying to make changes by our own efforts.

This is true whether we love, fear or dislike the person who has become a problem to us. If our minds keep dwelling upon someone’s faults, we may delay those needed changes. We often feel that we are responsible to “do something,” but if we do not know anything constructive that we could do, we often resort to our old friend, “Worry.”

Every individual in your life is a God-given opportunity. They may seem to be exactly the opposite, but ***since it is possible, why not permit God to make them a blessing to you?*** If we feel helpless to change those who irritate us, God has provided us a perfect opportunity to trust Him rather than our own resources.

David is a striking example. He didn’t know what to do about Saul, so David turned to God to do whatever needed to be done. Although he had sufficient reasons and opportunities to kill Saul, David would not do so. Saul rewarded David’s goodness toward him by trying to murder him. Saul sometimes wanted David to be his friend, but within a short time he would try to kill him. God rewarded David’s patient trust in Him eventually making him the most powerful and influential man in his world.

We all have, or will have, a Saul in our lives. Our Saul may praise us today and hate us tomorrow. We need to remember that God permitted Saul to rule and reign over Israel until David had completed his time of testing.

As David was tested, you and I are to be tested. If we fail one test, we will need others, and others ... God is persistent. He is determined to do whatever is necessary to help us become what He wants us to be. Hebrews 5:8 says, ***Though He was a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered.*** Like it or not, suffering often helps us to become more like Jesus.

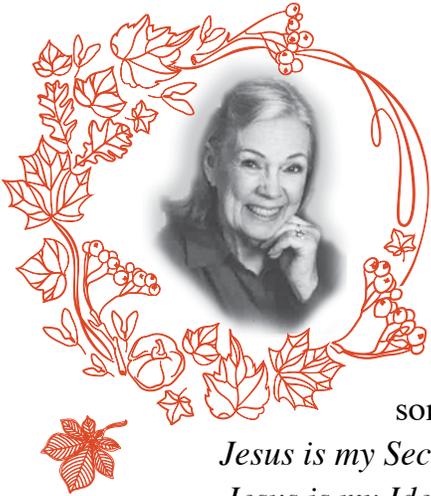
You may know who your Saul is. If you don’t, cheer up, they will come along in due time. When they do, don’t be discouraged if you struggle with your emotions and with your faith. The more difficult our situation the greater our victory can be! Jesus was God’s ultimate illustration of how He can take every circumstance and every person and ***make them work for our good.***

(Reprint from October 1996)

Identity



By Mary Carothers



I remember visiting a church when I heard this song. The words went something like this:

Jesus is my Security

Jesus is my Identity

Jesus is my Everything.



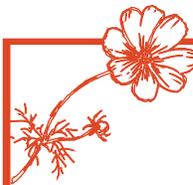
How the Father longs for these words to be a reality in the hearts and lives of His blood-bought children. To feel that our security rests in our finances, our health, another person or anything other than Jesus, is to have built our life on shifting sand (see Matthew 7:26). Why is this? God tells us in the Bible that riches take wings and fly away (see Proverbs 23:5). As for putting our sense of security in a person ... Job learned that he could not depend on either his wife or his best friends to help him. Proverbs 3:5 exhorts us to trust in the Lord with *all* our heart. There is only One who never changes, will never die, and will never, never leave us. His name is Jesus.

How about your identity? Do you see yourself only as someone's parent? Or child? What about your husband or wife? Is your identity only in your relationship with them? Politics is in the news a lot these days. Is your identity tied up in one of the political parties? Is it in your career? Or is it perhaps wrapped up in the doctrines of your church?

There is so much emphasis today being placed on racial and ethnic backgrounds. What is important is for Christians to understand and to know – *really* know – that we are children of the Great King! We have been adopted by Almighty God! We are only travelers – temporarily passing through this world – on our way to our *true* home, Heaven. We are each a part of the body of Christ. We are brothers and sisters because of Jesus our Lord. All other sources of our identity are as a passing fad. Here, for a moment of time, and then gone – forever.

Have you ever heard the expression “Blood is thicker than water”? It means that blood relationships are stronger than other friendships. Because Jesus shed His Blood to pay for our sins and to make it possible for us to be adopted, we are blood brothers and sisters in *God's eternal family*. And He has no favorites (see Deut. 10:17, Acts 10:34).

I urge you to identify yourself forever – with Jesus. The Lord yearns over you, longing to be your security, your identity, your everything. In Him is where your identity and your security should rest, for all eternity.



I am always so blessed by those of you who took the time to send me a Birthday Card last month. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! *Mary*

SHOP AT AMAZON SMILE ~

Just a reminder that with your purchases on Amazon, they will make a donation to the *Foundation of Praise*. To get started, enter this link into your browser <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7448019> or go to Smile.Amazon.com and type in *Foundation of Praise*. You will be able to create your own link that will automatically donate to the *Foundation of Praise* every time you order. Pennies can turn into dollars and we will continue to spread the message of Praise!



Facebook

Please check out our new Facebook page at

[facebook.com/foundationofpraise](https://www.facebook.com/foundationofpraise).

