

# PRAISE News

March 2023

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## Accepting Forgiveness



By Merlin Carothers

One of our worst problems *before* we become a Christian was not recognizing that sin stirs God's anger. One of our worst problems *after* becoming a Christian, is not receiving God's forgiveness.

Are you often discouraged about your sins and failures? You may be suffering needlessly.

Some of us are blessed to have had someone who prayed fervently that we would become a Christian. We are born again today because of that heritage.

But *all* of us have another blessing. *Jesus prayed for us!*

He said, *I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given me, for they are Yours. My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message* (John 17:9, 20).

When we feel condemned, helpless, forsaken, discouraged, weak in our faith or even like a complete failure, we should turn to Hebrews 9:24: *Christ ...entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.*

Satan is able to sometimes deceive us that his accusations are coming from God. He is even able to go into God's presence to accuse us! Revelation 12:10 says, *The accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.*

We may be one hundred percent guilty of all the accusations that Satan thrusts into our minds. But he *always* omits one crucial fact – *that Jesus has purchased our forgiveness.*

Think of it. Jesus is *always* in God's presence and every time an accurate accusation comes to God about you, Jesus prays for your forgiveness. He says,

*Father, they believe in, trust in, and rely on Me.*

God's response is, *Son, you purchased them.*

*Therefore, I forgive them.*

That thought causes something within me to leap for joy. We have been forgiven of so much. For eternity we will thank Jesus for all He

has done for us. But why wait? God wants us to trust in Christ's power now. Every time we see any weakness or failure in our lives, we can immediately declare our faith in Christ.

Whenever you are tempted to feel discouraged about your own failures, shout to God: "Thank You for what Your Son has done for me. His blood cleanses my guilt. I do not deserve Him, but I love Him." Heaven will echo with shouts of joy.

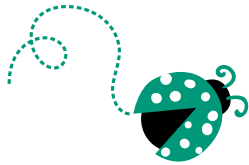
Of course, we must be sensitive to the times when the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin. But we need to learn how to recognize His voice and not be tricked by Satan.

God's grace is the marvelous Good News that Jesus came to give us. If we ignore that Good News, we miss our opportunity to give honor and praise to Him. We are going to always come short of God's holy perfection. But we come under the protection of the Redeemer.

Yes, we often suffer the natural consequences of disobedience, but when we receive God's forgiveness, we will not suffer His anger. I urge you to receive that forgiveness and rejoice in His forgiveness!

(Reprint from September 1996)





# Self-Control



By Mary Carothers



Ugh! Who wants to read about self-control! For that matter, who wants to write about it!

My carnal nature (the sin nature we all have inherited from Adam and Eve) immediately said, “No Way!” My carnal nature wants to do and to have whatever it wants, whenever it wants.

But, to my surprise, I felt my spirit rise up and say, “Yes!” Our spirit is where Jesus promised in John 14:23 that He and our Heavenly Father would come and live in us.

When I say self-control, I don’t mean the “stiff upper lip” sort of thing. I’m talking about the kind of self-control that the Holy Spirit will cause to grow in our spirits.

The first scripture I turned to was Galatians 5:22-23. Self-control is listed there as a fruit of the Holy Spirit, part of the nature of our Lord. The next verse I found was Ephesians 5:1, where we are told to imitate God (His nature, including His self-control) just as beloved children want to imitate their fathers.

Remember when Jesus urged His disciples to watch and pray just before He was arrested? He went on to say, *the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak* (Matthew 26:41). Jesus meant that as far as spiritual things go, our spirits are generally willing but not naturally strong. Our spirits – like our bodies – have to exercise to become strong (see I Timothy 4:7-8).

If we want to become skilled in anything – from playing the piano to developing self-control we must practice, practice, practice. No athlete can reach any level of success unless he or she is willing to train, train, train.

Because Jesus lives in us, His nature – including His self-control – is in our spirit. How can we practice letting self-control grow? When we are tempted to become impatient, or angry, or to feel sorry for ourselves, we can ask Jesus, “Lord, if You were here in my place, how would You react?” Then try to react as we believe Jesus would. That’s imitating our Heavenly Father as Ephesians 5:1 tells us to.

Ephesians 3:20 tells us that God can do so much more in us and for us than we can even imagine – by His power that is at work within each of us. God wants us to grow in self-control (see II Peter 1:5-7) and He will use *His* mighty power to help us.

Do you feel that you are so weak spiritually that you just can’t imagine yourself ever being strong in the Lord? In II Corinthians 12:9 God tells us that His power is most effective in weak people. His power that is in us works best when we admit, *that in our own strength*, we can do nothing. Proverbs 28:25-26 tells us that only a fool trusts in himself, but whoever trusts in the Lord will prosper.

We could say that we have “inherited” the potential for self-control from our Heavenly Father. It’s there in our spirits, already developed to some degree, waiting for the opportunity to continue growing. So be of good cheer! If God is for us – and He is – we are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us with an everlasting love!



