

PRAISE*News

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Absolutely Impossible



By Merlin Carothers

Unbelievable! How could anyone believe that God would lie? *It is impossible for God to tell a lie* (Hebrews 6:18

they are a marvelous display of His craftsmanship (Psalm 19:1 TLB).

Yes, be exalted, O God, above the heavens. May your glory shine throughout the earth (Psalm 57:11 TLB).

TLB). Why would we even think that it could happen? Perhaps because we are human.

God promises us that He will take everything that happens to us and make it work for our good (see Romans 8:28). That infuriates Satan because God's promise means that He can even take *everything* that Satan does and still make it work for our everlasting good! God proved that He could do so when He took the crucifixion of His Son and made it work for the greatest good to mankind that has ever happened!

If you and I had been standing beneath Jesus' cross, would we have been able to thank God for the sacrifice He was doing, as we now do? Of course not! Because we would not have understood that God would use such evil to give such a great gift to us. Because of Christ's resurrection we can now look at evil and believe it would be impossible for God *not* to use anything and everything for the eternal good of those who love Him and trust Him.

Our God created everything out of nothing. Millions of stars, larger than the earth, came into existence when God told them to appear.

O Lord our God, the majesty and glory of your name fills all the earth and overflows the heavens (Psalm 8:1 TLB).

The heavens are telling the glory of God;



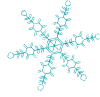
God created a different DNA for every person who has ever lived. Each DNA is too small for us to see but we have learned to believe that it is true. Most of us have not seen millions of stars, yet we have learned to believe that they exist. We *can learn* to believe what seems to be impossible.

God causes bad things to work for our good even if we have not seen Him do so. We can rejoice that so many people have seen God work great good out of terrible evil! Eventually we can believe that God will take any suffering that we have and compel it to forever work for our good! What if Satan causes us to be covered with boils, as He did to Job? God will use it for our good – forever.

God took weak, selfish, sinful people like you and me and declared that if we believed in His Son as our Savior we would live with Him in Heaven forever. He declared that whatever happens to us here on earth He would make it work for our good – forever. What if our faith is so weak that we cannot believe that He will force evil to work for our good? Doesn't matter! He can still force anything and everything to work for our good.

Satan may whisper, "But why has God permitted boils to cover your body? They hurt don't they? If He always works for your good why doesn't He heal you?"

Why didn't Jesus point His... (continued on page 2)



God's Grace



By Mary Carothers

The book of Galatians in the Living Translation is one of my very favorite books of the Bible. Nowhere else does God so clearly show us His

Grace versus our desire to “earn” His blessings.

Some years ago, I sat in a prayer group and listened as a man expounded on the merit of keeping one of God’s laws. He finished by saying, “If we keep this law, God will bless us.” He felt we had to “earn” God’s blessings.

There is within each of us, the desire to feel pride for our “goodness”. “Look at me, God. I kept this law. See how hard I’m working for You, God? Now I deserve to be blessed!”

But we can never earn God’s blessings by keeping the law, or by being good, or by working for Him. God wants to bless us because we trust in His Son Jesus. To Abraham He said, *I will bless those in*

every nation who trust in Me as you do (Galatians 3:9). Paul quotes the prophet Habakkuk and says, *The man who finds life will find it through trusting God* (Vs. 11).

In Galatians, God tells us that if we try to earn God’s blessings and approval by working for Him or being good enough, Christ is useless to us. In fact, Paul says we are lost from God’s grace and mercy (see Galatians 5:4). God forbid that Mary Carothers should ever get what she deserves! I trust Jesus to give me God’s Grace.

When we trust in Jesus to save us, trust in *Him* to be our goodness, then we become God’s children. Everything He has belongs to us; for that is the way God planned it (see Galatians 4:7).

His love is poured out on us, His children.

His grace is extended to us, His children.

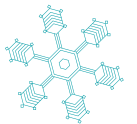
All His power is released for us, His children.

Thank you Lord, that you abundantly give to us, your children, out of the great storehouse of your love and mercy.



Would You Like to Read the Bible Through in 2024?

We will send you a free copy of the Bible Reading Chart upon request. You may also download a copy from our website at www.foundationofpraise.org. We hope you will value it enough to place it in your Bible – and use it daily! *Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God* (Matthew 4:4).



(continued from page 1) finger at the men who beat Him and hung Him on a cross, and tell them to drop dead? He could have done anything He wanted to do, but more than *anything* Jesus wanted to trust God. He wanted God’s Will to be done rather than His own will.

You and I are faced with the same challenge. We don’t have the same strength that Jesus had but we can grow in the strength we do have. *Day by day we can believe that nothing is impossible for God*. He may let us die before we see His mighty power solve our problems. Would that change anything? Jesus was tortured and crucified. He was dead, but He was resurrected just as you and I someday will be resur-

rected! His disciples believed that God would work good for them out of their problems. Therefore, He was able to use them to do more for men and women than any persons who had previously ever lived!

