

# PRAISE News

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## Instructions for a Happy Life



By Merlin Carothers

Everything Jesus said is a divine command, but much of His teaching is also practical advice! He said, in John 14:1, *Let not your heart be troubled.* This is a command, but it is also a way for us to enjoy life and to avoid trouble.

I confess that loud music has often “troubled” me. It hurts my ears and makes me want to escape. Recently I was sitting outdoors reading an interesting book. Suddenly I was aware that someone was playing loud music. Somehow, I knew that music had been playing for some time before I became aware of it. Once it had my attention, I couldn’t enjoy the book. All I could think of was the loud, annoying music.

Instead of becoming a victim of my own troubled mind, I determined to forget the music and go back to enjoying the book. At first it seemed impossible, but I persisted in my efforts to concentrate on the book rather than on the music.

Some time later, I realized that I had been reading for about a half-hour without hearing the music. But the music was still blasting away!

Jesus knows that God has given each of us the ability to overcome many of life’s annoyances. In some situations, we can simply turn off our senses of hearing or seeing offending annoyances. Many times, the situation is far too serious for this, and we need power from God to keep our hearts at peace. Paul learned to be thankful for everything and thereby was able to destroy any power that tried to

make him unhappy. Jesus wants us to know that creatures made in God’s image have the natural ability to “turn off” many of the memories of evil things that people have done or are doing to us. We can turn off worries about the future. We can immerse ourselves in praise to God and become so absorbed in trusting Him that we are no longer subject to the suffering that other people are forced to endure.

What “troubles” have you been experiencing that God wants to help you end? His command – His offer – is to end all troubled hearts. I’m in favor of accepting His offer.

If people seem to be causing you stress, remember God’s command – His recommendation for happy living. He may permit people to continue doing “their thing,” but He will also help us to shut out their ability to trouble us.

When I was sitting outdoors reading that book, I wasn’t able to relax as long as I was listening to the music. The offending noise dominated my attention as long as I thought about it. But once my attention was controlled by other thoughts, the music lost its power.

Offending people, or situations, lose their power over us once we learn to center our thoughts on something better. Praise to God can often be that something else. We become absorbed in believing that He is using all situations to bless us. But if we continue to think about the unpleasant aspects of life, they will continue to control us.

(Reprint from November 1989)





## Fellowship with God



By Mary Carothers

God is love, the Bible tells us so. I have experienced it in my own personal life, and Jesus proves it! Yet, have you ever felt that God was maybe a little bit hard on Adam and Eve when he drove them out of the Garden of Eden? After all, we might reason, eating a piece of fruit wasn't *that* bad a sin!

When the angels rebelled against God, they became eternally separated from Him. Calvary and God's forgiveness are not for them (see Hebrews 2:16). Only to mankind is the opportunity given for repentance and restoration.

Remember in Genesis 3 when God would come in the cool of the day to fellowship with Adam and Eve? God longed for fellowship with them, and He still longs for fellowship with us today. Christ

died not only to impart forgiveness for our sins, but that we might ultimately be restored to fellowship with God. With our spirits reborn, we now have a measure of fellowship with our Lord (see John 3:3). But our bodies are still sinful, as Paul tells us in Romans 7:22,23.

Would you want to live forever with a redeemed spirit, but in a sinful body? Not me! I want to exchange this sinful, mortal body for my immortal body (see I Cor. 15:53). That can only happen when this mortal body is put off. And that can only happen when I die. If God in His loving wisdom had not forced Adam and Eve out of the Garden and away from the Tree of Life, we might have lived forever in our sinful state – and in broken fellowship with God!

