

PRAISE[🌿]News

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Pushing Buttons

By Merlin Carothers

No matter how spiritual we are, we all have “buttons” that can be pushed. They are like a

switch – turned on and off – sometimes without a sound. We often are not aware of just how they are pushed, but we *are* aware of the results. Some people learn what buttons they can push to make us angry, unhappy, or manipulate us to get what they want.

We all have things that we should avoid, places or people that stir up wrong passions or desires, things that cause us to lose needed sleep or . . . the list could go on and on. Certain things cause us to act in ways that are not good for us either physically or spiritually. In other words, we may suffer if we permit the wrong buttons to be pushed.

For example, there are times in the day when I especially want to think about something good to eat – something that might not be best for me. If I think about such tasty items, eventually I will decide it would be okay for me to have just a little – then maybe just a little more – then . . .

That’s the way it is with buttons. If we begin thinking about something that we enjoy doing, we may quickly be persuaded to do it. Satan is a master at button pushing. He did that to Adam and Eve, and it worked. They responded to the suggestion he gave them. He tried the same with Jesus, but Christ would

have none of it. He would not accept Satan’s thoughts whether they came through people He loved or from thoughts that Satan directed His way.

What can we do? What provisions has God provided to help us? We can *learn* how to make it increasingly difficult for things or people to control our thoughts. Jesus set His mind to think only the thoughts that would please His Father.

God tells *us* what to think about, and this is often the solution to many of our problems:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things (Phil. 4:8 NIV).

When we have unhappy, troubled, angry, or resentful thoughts, we can quote this verse and see if our thoughts agree with God’s directions.

We may be thinking of something that is *true* but is it also admirable? Is it pure and excellent? If not, we can turn our thoughts toward things that we know God will use to bless others and ourselves.

Often, I’ve realized that my thoughts were not fitting into God’s plan of what I should be thinking about. When I redirected my thoughts, I sensed joy stirring in my heart.

When I’m happy I think about ways to help others to be happy. I think about you and how I want to help you to have: ***the joy of the Lord (Neh. 8:10 NIV).***
(Reprint from November 2016)





It is Sufficient



By Mary Carothers

God sent Elijah to the brook called Cherith. He did this because there was a drought coming on the land. Elijah was

to drink from the brook and the birds would bring him food each day. Although many others in the land were suffering from the result of the drought, God had made provision for Elijah.

As time went by, Elijah must have been aware that the brook was beginning to dry up. Perhaps he had to scoop out a hollow in order to catch a bit of water to drink. The provision of God was no longer abundant.

But it was sufficient. God's provision for us is always sufficient. We may not live in as nice a place as we would like and our transportation may not be dependable. Perhaps our job is below our ability level. All these things are very humbling. We want a better standard of living; more money in our pockets.

But God's provision is sufficient. As the Apostle Paul said in **I Timothy 6:8**, *If we have food and clothing we will be content with that.* Paul didn't

have a home of his own – not even a room in someone else's home. He certainly didn't have a closet full of clothes, or a pantry full of food.

But God's provision – for Elijah and Paul – was sufficient.

I Kings 17:7 tells us: **Some time later the brook dried up.** Then and only then did the Lord tell Elijah to go to Zarephath in Sidon. Do you think Elijah was anxious as the brook began drying up? Did he worry about what he would do when the water was all gone? Or do you think he trusted God? We really can't know, can we?

What we do know is that God provided. Not abundantly, but sufficiently. He provided a brook for a time, and later He provided a widow to take care of Elijah. And He will provide for His own, those He has purchased with the blood of His Son, Jesus. Sometimes abundantly, sometimes barely. Either way, God wants us to know that His provision is sufficient.

Let's trust Him to know what's best for each of us, at every point in our lives. The Lord alone is our security.



The Foundation of Praise

has received gifts **IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

**Flossie Jordan and
Katherine Spence**

By their son and daughter
Jerold & Sylvia Jordan
of Douglassville, TX

**Merlin Carothers, Dad
and Uncles**

**David "Bert" Carothers
Jerry Carothers**

By Joann Thomas
of Escondido, CA

Gearl D. Koonce

By his wife, Betty
of Georgetown, TX

Dr. Matthew J. Thornton

By Nel Thornton
of Seattle, WA





It's All About Praise!



