

PRAISE News

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Recently I heard the testimony of a man, a new convert, who was striving to live a godly life, but was wrestling with his ungodly past. He had spent much of his fifty-five years in drinking, swearing and in immorality. Although God had forgiven him, he wrestled with his past. Old profane words kept shoving their way into his mind, and he saw ugly pictures of things he had done.

As the new Christian talked, I realized how much he needed to renew his mind. He needed to continually praise God's name in order to blot out the old curse words. He needed to concentrate on fellowship with his new Father so that old cravings would lose their influence on his mind.

While I meditated on this man's testimony, I realized how much all of us need to renew our minds. We need to concentrate on learning how to please God rather than ourselves. Hundreds of times each day we must resist the old patterns of thinking about our own desires.

We want God's will, sort of, but we often switch back into our old self-centered ways of thinking. Instead, let us pray, "Father, I want **Your** will done in my life. What do You want me to do?" As we learn to concentrate on this simple prayer, His will becomes clearer to us. But if we **occasionally** seek His will, we only **occasionally** know His will.

The practical way to do this is to begin each day in fellowship with Him by praise, prayer, and study of His Word. The more time we give to that fellowship

We Just Can't Lose

By Merlin Carothers

the more likely we are to desire His will. Throughout the day we can renew our minds by thinking about His Words. We can use hundreds of daily events as an opportunity to fellowship with Him. Every incident, everything we see and hear, and every problem is an open door to commune with God. Even our mistakes can be used to bring us closer to our Father! How? Romans 8:28 says, ***And we know that all things work together for good to those that love God...*** We can learn to ***know it!***

Let's praise the Lord with every breath! Let us use every joy, every sorrow, every sickness, every problem, and every apparent defeat, as an opportunity to have a heart that says, ***My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities (that is, my human frailties) that the power of Christ may rest upon me*** (2 Corinthians 12:9). When we have this attitude, every apparent failure becomes a positive victory! Satan loses all influence over our feelings, for we are victorious in ***everything*** that happens!

Consider the fact that even Jesus learned obedience from the things that He suffered (see Hebrews 5:8). We too must suffer if we are going to learn to be victorious, but our suffering is wasted if we do not learn how to turn our problems into victories. ***Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*** (I Corinthians 15:57).

If you have been suffering because of financial, marital, physical, or emotional problems, let this moment be the beginning of a new life in Christ. He earned the right to carry our burdens! Cast all your cares on Him; for He cares for you (see I Peter 5:7). He wants us to be free of burdens so we can be active in doing God's will. Our service to Him will

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Storms

By Mary Carothers



Luke 8 tells us about Jesus and His disciples crossing the lake in their boat.

While Jesus slept, a storm swept down on them so violently that the boat was being swamped.

Verse 23 tells us... *they were in great danger.*

When they woke Jesus,

pleading with Him to save them, they were not over-reacting. Their fear was legitimate. They truly were in danger of drowning. Except for the one important fact: Jesus was with them, and He was completely in control of the storm.

What was Jesus' reaction when He awoke and saw the storm? Did He jump ship, thinking only of the importance of His ministry? Of course not. Nor does He jump ship when we encounter storms in our lives. Just as He was in control of that storm long ago, He is equally in control of the storms that come our way today. He has promised to always be with us, to never forsake us.

One thing we need to remember about storms: they don't last forever; it just seems that way! Paul tells us in II Corinthians 4:17 that our troubles are light and momentary when we compare them to the eternal glory that far outweighs them all. It will help us to have a truer perspective of our storms if we can view them from that vantage point of eternity.

Another truth about the storms in our lives: Satan uses them to try to wear us down, to wear us out. We need to remember that Jesus, living in us is far greater

than Satan, who is in the world (see I John 4:4). Jesus has all power and authority in this world. And He's on our side!

When the disciples were in the middle of the storm, they couldn't tell which way to go. They did not know whether they were still on the right course, or if they were turned around, heading back the wrong way. They had lost their sense of direction. Storms in our lives tend to do the same to us. It's very easy to become confused and overwhelmed by our circumstances, to lose our sense of direction. Like the disciples, we need to cry out to Jesus. We need to *fix our eyes on Jesus* (Hebrews 12:2). He has not only planted the seed of faith in each of us; He will also cause it to take root and grow as we fix our attention on Him. Then the peace of God will rule in our hearts (see Colossians 3:15).

When Jesus was here, He had power to calm the storm. Today, He has ALL power and authority. He can change our circumstances (calm the storm) or He can do the even greater miracle of changing our attitude toward our circumstances. Let's cooperate with Jesus by trusting Him to take us through the storms in our lives. Let's keep our attention on Christ, asking Him what He wants us to learn in each particular storm. Like King Jehoshaphat in II Chronicles 20 we need to tell the Lord "We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You." When the Israelites began to praise the Lord, He confounded the enemy and destroyed them. When we praise the Lord, He will surely confound the enemy of our souls, and carry us through the storms of our lives.