We are excited about reaching many new people with the message of praise and we thank you for your support to help us continue with this mission! God bless you.



Praise Works!

I want to thank you for the wonderful book, *Bringing Heaven into Hell*. It touched my heart. Even though Merlin has been gone for many years, his books are still touching people's hearts.

JEFFREY, TARRANT COUNTY JAIL, TX

I am reading *Secret Sins* and it is truly a great book. I am in prison for things that I am not proud of, but this book is awesome and has helped me see the Lord in a whole new way. **RANDY, ROCKVIEW CORRECTIONS, FL**

Your powerful words in *God's Secret Weapon* have lifted me from discouragement to a new understanding of the Lord Jesus and His love for me.

JARED, LEWIS & CLARK DETENTION, MT

I read *From Fear to Faith*, and it has really opened my eyes on how to let my faith operate, and not my fear. I feel so empowered, and I want to thank you.

TERRANCE, CLARK COUNTY CORRECTIONS, NV

Keep up the good work of teaching the value of praise. Merlin's books have helped me immensely many times in my life. God bless you. **LaVila, CO**

I'm writing to let you know that *Power in Praise* helped me so much and has changed my life! I did not know how to praise God but now I can thank Him for my life just the way it is.

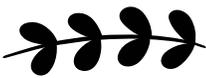
TIMOTHY, FLORENCE PENITENTIARY, AZ

Thank you for the *Praise News*. It is always a blessing! I have been changing the way I pray. Instead of asking God for something that I need – I changed my prayers by saying, "Thank you Father for meeting this need" and He does!

GLENDIA, GA

I have been so blessed and encouraged by Merlin and Mary's articles in the *Praise News* for many years. I appreciate your ministry and wanted to show my support. God bless all of you!

JOYCE, FL


happy
Thanksgiving


November 24, 2022 we celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

**Honoring All Veterans!
Thank You!**



11 NOVEMBER

VETERANS DAY

The Foundation of Praise has received gifts

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Rev. Ron Maixner
By his sister-in-law
Magdalen Nelson
of Plymouth, MN

Thomas Garbett
By Janie M. Gorman
of Graham, WA

**Antonia Rivera
Jack Garcia**
By their daughter
Helen Wells
of Hanford, CA

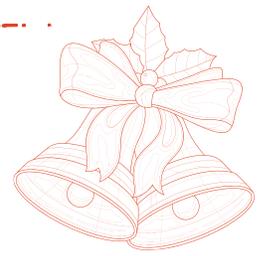
IN HONOR OF

**The Foundation
of Praise Staff**
Mary, Sally, Terri & Joann
"Thank you for
carrying on"
By Marilyn Bethel
of Pompano Beach, FL

As we approach the ninth year of Merlin's passing, we are so thankful for all of your faithful and generous support. While we still continue to miss him and his joyful smile, we are blessed that because of your trust in us we can continue to share the message of praise, thanksgiving and salvation to many, many people. Thank you!



Christmas Specials

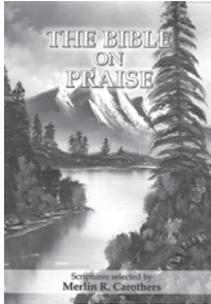


The Bible on Praise

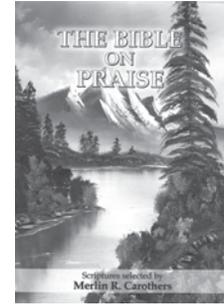
When Merlin searched for Bible verses that spoke to him of giving praise to God, he was surprised that there were so many in both the Old and New Testaments.

The more he read and meditated on them, the greater his joy became.

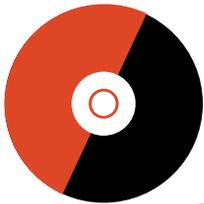
This little booklet of sixteen pages will truly bless those who read it.



- Buy 1 copy for \$6.50 including shipping
- Buy 2 copies for \$9 including shipping
- Buy 5 copies for \$17.50 including shipping
- Buy 10 copies for \$29.50 including shipping
- Buy 25 copies for \$67.50 including shipping



This year, instead of sending out greeting cards, write your message on the inside cover of the **Bible on Praise** where it will be enjoyed by friends and family. God's own words will be read over and over by those to whom you send this booklet. The front cover was painted by Merlin and mailing envelopes are included.



Buy One - Get One Free

When you buy one item from the enclosed order form you will receive a second one, of equal or lesser value, **FREE**. This includes the books, CD's, and DVD (the tracts are not included with this offer). You can choose as many items as you want, then select your second item of equal value free. Shipping is not included on this offer. To determine your shipping cost please see the enclosed order form.



For credit card orders please call 1-800-PRAISE (1-800-772-4731).

Shipping applies to one U.S. address.

For additional information please call (760) 741-2755.

These offers will expire on December 31, 2022.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Year-end contributions to the **Foundation of Praise**, per the IRS, must be mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2022 to receive credit as a 2022 tax-deductible gift.

