



PRAISE News

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If I Can't Have it... I'll be Unhappy



By Merlin Carothers



Our minds may tell us that, for us to be happy, we must have a certain food or drink, watch our favorite television shows, be with a certain person or travel to distant places. But when we are controlled by our physical desires, we often lose the joy of living as a spiritual being. God has given us the capacity to receive happiness through His Spirit. The human spirit can learn to respond to the Holy Spirit! *The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit came to be our comforter. We can learn to receive His comfort.*

Many activities are not harmful in themselves but become harmful when they control us. If life's circumstances deprive us of something that other people enjoy, are we therefore bound to be unhappy? Certainly not! God has given us the ability to always rejoice and be glad. What we need is to learn how to receive His gifts.

Jesus said that He came to give us life, and that we might have more abundant life. This abundant life is controlled by His Spirit, not by our circumstances. The more that I allow Him to control my thoughts the better I feel.

Jesus put it this way, *Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you* (I John 2:15). This verse needs to be lifted out of the abstract and brought into our everyday living. Love not (those things withheld from you) for they

are part of this world.

We should not say to ourselves, "I'm not unhappy," when, in fact, we are unhappy.

Our statement would be rejecting what we know to be fact, and that accomplishes very little. What we need to learn is how to step in to our rightful inheritance in Christ. We can repeat to ourselves one hundred or more times a day, *The joy of the Lord is working in me! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation* (Habakkuk 3:18). *Leap for joy: for behold your reward is great* (Luke 6:23). *Be glad with exceeding joy* (I Peter 4:13). *My soul shall be joyful in my God* (Isaiah 61:10). *Let them that love Thy name be joyful* (Psalm 5:11).

The list of scriptural references to joy goes on and on. I'm gradually learning to step into God's promise of joy - His promise to everyone who will believe Him.

For now, we live and move and have our being *in Him* (see Acts 17:28). Because of Jesus, Earth is a place for God's children to rejoice. As we learn to willingly and gladly become a part of God's plan for this Earth, His spirit fulfills His mission here on earth. He comforts us with a joy that those without Christ do not have or understand.



(Reprint from February 1990)



How to Receive Forgiveness

By Mary Carothers

Forgiveness is one of the most important precepts of Christianity. Our very salvation is purchased for us by the forgiveness of God – through the precious blood of Christ (see Hebrews 9:22). If Jesus had not shed His blood on Calvary, then how could God have forgiven us our sins? And without His forgiveness, we can never hope to come into His presence, for He is Holy. There would be no hope for us at all.

Thank goodness we have a loving, patient, forgiving God! How blessed we are that He *wants* to forgive us! Because of Calvary, ALL our sins are forgiven – past, present, and future. I John 1:7 tells us how we can daily be cleansed of our sins.

However, there is something we must do to remain under the protection of His forgiveness - *we must forgive others*. When Jesus taught His disciples the Lord’s prayer, one of the petitions was for forgiveness on the basis of having forgiven others. He went on to say in Matthew 6:14-15 *For if you forgive... your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions*.

In Mark 11:25-26 *Jesus tells us, When you stand praying forgive if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father who is in Heaven will forgive you. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions*.

Not long ago a friend of mind told me of something her mother had done when she was a young child. The

manner in which she told me, the expression on her face, and her tone of voice all indicated that she had never faced the need to forgive her mother. How tragic! She has spent nearly 55 years resenting her mother. This resentment has blinded her to her need to forgive others.

Jesus told the story in Matthew 18:23-35 of the two debtors. The King – who is our Heavenly Father – forgave one man his very great debt. He, in turn, refused to forgive a fellowman a small debt. When the King became aware of his unforgiving attitude, He cast him away from His presence. Verse 35 says, *So shall My Heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother (or mother, father, sister, friend, etc.) from your heart*.

It is necessary that we learn to forgive others. We may need to cry out to the Lord to help us do this. He understands our weaknesses. He is always ready to heal our wounded hearts, and to give us the grace necessary to do His will to forgive. If we harbor any unforgiveness in our hearts, it is imperative that we cast ourselves on Jesus, that we plead with Him to help us to cast off the old unforgiving nature. He will never turn away from us when we are truly contrite. He will help us to “put off” the old carnal nature and to “put on” the nature of Christ.