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(continued from page 1) bring joy and eternal life to others. Then Christ will rule and reign in their hearts! What a goal He has given us!

Believe that He takes *everything* and makes it work *for your* good. The moment you believe that you will feel a burden roll off your heart and you will be eager to know God's will. If you have unusually severe problems, their severity increases the potential for

God to use them for *great* good! If your own problems are not that severe, then let God use you to help people who *do* have big problems. As good is worked in their lives, you too will be blessed! No matter what situation we are in, we just cannot lose if we are determined to believe that God will use everything for our good!

(Reprint from March 1992)

The Foundation of Praise



HAS RECEIVED GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

Mary Carothers
By George & Gwen
Dilworth
of Cape May, NJ

Ron Whisler, Husband
Margaret, Mother
By Ann Whisler
of Oldsmar, FL

John L. Robuck
Cindy Jones
Eunice Farber
By Betty Koonce
of Georgetown, TX

**Merlin &
Mary Carothers**
By Don Lupro
of Murrieta, CA

By Rick & Lauree Morgan
of Terrell, TX

Dave Dreier
By his wife Donna
of Oceanside, CA



By Charlene Wardlow
of Sacramento, CA

By Christina Metzger
of Tomahawk, WI

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

By John & Doris Theurer
of Palmyra, PA

Praise the Lord in All Things

I am drinking in every word of *Power in Praise* and I am so blessed. **JEAN, VA**

Power in Praise should be a must read for everyone! We all have problems and can often feel depressed by the circumstances. This book puts life's difficulties in a much better perspective by seeing it from God's point of view. It is very liberating, it will either change the difficulties, your perspective of them, your heart and mind, or all of them. **BILL, E-MAIL**

Thank you so very much for the books you sent. This is wonderful and they are so helpful. We love sharing God's message of love and salvation with the inmates, seniors and youth. **PASTOR, NEW DIRECTIONS MINISTRY, MI**



Thank You!

I was so sorry to learn of Mary's passing, though happy that I have such happy memories of Merlin and Mary. Thanks again for the *Praise News*. **FAITH, TX**

I was so sorry to learn of Mary's passing, though happy that she is with her Savior. Merlin and Mary were a great gift to us all, and still are. Thank you and God bless you for continuing the ministry. **EUGENE, IL**

So thankful for all you do to keep the message of Jesus' love and the joy of knowing God is working everything for good. Now Merlin and Mary will be cheering you on from the Heavenly realm. **LISA & MIKE, NV**

Thank you so much for the praise books you sent us. We cannot even come close enough to express our love and thankfulness. You gave freely and abundantly from your heart. **CHAPLAIN, RUTHERFORD CORRECTIONAL, NC**

I just read *Power in Praise* and *From Fear to Faith*. They both made me weep openly and praise God with joy! I am learning that God is working for my good even right here in jail. **JOHN, COUNTY JAIL, ID**

Power in Praise is a very encouraging book with many wonderful stories of the Lord's bounty backed up with relevant quotes from the Bible. **MAZ, UNITED KINGDOM**

I read *Power in Praise* and I feel like it saved my life. **ROBERT, CLARK COUNTY DETENTION, NV**

I praise God for Merlin and Mary. **SANDRA, NC**

Our sympathy and prayers for all of you in the loss of Mary. God will carry on what He started, "His will be done." **LAUREE AND RICK, TX**

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of Mary. **NANCY, NY**

We would like to thank everyone for their phone calls, cards, words of encouragement, and most importantly your prayers in memory of Mary's passing. We are all blessed by your thoughtfulness and may God bless you all.

Mercer County Jail, Aledo, IL
 County Jail Annex, El Paso, TX
 Kern Valley State Prison, Delano, CA
 Correctional Facility, Graceville, FL
 Correctional Institution, Orofino, ID
 Correctional Institute, Collegeville, PA
 Foothills Correction, Morganton, NC
 Montana State Prison, Deer Lodge, MT
 Correctional Complex, Anchorage, AK
 Florida State Hospital, Chattahoochee, FL
 Service Processing Center, Florence, AZ
 Department of Criminal Justice, Dallas, TX

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

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 Northwest ICE Processing Center, Tacoma, WA
 Lee Correctional Institution, Bishopville, SC
 Jackson Parish Sheriff's Office, Jonesboro, LA
 Immigration Processing Center, Karnes City, TX
 Cibola County Correctional Center, Milan, NM
 Mid-State Correctional Facility, Wrightstown, NJ
 Charles E. Egeler Reception Facility, Jackson, MI
 Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Wilsonville, OR
 Charles B. Webster Detention Center, Augusta, GA
 Western Correctional Center for Women, Black Mtn, NC

Power in Praise



JUNE 16

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