



PRAISE News

May, 2026

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I Wish I Could... By Merlin Carothers

I read a book that was an exquisite piece of art. The author delved into physics, chemistry, philosophy, history, painting, mathematics, and poetry in a masterful and delicate way. His vocabulary, sentence structure, composition and elegance of style were all marks of a master. Throughout the book I repeatedly thought to myself, *I wish I could write like that!* Eventually I had a check in my spirit and realized that my envy was wrong.

What is it that I want to accomplish in this life? Excellence in writing? Superior knowledge? The greatest events of my life have been those times when God communicated a message to me. His intervention in my life has given me greater joy than anything I could have ever accomplished by my own efforts.

If you are looking for goals to set for your life, I heartily recommend that you pray for increased fellowship with our Creator. Everything within us longs to reach out to Him. Every cell seeks to know what He wants us to be.

I can give no magical formula as to how to establish communion with God but there are scriptural guidelines I try to follow. The Bible tells us that God inhabits the praise of His people (see Psalm 22:3). He lives in that which is filled with praise. Our hearts are filled with praise as we learn to believe He is working good in us (see Romans 8:28). Faith causes praise to flow into our hearts hundreds of times every day. Every thought, every experience, and everything that touches our lives becomes an opportunity to fill our hearts with praise.

Within this heart of praise God increases His habitation. Eventually He opens new lines of communication. We may shout 1,000 times, "God! Speak to me. Speak to me!" We may hear only the echo of our own words,

for God chooses the method and the time in which He communicates with us.

You may be immersed in a tragedy that seems to be drawing life's joy out of your soul when suddenly a great stillness fills your heart. You hear a voice within that says, "Peace, be still." The tumult within is gone. You may find yourself looking all around you to see where He is. You may have bashed your head against a problem until in agony you are forced to say, "OK, God, I give up. You will take my ignorance and work it for good." Seemingly, out of nowhere the complete solution to the problem floods your mind and you know God has accomplished in you what you could not do for yourself.

But perhaps on a balmy afternoon, when you have no serious problems, and you are strolling along among beautiful trees and flowers, you hear His voice. You aren't seeking special solutions but rather are reveling in God's goodness. He chooses that moment to give you an overpowering, all-awareness of how much He loves you. Why then, and not earlier when you were struggling with some painful agony? Perhaps you first had to be tested by the problem.

So often we cry out to God in anger or resentment that He isn't helping us to solve some problem. After all, isn't that the way we are accustomed to getting other people's attention? If they respond to our anger, why shouldn't God? We must learn that God responds to our faith in the midst of our praise. Because every one of us longs for communion with God. *(Reprint from June 1998)*





God's Peace

By Mary Carothers



Did you know that every New Testament letter begins by bestowing God's peace on the readers? Remember when the angels announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds? Their message was peace from God to all mankind. After His resurrection Jesus appeared to His disciples when they were hiding in fear (definitely not at peace!) His first words? *Peace be with you.* In John 14:27 TLB Jesus had told His disciples, *I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart.* The Amplified version says, *Peace I leave with you; my own peace I now give and bequeath to you.* Again, in Philippians four, we are told that God's peace will keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Does God want us to be at peace? No matter what is going on in our lives? I believe He does. And if He does, He must somehow have made it available to us.

We understand that on the cross Jesus made forgiveness of sins available to us by shedding His blood. This was foretold in Isaiah 53, seven-hundred years before Jesus came. We may not have realized that this same chapter tells us that the Messiah would also make His peace available to us. *The chastisement needful to obtain peace and well-being for us was upon Him* – (verse 5 The Amplified Bible).

I believe that Jesus made His peace available to us by shedding His blood in Gethsemane. Luke 22:44 makes this clear *and being in an agony of mind He prayed the more earnestly and intently; and his sweat became like great clots of blood dropping down upon the ground.* Why was Jesus in such agony of mind? He who was without sin was about to become sin. He was about to drink the bitter cup of

all the sins of all mankind to its bitter dregs. His pure and sinless soul shrank from the horrible prospect of enduring God's anger against our sins. Jesus had always obeyed the Father. They had shared unbroken fellowship. But this too would come to an end when He would cry out, *My God, My God why have you forsaken me?*

Hadn't God promised to never forsake His own? In Psalm 27:10 He even promised us that in the unlikely event our mother and father should forsake us, He never would. So why did He forsake Jesus? God is holy and cannot look upon sin. Knowing this, Jesus was in great mental stress and agony of soul in Gethsemane, as He realized what He was about to endure.

