

PRAISE News

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Are You Losing Time?



By Merlin Carothers

There have been days when I wasted hours of my life and didn't think very much about it – time I could have learned important things as I served my Savior. Our human flesh is strongly and powerfully tempted to waste not only hours but an *entire lifetime*. How often we hear someone say, "It's something to do to pass the time." Time is wasted by the minute. Once we are comfortable in wasting minutes, we go on to wasting hours. Eventually we may look back over a wasted life and wonder where all the time has gone.

As I look back over my life there has been time well spent. In those times God used my obedience and brought souls into His Kingdom. But the time I wasted is lost. I can't regain it. My heart would burst with sorrow over the souls that were lost, if it were not for my understanding of the power of praise. If I believe God, He will take my wasted hours and use them for some good. A miracle that only *He* can do! He will work this miracle if I now serve Him with all of my heart.

Every hour of our time is highly valuable to God. Jesus died to give us eternal life, *and also to redeem our time here on earth*. Paul taught us to spend our days as though we are in a race and want to win; not time in a race to waste precious minutes. That's how serious God is about His business. *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord* (I Corinthians 15:58).

Jesus said, *I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest* (John 4:35). *As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work* (John 9:4). *My Father will honor the one who serves*

me (John 12:26). *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples* (John 15:8). Christians often emphasize verse 7: *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatsoever you wish, and it will be given you.*

Now, I strive to use each moment of each day to accomplish something worthwhile. When Mary and I go for a relaxing walk, we use that time to refresh our spirits. While we walk, I sing praises to God, and pray for our ministry, or for people in the homes we pass, or I rejoice that I am able to walk. When traveling by car, I used to spend my time listening to the news. Now I sing, rejoice, and pray. If we are striving to use each hour of each day for God's glory, there are things we should not do with our time. I urge you to consider your own life. Don't waste time! If you have "spare time," find ways to grow in spiritual wisdom. Then share what you learn with your family, neighbors, friends, and with anyone your words or deeds may influence.

We are engaged in a spiritual battle! God needs us – young and old! Jesus said, *The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few* (Matthew 9:37). Many people came to hear Jesus speak, but few were willing to work. (This is still true today!) The harvest He wants is people snatched out of Satan's grasp. To do this work for God we must plan, prepare and be ready for the slightest opportunity that He gives us. He says in Colossians 4:5, *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity*. He promises us great rewards both in this world and throughout eternity if we do something to bring that "outsider" to accept His Son.

Wasted time will not bring one soul to Christ, but a minute well spent will give us eternal rewards!



(Reprint from February 1991)



Obedience and Freedom



By Mary Carothers

How important is obedience? In the case of our dog Thor, I would say it is pretty important. Where we live there is a law requiring dogs

to be confined in their yards or on a leash (under control). The dogs we see being walked are always on a leash, because their owners have no control over them. But Merlin and I have trained our dog to come on command and to heel. Because he is obedient, he gets to do all the things that dogs like to do... such as sniff all around and in general check things out. When we take him for walks, we always carry the leash, yet rarely need to use it. Thor's obedience allows him the freedom he enjoys.

When our children were growing up and, in their teens, some of them were obedient and trustworthy. These children rarely had their privileges revoked. We gave them a great deal of leeway in making decisions, going places, and doing fun things with friends. We also had some children who were less obedient. They were more easily led astray, and therefore had more restrictions... and less freedom. There was one son who seemed to attract trouble. It's hard to remember when he wasn't in hot water, and therefore on restriction. He had a rebellious attitude, resenting all authority. Consequently, he had the least amount of freedom. I'd say obedience in a family is important, too.

In I Samuel 15, King Saul disobeyed God. When confronted with his sin, he tried to excuse himself by

explaining why he had done so. But God was not deceived, and at that time rejected Saul as king. Although Saul continued as king for some years, the Spirit of God departed from him, leaving him vulnerable to a tormenting spirit. Does that seem harsh to you? Saul had been given absolute power in his nation. In Luke 12:48 Jesus said, *...from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*

Our nation was built on godly principles. For most of its two hundred years, its leaders have been men of strong moral values. As long as our country has honored God, walking in obedience to His Word, He has given us abundantly of His blessings. Today, however, we see a turning away from God's Word. How many of the laws in our country completely ignore what God has clearly said in the Bible? If we continue to turn away from the Lord, He has no choice but to turn away from us... removing His blessing and His Spirit from our nation.

