

PRAISE News

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TRUST IN GOD'S BANK



By Merlin Carothers

How big do your problems seem? Problems you once had might have been overwhelming, but now have slipped into the no-problem category. Time, age, or various changes may have dissolved them. Right now your attention is on the present problems.

Are you aware that God wants us to see **all** our problems from the “future perspective?” In 1, 10 or 100 years, how important will that problem be?

The absolute truth is that all problems – for Christians who trust God – work for our good. One day we will clearly see that. For today, God asks us to trust and rely on Him. If we worry over our problems, we can actually cause God to delay the solutions! If you doubt that, meditate on all the problems that people in the Bible had when they refused to trust God. His promises are made to those who **believe in** Him.

Just as we no longer worry or fret over the problems we once had, we can now make a choice to no longer cling to our current problems. What happens then? God immediately goes to work – working for our good.

It's a little like money you may be fortunate enough to have in the bank. You don't have it in your possession. Why? You put it in the bank so it will work for you. If you put it under your mattress it wouldn't be accomplishing anything for you.

And besides, you would probably worry about someone stealing it!

Problems are somewhat the same. If we cling to them, they will work against us. But God has invited us to put them in “His Bank.” When we are bold enough to trust Him, He takes them and uses them for our good.

We do have to be bold to place our trust in God. Our mind seems to always want to cling to every opportunity to worry about everything. That is the self-destructive part of our fallen human nature.

Jesus came to give us freedom from worry, but we must accept His gift.

Today is a good day to deliver our problems to “God's Bank.” He guarantees their safety through the security of His Son. His Word says in Ephesians 5:20:

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus.

God offers us freedom from worry and fear, and He wants us to accept His offer. Accepting His proposal requires more faith than it does to trust our money to a bank. We can't see God's promised safekeeping, and He doesn't send us monthly statements. He asks us to trust Him until the day He reveals Himself to us in all His glory.

Fill out your “deposit slip,” place it in God's Bank and rely on His faithfulness. His “interest rate” on confidence in Him is phenomenal!

(Reprint from June 1995)



WHO'S IN CONTROL?



*The whole world
is under the
control of
the evil one*

(I John 5:19).



A Christian friend quoted this to me in great disgust some time ago. Things were not going well for this young man, and he believed the reason was because the enemy controls the world.

I was sorry that he felt this way, but in my spirit, I knew that he didn't understand the whole plan of God.

When the Bible says *the whole world is under the control of the evil one* it is not referring to Christians. We have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and brought into God's kingdom of light, the kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13).

Some people teach that when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden, they abdicated their position of authority that God had given them over the earth and that Satan then became the god of this world. While I will not argue that point, we must understand that the enemy's authority is very definitely under the power and control of Almighty God. In Daniel 5:21 we are told that Nebuchadnezzar had to learn that the Most High God rules and is sovereign over the kingdoms of men.

We must also understand that God, speaking through the Psalmist, tells us He has given the earth to mankind (Psalm 115:16). We are to be stewards of this earth and all that is in it (Psalm 8:4-8).

By Mary Carothers

Just as Satan had to get permission from God before he could afflict Job, he cannot touch a child of God without our loving heavenly Father's permission. God allows only the suffering into our lives that He knows can work for our eternal good. We want to be *comfortable*; but God wants us to be *conformed* to the image of Christ.

How do we become like Jesus? In Philippians 3:10, Paul tells us, *I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.* We like the first part. I don't know anyone who really *likes* to suffer. I certainly don't. I wish God had worked things out differently, so life could be all fun and games. But God didn't ask me what I thought! He has something far better in mind for those who belong to Him. We are destined to rule and reign with Jesus – throughout *eternity*!

Paul understood this and was able to say, *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us* (Romans 8:18). Jesus said, *Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows, but cheer up, for I have overcome the world* (John 16:33 TLB).

Who's in control here? God says He is! *When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm* (Psalm 75:3). *God is king of all the earth* (Psalm 47:7). That's who is in control! And that's why we can *give thanks always for all things* – because our loving heavenly Father is in control.





THANK YOU!

What a blessing you have been to me through the years. I appreciate your ministry helping people to be victorious in their walk with the Lord.

CAROL, MO

Thank you for all you do. I rejoice with you when I hear of how your ministry has blessed so many. I continue to keep you in my prayers.

