

PRAISE News

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The Impossible



By Merlin Carothers

As I get older, I no longer have the same temptations that I once had. Now I have the “older folks” ones.

Young people are sometimes tempted to think ***I can't do it.*** No matter how qualified they may be they will never do their best if they accept the “I can't do it” attitude.

Each one of us understands the “I can't do it” feeling. We can think “I'm too tired to do anything” or “My body is sick.” Perhaps we feel like “I don't know how to do anything special” or even “I don't have the time!” We are tempted to think of all the reasons why we can't do something that will build God's Kingdom.

Our bodies will become older and slower, but our attitudes need not be controlled by that. God may have designed our latter days to accomplish far more than ever before. We can learn the meaning of, ***Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty – you will succeed because of my Spirit, though you are few and weak*** (Zech. 4:6 TLB).

God is seeking people of any age to accomplish the “impossible.” In one day, we could achieve something that will cause a multitude of people to spend eternity in Heaven!

What should we do? We can meditate on God's Word. We can listen to the Holy Spirit. He will teach us as we learn to listen. The Bible tells us of many

very ordinary men and women through whom God accomplished amazing miracles. Why? ***Because they believed Him!*** We are limited only by our faith.

We know that God has planned for us to be alive today! That helps us believe that God has a mission for us.

Maybe there is a person living near you that is so ungodly that everyone has given up on trying to help them receive Jesus as Savior. God may have brought you to this time and place to bring that person into His family. That person is so valuable in God's eyes that He will reward the one who helps them. There are many hurting people who do not know even one Christian who has tried to tell them about Jesus. You and I can become that one person!

What blessings might God give to the person who causes “impossible” things to happen? Let's not limit our Lord. He is the mighty Creator – nothing is beyond His power! He can do anything through you and me if we are willing for Him to work through us. His blessings are greater than we can even imagine!

We should not listen to the voice that whispers, “You will never be used by God to do great things.” Jesus invites everyone who believes in Him, to accomplish impossible things. He gave us reason to stretch our faith when He said we could move mountains if we believed Him. God will help any one of us do what others do not believe can be done. Paul believed and wrote: ***I can do anything through Christ who strengthens me*** (Phil. 4:13).

(Reprint from May 2009)



Forgiving

By Mary Carothers



Last week I listened as some folks talked about how hard it was to forgive a person who had done something bad to them. It's not too likely that anyone reaches adulthood without having experienced situations where they felt betrayed. Because of this, whether we decide to forgive someone or not, it's important to know what God has to say about it.

Tonight, I read in Matthew 18:21 where Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother. In His response to Peter, Jesus tells a parable about forgiving. A very wealthy king decided it was high time for some folks who owed him money to pay him. He calls in one fellow who owed him a huge amount. When the fellow begs for more time to pay the king, he has compassion for him and even goes so far as to forgive the debt and wipe his slate clean. Imagine how elated that man must have felt! He wouldn't have to go to debtors' prison! He was a free man!

Well, surprise, surprise! Instead of rushing home to share the good news with his family, he wants to do something else. He finds a man who owes him a small amount and demands instant payment. When this other man begs for time to pay him, do you think the recently forgiven man shows compassion and mercy? No. He throws the debtor into prison until he pays his debt – if he ever can.

When the king discovers what has been going on, he calls in the unforgiving man. He rebukes him for not forgiving his fellow man and commands that he be cast into prison – virtually forever.

Now, here is the scary part! Jesus then told His

listeners that God would do the same to us if we don't forgive those who harm us or those we love.

The disciples wanted Jesus to teach them how to pray. He responded with what has come to be called the Lord's prayer, part of which includes "forgive us our sins just as we forgive those who sin against us" (see Matt 6). Jesus then goes on in verses 14 and 15 to say: *For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

Why then, do many of us have a problem with trying to forgive others? It is because we think we must *feel forgiving*. But the act of forgiving someone is an act of our *will*. It has nothing to do with our emotions. We simply determine with our will to forgive someone – because Jesus commands us to. When those feelings of unforgiveness arise – *and they will* – we then need to think of all Jesus has forgiven *us*. This is a great opportunity to begin to thank and praise Jesus for *His* forgiveness.

Thank You, Jesus, for taking God's punishment for my sins. Thank You, Lord for forgiving me and making me your child. I know it was my sins that caused your suffering and death. I love You, God for your great plan of salvation.



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Mary Carothers

By Irma Varnado
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of Cape May, NJ

Praises for *Prison to Praise*



Prison to Praise changed my life. I now understand why I have not been a very effective Christian. Thank you.



GARY, AZ

I first read *Prison to Praise* ten years ago and have since read it many times, along with Merlin's other books. He had such a way of telling his stories that reached my heart and conveyed God's Word in such a meaningful way that continues to strengthen my faith in our Lord. Thank you for continuing his work of spreading the message of praise and the Gospel. I look forward to passing out these books to others. Mary, I always look forward to your faithful and meaningful articles in *Praise News*.

BETTE, MO

Prison to Praise is life changing. I have bought copies to give to family members.

LOREEN, ME

What a joy it has given me to read *Prison to Praise*. I'm not even through reading it (I don't want to put it down) and I'm anxious to read all the other books.

BETH, SD



***God's Secret Weapon* is now available in E-book format.**

We will be adding more titles soon!



We bought a large quantity of *Prison to Praise* to pass out at my husband's funeral. We had lots of books left so I started handing them out with a dollar bill to the homeless, and my son and I always carry copies to hand out on our errands and trips.



MARY ANN, WA

I am incarcerated at the Henrico County Jail and I read *Prison to Praise*. It touched me in a way that words cannot explain. I would love more of your books so that I can continue to grow in the Lord.



MARGARET, PA

I want to express my gratitude to your ministry for your faithful giving of *Prison to Praise* to the Waiawa Correctional Chapel. Our men will grow in the Word thanks to the inspirational messages provided in your books.

CHAPLAIN, HI

Thank you for your ministry and the *Prison to Praise* books. Your Foundation provides supplement and strengthens our ministry to those we serve in the Multnomah Jail.

CHAPLAIN, OR

Thank you for *Prison to Praise*. I know that the men here find comfort and encouragement in these books. Your ministry is a valuable tool for helping these men to cope with the situations that the prison environment brings.

CHAPLAIN, FL



Each Day We Decide

If we tell 10, 100 or even a 1000 people about Jesus, we do not know how many will want to follow Him. The miracle is that some will! Jesus invited people to follow Him – some didn't – but some did, and they eventually gave their lives to tell others what He could do for them.

Each day we decide what we will do to lead people to Christ. Some of them will experience the miracle of a changed life. For the rest of their lives, they too will be leading others to Christ. For as long as the world continues, our influence will be seen in the lives that we have helped to change.

But before any of this happens, we must decide if we will do something that could bring 10, 100 or 1000 people to Christ. One proven way to is to give them a free copy of *Prison to Praise*. How many can you distribute? When you order copies of *Prison to Praise* you are investing in the Kingdom of God.

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.

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

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10	1.75	\$50	\$6.00	\$23.50

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