However, all is not lost! There is still time to repent and turn away from those things that do not honor the Lord. I urge you to search the Bible to find what is required of those who claim the name of Christ. We are His children; if we want to live in freedom and with His blessings, we must walk in obedience to His commands. Because He loves with an unconditional, everlasting love, it's not difficult to obey Him... He wants only what is best for us! What a wonderful Lord we have. Let's determine to begin walking in obedience today, that we may receive His blessings!

(Reprint from January 1991)



The Foundation of Praise



HAS RECEIVED GIFTS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Leroy Schneider

By his nephew
Greg Pietz
of Chico, CA



Catherine Wardell

By her husband Wes
of Wilmington, DE



Kim Shelton

By Fran Shelton
of Winchester, VA



Lolah Nolan

By her brother and
sister-in-law
Bob & Marilyn Nolan
of Corcoran, CA

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





The Power of Praise



I love all of Merlin's books, but *Power in Praise* carries the greatest power within its pages.

DOROTHY, TN

I was given a copy of *Power in Praise* and I thought this is just "another one of those books" written by a minister. After only reading a few sentences, I loved everything about the message of praise working in my life.

BRIAN, REHAB FACILITY, TN

I read *Power in Praise* and it changed my life and I am giving God all the praise for it.

JAMIE, CORRECTIONAL CENTER, AK

Kindle Readers Share the Power

Power in Praise impacted my life in so many ways and after decades of being lost I have found a new journey in Christ.

CHRISTOPHER, CORRECTIONAL COMPLEX, AK

Power in Praise is one of my favorite books. It is an amazing story of how God directs our lives even when we do not have a clue that He is calling all the shots and always for our own good.

My husband and I teach an adult education class and give the students a copy of *Power in Praise* at the end of the last class. We received this message from a recent student.

JODI, NM

We attended our last class and the following weekend my husband passed away suddenly. I have been devastated by his death and the book on praise has helped me in many ways. Thank you and God bless.

LORRAINE

Power in Praise is so readable as it keeps your attention with well written spiritually positive stories of how God works through faith. God used this book to keep me from ending my life as I accepted His plan of salvation.

I love *Power in Praise*. Very eye opening as to how we can manage the bad things that happen in our lives that seem to be for no reasons.

*When you enter His presence with Praise,
He enters your circumstances with Power.*

The Good Samaritan

The Ministry of the Good Samaritan was not glamorous. But he was selected by Jesus as an example of what He wanted us to be. Jesus could have praised those who created great works of art or beautiful buildings. He could have praised the authors or physicians. Instead, he chose a man who helped someone no one else wanted to help.

Most men and women in prison have been so battered, broken and beaten down by evil that few people want to help. Less than one percent of all Christian giving is used to bring spiritual deliverance to those in prison. If you lead someone to Christ whom others ignore, I believe you will be commended by our Lord and Savior.

Your prayers are urgently needed for those who have lost their homes and loved ones in the devastating fires in Los Angeles last month. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they strive to rebuild their lives.

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise.
(Hebrews 10:23)



Act Now!

If your father were a billionaire, he could make business opportunities for you that now seem impossible. If he were a Hollywood film director or producer he could introduce you to most of the stars and even to a movie career. If he were the President of the United States, he could open many opportunities to you.

But your Heavenly Father has already given you the opportunity to open the doors of Heaven to ten people, one hundred or even thousands! If you say, *Not me. I'm too old, or I don't have the talent*, you would be wrong. You could give one book to a man or woman whom God would empower to win multitudes to Christ. In Heaven you could see a record of what YOU had accomplished for Him!

Act on this possibility. At a very low cost you can get that copy of *Power in Praise* that God could use to win that person to Christ. With many copies you can greatly increase the potential of what God will do through you. But act now before you get too busy or even forget!

Power in Praise

We hope you will take advantage of this *Power in Praise* reduced price. Order your copies today and ask God to guide you to those who need to hear the message there is in the power of praise!

Book Quantity	Price Per Book	Retail Cost	USPS Shipping	Your Total Cost
5	\$3.25	\$45.00	\$6.25	\$22.50
10	\$2.75	\$90.00	\$7.75	\$35.25
25	\$2.25	\$225.00	\$13.00	\$69.25
50	\$1.70	\$450.00	\$22.00	\$107.00
100	\$1.40	\$900.00	\$44.00	\$184.00

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