Jesus took upon Himself our sins so that we could receive His righteousness. He also took upon Himself our anxieties, fears, despair, and mental anguish so that we could receive His peace of mind.

Does this seem impossible to you? Dearly beloved of the Lord, what seems impossible to man is possible with God. Reach out to Him today. Ask Him to give you peace of mind – His peace that is beyond our human understanding. Jesus is right now interceding for you before the Father. Our heavenly Father is ever ready to meet all our needs through Jesus, who loves us and willingly gave Himself up for us.

(Reprint from June 1997)

The Foundation of Praise has received gifts

IN MEMORY OF

David Matthew Lutz

By his parents John & Patricia
of Langhorne, PA

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

IN HONOR OF

Margaret E. Roth, Mother

Cody J. Roth, Nephew

By Brenda Roth
of Trenton, IL



Sunday, May 10th





Words of Praise and Thanks

I'm sure you receive many, many letters sharing how *Prison to Praise* changed their life. Well, I'm one more that can say it truly, changed my life. There have been days I have wanted to end my life and was very close to doing it when I picked up Merlin's book in the chapel library. I am seeing and feeling real changes and I am passing your books around to the other inmates. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.
JUSTIN, DETENTION FACILITY, CO

Oh, my goodness, your books are amazing! I love praising God even though some people think I'm crazy. The more I praise Jesus the greater things become.
CARLSON, MN

Thank you for all you are doing to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. I am so thankful that you are continuing with this much needed ministry.
KITTY, WA

Thank you for the *Praise News* and continuation of Merlin's ministry. I am enjoying re-reading the articles which he wrote with such sincerity and his words are needed even more during these difficult times.
EILEEN, SC

I am forever grateful for Merlin and Mary's articles in the *Praise News*. I look forward to meeting them in Heaven one day.
VICKI, OK

Many years ago, Merlin's books truly helped me to change my way of thinking and praising the Lord. Many blessings to you.
JOYCE, WI

Many men and women have been touched and saved after reading *Prison to Praise*. To God be the glory.
CHAPLAIN, COUNTY JAIL, GA

God's Word has the Answers for you:
How to love others – 1 Corinthians 13 For greater opportunities – Isaiah 55
Trust God for our provisions – Psalm 37 When you leave home for travel – Psalm 121
God's pathway to a holy life – Colossians 3:12-17

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

- Regional Jail, Haysi, VA
- State Hospital, Patton, CA
- Detention Center, Henderson, NV
- County Jail Annex, El Paso, TX
- Chemung County Jail, Elmira, NY
- Correctional Facility, Graceville, FL
- Bartow County Jail, Cartersville, GA
- Booneville County Jail, Idaho Falls, ID
- Correctional Facility, Branchville, IN
- Shawnee County Detentions, Topeka, KS
- Butte County Sheriff's Office, Oroville, CA
- Garden State Youth Corrections, Crosswicks, NJ
- White River Correctional Center, Batesville, AR
- South Central Correctional Facility, Clifton, TN
- Anvil Mountain Correctional Center, Nome, AK
- South Mississippi Correctional Institute, Leakesville, MS



National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 7th
Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.
(I Chronicles 16:24)

We glorify God as we seek Him and call upon His holy Name.





MEMORIAL DAY



Monday, May 25th commemorates the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces, including those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. The purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the service people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. **NOTE:** Some veterans find it dismaying when they are thanked on this day, considering that it is a day to remember those who lost their lives. We might consider how we can support and safeguard grieving families and loved ones who are left behind. It is also a good time to reflect on why we, the living, have the luxuries and freedoms that we enjoy today.

Prison to Praise Bulk Price Special

BOOK QUANTITY	PRICE PER BOOK	TOTAL RETAIL VALUE	USPS SHIPPING	YOUR TOTAL COST
1000	.80	\$5,000	\$230.00	\$1030.00
500	.90	\$2,500	\$115.00	\$565.00
200	.95	\$1,000	\$46.00	\$236.00
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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