**I'm so thankful that God loves us with a perfect love, aren't you?**

Memorial Unit, Rosharon, TX  
County Jail, Saint Louis, MO  
Autry State Prison, Pelham, GA  
Lincoln County Jail, Libby, MT  
Lewis County Jail, Chehalis, WA  
Sheriff's Office, Bentonville, AR  
Health Care Facility, Stockton, CA  
Bradley County Jail, Cleveland, TN  
Correctional Facility, Rockville, IN  
Finney County Jail, Garden City, KS  
Women's Facility, Chowchilla, CA  
Eastern Regional Jail, Martinsburg, WV  
Marquette Branch Prison, Marquette, MI  
Tyger River Correctional Inst., Enoree, SC  
Marshall County Sheriff's Dept., Madill, OK  
Osceola County Corrections, Kissimmee, FL  
Rufus H. Duncan Geriatric Facility, Diboll, TX  
Belmont Correctional Inst., Saint Clairsville, OH  
Jefferson Parish Correctional Center, Gretna, LA  
Mission Creek Correctional for Women, Belfair, WA

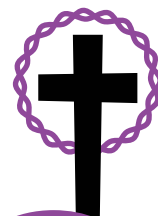


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*Have a Blessed Easter! He is Risen!*





# Prison to Praise Reports



I have been purchasing *Prison to Praise* for several years now and giving them away. I am so thankful to God that you offer them at a price we can afford. I know there will be people in Heaven, thanking Merlin, knowing that his book is the reason they chose to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

JIMMY, GA

I came across *Prison to Praise* while reading a book by Catherine Marshall. I love Merlin's teachings, and the praise is starting to flow! My faith is deepening, and my life is changing, and I'm so thankful.

SPARTI, NC

Thank you so much for your faithfulness. Being very young when I first read *Prison to Praise* it didn't all come to me at once. But over the years it has proven the truth of his message. God bless.

JEANNE, LA

One of the women inmates received Jesus after reading *Prison to Praise*. She is now a part of the worship team and praising the Lord.

CHAPLAIN, CITY JAIL, GA

I read *Prison to Praise*, and it really ministered to my heart. I never thought that a small little book could hold so much truth and power! I have surrendered my life to Jesus, and even though I'm in a dark place surrounded by evil – He has been faithful and lifted my spirit. Because of your book I have a new understanding of worship and praise.

JEHU, COUNTY JAIL, CA

While in the prison "hole" I asked the guard if they could bring me something to read. The guard brought me a Bible and *Prison to Praise*. I truly believe that this was a blessing from God. I read your book, accepted the Lord Jesus and am reading the Bible now too. I have put my faith and trust in the Lord, and I thank you very much.

MICHAEL, CORRECTIONAL CENTER, TN

The inmates have really appreciated the book *Prison to Praise*. It has been a positive influence within the jail. What a challenging word, to praise God in all situations.

CHAPLAIN, COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, WA



## The Foundation of Praise

has received gifts IN LOVING MEMORY OF:



Joshua Lewis

By his mother  
Toni Lewis  
of Newman, GA

Sam & Helen Mooradian

By Don Lupro  
of Murrieta, CA

Robert Van Hise

By Roberta Vopatek  
of Oceanside, CA

Merlin R. Carothers

By Karen Rogers  
of Hathorne, MA

*The Lord said to Gideon: With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the other men go, each to his own place* (Judges 7:7).

Gideon found 32,000 men to help Israel fight a war. God decreased the number to only 300 and then worked through this small number to accomplish great things. You may think your donation to the Foundation of Praise is too small to accomplish anything important, but God will take your gift and accomplish great things for His Kingdom. Preacher Vance Havner said, "Christians, like snowflakes, are frail, but when they stick together, they can stop traffic."



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## Looking for an Opportunity to Serve the Lord?

You can begin by paying attention to places where people have little to do but wait. Places like doctors and dentists offices, hospitals, waiting rooms, airports, and train and bus stations.

You can give them a copy of *Prison to Praise* or leave it there for the next person. Please pray and ask the Lord to guide you to those who need to hear the Good News of the Gospel. God will bless your efforts to share the message of praise with others.

OVER 210 WEEKS NATIONAL BEST-SELLER



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**Go into all the World and preach the Good News to every creature (Mark 16:15 NKJ).**

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25	1.05	\$125	\$8	\$34.25
10	1.25	\$50	\$6	\$18.50

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

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