ANNE, IA

Thank you for what you are doing to let people know the importance of thanks and praise to the Lord. He is worthy of all praise, glory, and honor. God bless you.

GRABER, IN

Thank you for the *Praise News*. I enjoy it so much and save them so that I can re-read them when I need a reminder to praise the Lord.

BEV, OK

What a blessing the Foundation of Praise still is. I am of the age to remember when *Prison to Praise* first came out and saw firsthand the positive impact Merlin's books had on the lives of so many people. My life in ministry has been positively impacted by his teachings. God is indeed good.

CHAPLAIN, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, NY

Thank you so much for continuing the work and love of the Foundation of Praise. Your faithfulness helps to keep me going too.

TONNI, AZ

THANK YOU!

Your ministry continues to be outstanding. Thank you for everything you do for others.

IRMA, CA



I want to thank you for *Prison to Praise*. I just finished reading it and it has inspired me to start living a life of praise, starting with my incarceration.

MICHAEL, ALLRED UNIT, TX

Thank you for the generous donation of praise books and the quick turnaround for our request. I know the men here will find comfort and encouragement when they read these books. Your ministry is a valuable tool for helping the inmates to cope with the situations that the prison environment brings.

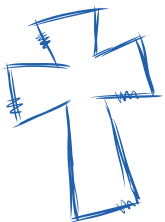
CHAPLAIN, OKEECHOBEE CORRECTIONS, FL

I've been re-reading some previous *Praise News* – what a blessing each day. Merlin and Mary's articles are just so relevant today – God's trust has never changed.

KITTY, WA

Thank you, thank you for *Prison to Praise*. It has changed my life and has made this unfortunate experience bearable.

REC, CARROLL COUNTY JAIL, GA



THE FOUNDATION OF PRAISE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Robert Fogle

Precious Husband

By his wife Mary
of Lewisville, TX

Merlin Carothers

By George & Gwen Dilworth
of Cape May, NJ



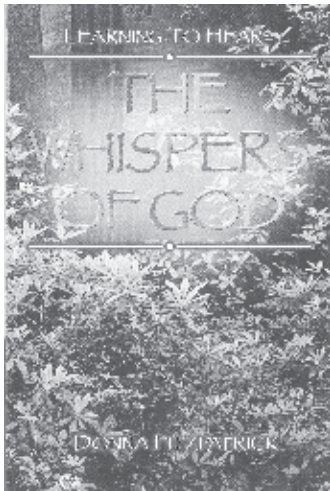
**has received gifts
IN HONOR OF:**

Mary Carothers

By George & Gwen Dilworth
of Cape May, NJ



Our loss is Heaven's gain! Our prayers are with those who loved them.



WHISPERS OF GOD

A friend of the Foundation of Praise has generously donated copies of her book, *The Whispers of God*. This book encourages believers to recognize the quiet touch of God in everyday situations. The pages are bursting with humorous and serious stories that explain how we can learn to hear the whispers of God.

For those who donate a gift of \$15 or more to the Foundation of Praise you will receive a copy of *The Whispers of God*. **To receive your book, please be sure and mention the code *Whispers* with your donation.**

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

Byrd Unit, Huntsville, TX
State Penitentiary, Salem, OR
Correctional Center, Vienna, IL
Correctional Facility, Marcy, NY
Correctional Facility, Florence, AZ
Livesay Correctional Inst., Una, SC
Meherrin River Regional Jail, Alberta, VA
Bernard County Jail, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Lake Erie Correctional Inst., Conneaut, OH
Bill Johnson Correctional Center, Alva, OK
Department of Corrections, Yakima, WA
Northampton County Prison, Easton, PA
Wake County Detention Center, Raleigh, NC
San Joaquin County Jail, French Camp, CA
Ouachita River Correctional Unit, Malvern, AR
Tom Green Detention Facility, San Angelo, TX
Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women, Wetumpka, AL
Yellowstone County Detention Facility, Billings, MT



**HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 18!**

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU!

You are loved. (Jeremiah 31:3)

You are chosen. (John 15:16)

You are special. (Ephesians 2:10)

You are important. (1 Peter 2:9)

You are forgiven. (Psalm 103:12)

You are created in His image. (Genesis 1:27)