(Reprint from February 1990)



The Foundation of Praise has received gifts in MEMORY OF

Mike Phillips

By former employer of Mondovi, WI

Mary Carothers

By Christina Metzger of Tomahawk, WI

Ruth Goddard, Aunt
Angel Baker, Niece

Harry Sweet, Nephew-in-law
Ron Benjamin, Brother-in-law
Evelyn Fox, Aunt-in-law

By Shirley Gabbard of Amelia, OH

Toots & Jan

By Arne Erickson of Castle Hayne, NC

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





Prison to Praise Reports



Prison to Praise has changed my life. I wake up praising God for all the jail time I've done, and it has led me to the Lord.
SHAYNE, DETENTION CENTER, MN

Prison to Praise has helped a lot. My views on thankfulness have truly been changed. I now can appreciate that the good and bad that comes my way is okay because God has a plan.
DANIEL, U.S. PENITENTIARY, AZ


I first read *Prison to Praise* 55 years ago, and I can't believe that it has been that many years ago. I always have copies on hand to give out whenever I know it will help someone who is going through a rough time. It has helped me many times throughout the years to focus on being thankful to the Lord. God bless your ministry.

CATHY, OH



How do we Reach More People with the Good News?

Every person reading this has the potential to share the Good News with many people. How can you get *Prison to Praise* to those who have never read it? Pray and ask God to show you the pathway to those who need to hear His message. Together we will do far more than we could ever do as one!



U.S. Penitentiary, Tucson, AZ
Dyer County Jail, Dyersburg, TN
DeKalb County Jail, Auburn, IN
SW Regional Jail, Haysi, VA
Ferguson Unit, Midway, TX
Central Jail, San Diego, CA
CLI Prison Alliance, Raleigh, NC
Correctional Center, Anchorage, AK
Correctional Facility, El Dorado, KS
Sherburne County Jail, Elk River, MN
Jail Ministry for Jesus, Hamilton, IL
DeSoto Correctional Institute, Arcadia, FL
Fremont Correctional Facility, Canon City, CO
White River Correctional Center, Batesville, AR
Clark County Detention Center, Las Vegas, NV

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

Kindle Readers Praise

Prison to Praise is a quick and easy read. It's a great story and you can definitely see the hand of God's in his life! I did struggle with his theology of thanking God for all things (see 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). He became a chaplain in the military and his practice of teaching us to be thankful for the many challenges we face, such as divorce, husband being an alcoholic, etc., was something I am not accustomed to hearing. Yet the testimonies he shared in the book are amazing and powerful!

Prison to Praise is a powerful, engaging story, with many examples of miracles that are incredible. An easy read, which has a good pace. Inspiring and energizing.

Prison to Praise is such a wonderful book! It very clearly explains the why and how— with many examples and good results. It's a journey to follow daily for true happiness and good health! I highly recommend it to everyone who can read it slowly and apply it to life one situation at a time. Enjoy! I do!

Carothers explains in *Prison to Praise* how he came to realize the importance of praising God regardless of circumstances. He encourages others to do the same. This book is one of the most impactful books I've ever read, and I love this book.



HE
IS
RISEN



Have a Lovely Easter
Sunday, April 5th





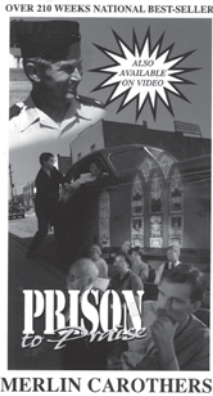
Prison to Praise Special



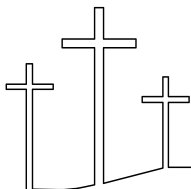
Sow And You Will Reap!

The farmer doesn't know which grain of wheat will grow and multiply for an abundant harvest. We sow many copies of *Prison to Praise* by giving them to people, believing that they too will be blessed, and want to share with others. However, we don't always know which book will produce an abundant harvest. One reader was so blessed that he brought a trailer to the Foundation and purchased 10,000 copies to give away to bless others! We hope you'll want to take advantage of this month's bulk price special of *Prison to Praise* so that you too can share and bless others!

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (II Corinthians 9:6)



BOOK QUANTITY	PRICE PER BOOK	TOTAL RETAIL VALUE	USPS SHIPPING	YOUR TOTAL COST
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100	1.00	\$500	\$23.00	\$123.00
50	1.25	\$250	\$13.50	\$76.00
25	1.50	\$125	\$10.00	\$47.50
10	1.75	\$50	\$9.00	\$26.50



These are "Not for Resale" copies and this special does not apply to the Giant Print or Spanish versions of *Prison to Praise*. This offer is available through the month of May - while supplies last! For credit card orders call 1-800-PRAISE1 (1-800-772-4731). Shipping applies to one U.S. address.

Please call (760)741-2755 for foreign rates or for additional shipping information.



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