God can use you and me to do – *anything*. Jesus illustrated our power when He said we could cause a mountain to be thrown into the sea. But there is still one thing that God cannot do. He cannot fail to keep His promises!

Why should anyone even think that there is *anything* that God could not use for our good? Let’s believe that we can help many, many people learn to believe Him.

(Reprint from January 2010)



Words of Praise and Thanks

Your ministry of praise is such a blessing to me. I'm delighted to partner with you as you share the Gospel with so many. My prayer is that God will continue to provide wisdom and strength as you carry on with this ministry.

ANNE, IA

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your donation of books to our county jail. Providing inspirational reading to our inmates is an important part of our efforts to support them. The message of choosing to have a positive attitude, even in difficult circumstances, is a powerful one. **Sheriff, Jackson County, IN**

Thank you for the blessings I receive each month when my *Praise News* arrives. **JODEE, CA**

jesus faith
saint life
mighty light
good bible
saint religion
angel love
life bible
bible bible
angel christ
saint book
christ god son
mighty holy
light son
peace son
book catholic
love faith
light good
mighty love
christ love
saint love
book life
love life
jesus good
good peace
book almighty
angels heaven
christ angel
worship book
light religious
christianity light
worship religious
christian religious
christ

Thank you for blessing the inmates with your books. May the Lord continue to use you and your ministry.

CHAPLAIN, FRACKVILLE
CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTE, PA

Your book *Prison to Praise* was given to me as a gift by my Secret Sister at church. It came at a crucial time, and it has encouraged me in my Christian walk. **LouElla, IA**

I love *Praise News* and Merlin's books. God bless you all for doing God's work. **KEN, VT**

Thank you for "going" into prisons with your books. We appreciate it so much. **MIKE, TX**

Thank you so much for the books you sent to us. We will distribute them wisely as led by the Lord. We truly thank God for your ministry and for being a blessing to people all over the world.

CALEB & MONIKA
LIBERIA

God is good all the time! Thank you for the uplifting articles in the *Praise News*. **CYNTHIA, TX**

I want to thank you for keeping the *Foundation of Praise* going. I'm sure the work can get tedious but be encouraged because all of us out here who have grown in the Lord through Merlin's books are very grateful. **MARTHA JANE, CO**

I've just finished reading *Prison to Praise* and so much of it felt like God was speaking directly to my heart. I would love to read any other books you can send. **FAITH, REGIONAL JAIL, VA**

I read *Prison to Praise* while waiting for my sentencing in jail and have accepted the Lord as my Savior. This book meant so much to me and it has changed my life in many ways. **PATRICK, WV**

The Foundation of Praise
has received gifts

In Loving Memory of:

Merlin R. Carothers

By Mitch & Annette Johnson
of Springfield, IL

Catherine A. Wardell

By her husband Weston
of Wilmington, DE

Edward & Claudia Collins

By Barbara Ann Cason
of Evansville, IN

In Honor of:

Mary Carothers

By Mitch & Annette Johnson
of Springfield, IL

HAPPY new 2024 YEAR

What God Says About You!

You are loved. (Jeremiah 31:3)

You are unique. (Psalm 139:13)

You are precious. (1 Corinthians 6:20)

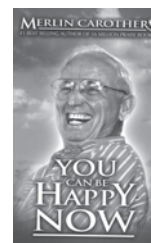
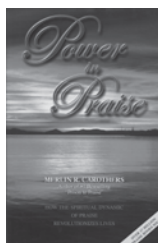
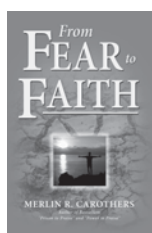
You are cared for. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

You are empowered. (Philippians 4:13)

You are a new creation. (II Corinthians 5:17)

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

Halbert Unit, Burnet, TX
County Prison, Lancaster, PA
Riley County Jail, Manhattan, KS
Lake County Jail, Waukegan, IL
Detention Center, High Point, NC
Hawaii State Hospital, Kaneohe, HI
Henrico Regional Jail, Barhamsville, VA
Federal Correctional Center, Mendota, CA
Mohawk Correctional Facility, Rome, NY
Lee Correctional Institute, Bishopville, SC
Santa Rose Correctional Institute, Milton, FL
Jefferson Parish Correctional Center, Gretna, LA
Mesa County Detention Center, Grand Junction, CO
Reception & Classification Center, Baltimore, MD
Chickasaw County Correctional Facility, Houston, MS
Macomb Correctional Facility, Lenox Township, MI



New Titles on eBooks!

Power in Praise ~ Bringing Heaven into Hell ~ From Fear to Faith

You Can Be Happy Now ~ God's Secret Weapon ~ Amazing Power of Faith

We have recently added more eBook titles for easy access on your iPad, Kindle, or other tablets.

You can find these on the Amazon Kindle store, or go to www.foundationofpraise.org
and you can get all of our eBook titles for \$1 less on our website!



COMING NEXT MONTH

PRISON TO PRAISE BULK PRICE OFFER!

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