Thank you so much for the blessing you are, and the precious memory of Merlin! His books have blessed me over and over and I freely give copies to others.
FAITH, PA

I read *You Can Be Happy Now*, and it is heart healing and soul recharging and I have passed it along to the other inmates. We all love it so much.
MANDI, COUNTY JAIL, WA

Thank you for all you do at the *Foundation of Praise*. We love all your praise books and share them with many people. We never get tired of praising the Lord and teaching others about praising God.
JOHN & SUSAN, TX

Merlin's books are helping me to spread the Gospel in a dark and sad world. Everyone wants happiness – and the joy of the Lord – and it's being sought after like never before, and your ministry inspires just that!
LORI, MT

We so appreciate the *Foundation of Praise* and what Merlin's books have done for us.
LINDA & GARY, KS

God bless your ministry and all the souls you have reached around the world.
ALBERT, INDONESIA

I am 86 years old. When I was in my 30's I picked up *Prison to Praise* and read it many times. I still have that copy. Later I read *Power in Praise* and it changed my life. I cannot begin to say how thankful I am for Merlin's books. I appreciate your ministry so much and will always have a special love for Merlin.
DOROTHY, AR

Praise from Kindle Readers

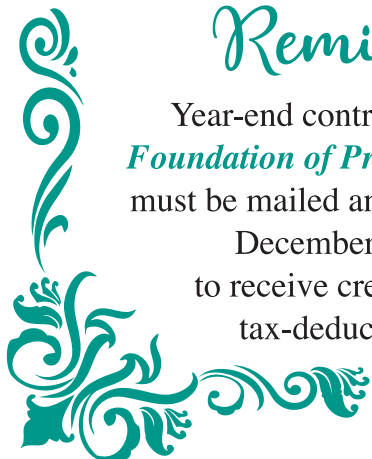
I would urge everyone to read all of Merlin's books and your life will be transformed. You will never know joy like you will once you wholeheartedly follow what God has revealed to him. Mind blowing!

You Can Be Happy Now is a wonderful book, and Merlin convinced me he does what he teaches, and as I practice his lessons, I am definitely happier! I recommend this book to anyone wanting to find more joy and happiness.

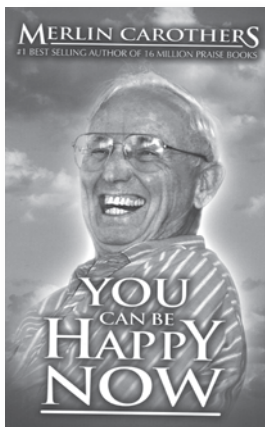
Thank God for all the remarkable books written by Merlin. I would strongly encourage everyone to read all his books ...they have changed my life!

A Friendly Reminder

Year-end contributions to the *Foundation of Praise*, per the IRS, must be mailed and postmarked by December 31, 2023 to receive credit as a 2023 tax-deductible gift.



Thursday, November 23, 2023



Remembering Merlin

To honor the 10th anniversary of Merlin's passing on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2013 we are offering you the choice to buy any book title and receive the book,

***You Can Be Happy Now* FREE!**

Please use the enclosed order form to make your selection and to find your postage costs.

This offer is only available through the month of November.



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

State Prison, Represa, CA
Ferguson Unit, Midway, TX
Delta Regional Unit, Dermott, AR
Correctional Facility, Meridian, MS
State Hospital, Chattahoochee, FL
Montcalm County Jail, Stanton, MI
Jail Ministry for Jesus, LaHarpe, IL
Rockingham Jail, Harrisonburg, VA
Shelby County Jail, Columbiana, AL
Washington County Jail, Machias, ME
Armstrong County Jail, Kittanning, PA
Halawa Correctional Facility, Aiea, HI
Worcester County Jail, Snow Hill, MD
Lee Correctional Institute, Bishopville SC
Correctional Complex, West Liberty, KY
San Juan Detention Facility, Farmington, NM
Madison Correctional Institute, London, OH
Denmar Correctional Center, Hillsboro, WV
Cheshire County Detention Center, Keene, NH
Rivard Juvenile Detention Center, Harvey, LA
Clark County Detention Center, Las Vegas, NV
Deer Ridge Correctional Institute, Madras, OR
Yellowstone County Detention Facility, Billings, MT
Washington County Detention Center, Hagerstown, MD
Midwest Regional Correctional Facility, Ft. Leavenworth, KS
Salvation Army Correctional Services, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Lay Up Treasures

But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy ... (Matthew 6:20 NIV).

What is the greatest treasure we can hope to find in Heaven? What will affect us eternally?

At the top of God's priorities will be what we have done to help another person believe in Jesus as Savior. They will be an eternal example of what we have "laid up in Heaven."

If we can sing, preach, or write books we can use those abilities to lay up treasures in Heaven. But there are ways that anyone can accomplish the same goal!

We can help to lead a person to Christ who can then become a great singer, preacher, or author. Whatever they do will become part of our treasures in Heaven.

But before we will do *anything* to affect our Heavenly treasure, we must have *a desire to do so*. The more intense that desire is the more the Holy Spirit will guide us. A vague desire is not sufficient to lay up the treasure that God is offering us. He sees our desire and responds to what we *really want*. Think of it! God's almighty power is available to anyone who wants to serve Him.