## The Foundation of Praise *has received gifts*

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

### IN HONOR OF:

**Betty Jewell**  
By her daughter  
Susan McDaniel  
of Las Cruces, NM

**Dick McGee**  
By Tom &  
Margi Meis  
of Eleva, WI

**Thomas Jay**  
By his wife,  
Deborah  
of Jacksonville, TX

**Merlin R. Carothers**  
By Patricia  
Anderson  
of Toledo, OH

**Mary Carothers**  
By Patricia  
Anderson  
of Toledo, OH

# There is Power in PRAISE



I received *Power in Praise* wrapped in an old copy of the *Praise News*. I carefully unwrapped it so I could read the message from January 2005, *Enjoying Wonderful Things!* Thank you for sending this and I can't wait to give the books to people as God leads me. May the Lord continue to bless the *Foundation of Praise*.

GEORGENE, PA

I gave a copy of *Power in Praise* to a young friend, she read it, and took it to heart and told me in astonishment, "I've not been trusting the Lord!" Another always anxious friend, read the book and called to tell me, "I've prayed and prayed all these years ... but I've never praised Him!" Thank you for your praise-worthy work.

Randa, CO



Kindle Readers Reviews of *Power in Praise!*

*Power in Praise* is one of my favorite books. Thanking God for everything became crystal clear. We cannot see the future but we can trust God 100% of the time when we give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.



SHARON

*Power in Praise* was recommended by another author that stated, "Before you read my book you must read *Power in Praise*" and I'm glad I did! This book is life changing. It was like a light bulb going off in my head, page after page. I have put into practice the principles of praising God for all things, and it works!

NATALIE

I have to say *Power in Praise* nailed it! I absorbed it as I read one section at a time instead of reading the book straight through. I have taken "praise" to heart.

NORMA

*Power in Praise* will change your perspective on the difficult things in your life!

BL

I've read *Power in Praise* many times and each time it has helped me to praise God even in the most difficult of times.

MARILYNN

## COMING NEXT MONTH PRISON TO PRAISE BULK PRICE OFFER!



We will be repeating the bulk price offer of *Prison to Praise* in the April *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.



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

Bryan County Jail, Durant, OK  
County Jail, Santa Barbara, CA  
Pettis County Jail, Sedalia, MO  
Autry State Prison, Pelham, GA  
Parish Corrections, Lafayette, LA  
Correctional Facility, South Bay, FL  
JMJ Ministry for Jesus, La Harpe, IL  
Refuge Ministries, Chillicothe, MO  
Correctional Institute, Century, FL  
Bexar County Jail, San Antonio, TX  
County Detention Center, Sumter, SC  
Correctional Institute, London, OH  
Cumberland County Jail, Bridgeton, NJ  
Eastern Regional Unit, Martinsburg, WV  
Warren Correctional Institute, Manson, NC  
Pleasant Valley State Prison, Coalinga, CA  
Federal Correctional Institute, Jesup, GA  
Federal Medical Center, Fort Worth, TX  
Correctional Facility, Virginia Beach, VA  
Carteret Correctional Center, Newport, NC  
Mark Luttrell Transition Center, Memphis, TN  
Comanche County Detention Center, Lawton, OK  
Ramsey County Detention Center, Saint Paul, MN  
Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, Lake Charles, LA  
Wateree River Correctional Institute, Rembert, SC  
Bledsoe County Correctional Complex, Pikeville, TN





# ACT NOW!



If your father were a billionaire, he could make business opportunities for you that may seem impossible. If he were a Hollywood film director or producer he could introduce you to most of the stars and even to a movie career. If he were the President of the United States, he could open many opportunities to you.

But your Heavenly Father has already given you the opportunity to open the doors of Heaven to ten people, one hundred or even thousands! If you say, *Not me. I'm too old, or I don't have the talent*, you would be wrong. You could give one book to a man or woman whom God would empower to win multitudes to Christ. In Heaven you could see a record of what YOU had accomplished for Him!

Act on this possibility. At a very low cost you can get that copy of *Power in Praise* that God could use to win that person to Christ. With many copies you can greatly increase the potential of what God will do through you. But act now before you get too busy or even forget!



## Power in Praise

We hope you will take advantage of this *Power in Praise* reduced price.

Order your copies today and ask God to guide you to those who need to hear the message there is in the power of praise!

Book Quantity	Price Per Book	Retail Cost	USPS Shipping	Your Total Cost
5	\$3.25	\$45.00	\$4.95	\$21.20
10	\$2.75	\$90.00	\$6.25	\$33.75
25	\$2.25	\$225.00	\$11.00	\$67.25
50	\$1.70	\$450.00	\$19.50	\$104.50
100	\$1.40	\$900.00	\$39.00	\$179.00

These are "Not for Resale" copies and this special does not apply to the Giant Print or Spanish versions of *Power in Praise*. This offer is available through the month of March - while supplies last! For credit card orders call 1-800-PRAISE1 (1-800-772-4731). Shipping applies to one U.S. address.

Please call (760)741-2755 for foreign rates or for additional shipping information.

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THIS OFFER EXPIRES ON March 31, 2023. LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE.