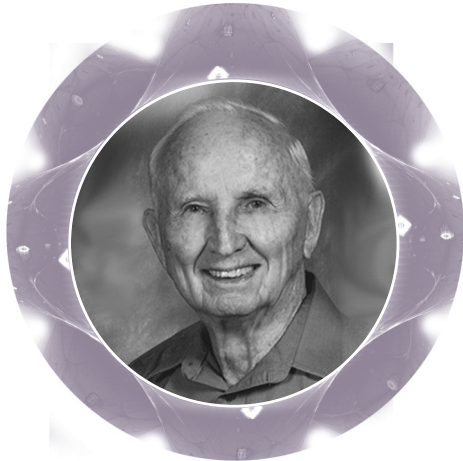


PRaises NEWS

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How Are You?



By Merlin Carothers January, 2012

When someone says, "How are you today?" whatever comes to our minds indicates our

priorities. But before anyone asks that question, pre-determine your response. You might feel like saying, "Bad and getting worse." Or, you can learn to have a *thankful spirit* controlling your thoughts.

Oft-repeated praises such as, Thank You, Lord, I can see and hear and walk, will encourage us to have thankful thoughts. Thank You God that I can breathe, sing, use my hands, and rejoice that I'm on my way to Heaven. Such thoughts increase our happiness, peace of mind and our faith. Day by day and year by year we can grow in confidence that God is in perfect control over every event in our lives.

Unfortunately, we can grow in our ability to see what is wrong in other people, and even with God. If we do this, our joy will fade away – and be gone! Why? *It's the way God designed us.* This is one of the reasons the Bible says, **Rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4).** He knows exactly what is best for us and gives special help to those who *rejoice always*.

We are encouraged when people praise us for the things we do. Praise gives us a smiling heart. Praise from others, or praise flowing from within our own hearts, has power. I encourage you to learn more about the power God gives us to bless many people.

Some types of singing will lift heavy hearts. The expression on our faces can uplift people. Written or spoken words can reflect the power there is in

what we say. People can pull you downward or lift you up by their discouraged or victorious attitudes.

Because of Jesus we can receive God's awesome power to be victorious in a fallen world. Every time you do something to lift someone closer to God, His Holy Spirit is changing you! Jesus said:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you (Luke 6:38 NIV).

That does not say *when* we will be rewarded or *how*. We can be confident that He will always keep His promises. I know for sure that God has rewarded me! He may give you different blessings than He has given me. To me He has given joy. Not with things, but with inner joy, that often manifests itself in unexpected ways. Sometimes when unpleasant things come it's as if I have taken "happy medicine" that makes something within me want to sing, smile or laugh. But these things are temporary. In Heaven God will give us joy that will last forever.

Each new day we have opportunities to do something that may draw someone to our Savior. So be prepared and ready when someone asks you, "How are you?" Rejoice at this God given opportunity to tell them something that will show them how pleased you are for all the blessings God gives you.

How about saying this, "I'm one day closer to Heaven!" Or, "God is so good to me." When you think of new things to say please write and share them with me. I'll give your ideas to others and they will pass them on. God will cause the seed that you sow to help many others to follow your example.





First and Last and Everything In Between

By Mary Carothers

understood that to mean that He was with God before the world was made, as John I clearly tells us: ***In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.***

When Jesus said He was also the End, I have always believed that He would be with us to the end of time as we measure time here on Earth. ***In Matthew 28:20 He assures us that He will be with us to the very end of the age.***

However, recently I gained additional understanding of what Jesus meant in His Revelation to John. While reading Isaiah, I came across these verses in chapter 46 where God is speaking to His people: ***Listen to me...you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth.***

As I read that, I realized that our Lord is with us from the moment of our conception. He is with us from our beginning. The next verse says: ***Even to your old age and gray hair I am He...Who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you.*** The Almighty God, who made us and has upheld us from our own beginning, will carry us and sustain us to the very end of our lives.

Between our beginning and our end, He has promised to be with us, to never leave us. Nine times in His Word God promises He will *never* forsake us. No matter what trials or heartaches we face, we are never alone. Our loving Lord is with us; He knows what we are going through, and will care for us and sustain us. Each time we believe He is with us, we honor, exalt and bring praise to His Name.

When this life is over, He is waiting for us; ready to welcome us to everlasting joy (see Isaiah 35:10). And after all, this life is really very short. Eternity with joy and gladness will last forever.

GOD HAS A POSITIVE ANSWER



You say: I can't figure things out.

God says: *I will direct your steps* (Proverb 3:5-6).

You say: I can't forgive myself.

God says: *I forgive you* (1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1).

You say: I feel all alone.

God says: *I will never leave or forsake you* (Hebrews 13:5).



And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:20



Thank The Lord for All Things!

Love your *Praise News*, very uplifting and it's always a great reminder to thank and praise the Lord for everything.

PATSY, OH

Merlin's and Mary's articles in the *Praise News* never fail to reach our hearts.

MEL AND LOIS, WI

Thank you, Merlin and Mary, for your wonderful *Praise News*. The article in August, 2011 on worry is just what I needed as several family members are having tough times. I know God is at work in their lives and this brings me peace.

NANCY, PA

Thank you for coming to Mt. Carmel forty years ago. You taught us to praise the Lord for everything. I'm 83, a widow and praising the Lord for a broken arm. God is good and I thank Him for you.

PATRICIA, IL

We are so grateful for the testimony of praise in your lives and for the ministry to those in prison. What a privilege to give your books wherever we can!

JOE AND JILL, WA

Thank you for being such wise stewards of all that the Lord has provided. Your teachings are always on target and the books and tapes change lives for Christ.

JACKIE, GA

I so appreciate Merlin sticking with the original calling of promoting the message of Praise.

BONNIE, PA

Thank you for teaching me about praise. I would not have made it if I had not read your books and learned to praise Him. I was tormented with remorse, regret and guilt over past mistakes but have learned that Jesus will take them and work them together for my good.

JOYCE, OH

Thank you for sending copies of *Power in Praise*. We have no idea of the lives that will be brought to Jesus because of the books you have provided, but we can say to you - we will plant it, care for the crop, then, when we all get to Heaven, we will see the harvest.

GARY, COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY, GA

Many, many thanks for the books you sent for our inmates. The men and women received them with great joy. The Lord is using your testimony in a most powerful way.

CHAPLAIN, COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER, CO

Our inmates are requesting copies of *Prison to Praise*. Please send us at least two or three cases at your earliest convenience. Thank you and God bless you as you share Christ with others.

CHAPLAIN, MONTFORD PRISON, TX

Thank you so much for the books you have so graciously given us in the past. God continues to use them to touch hearts and change lives. Please consider sending more books, we have 650 inmates and would love anything you can send.

CHAPLAIN, J. REUBEN LONG DETENTION CENTER, SC

We received a case of books for our residents.

Thank you for your generous gift to the ladies. The books are available in the library for anyone who wants one.

CHAPLAIN, WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL, DE

While searching online I found your website. We are missionaries, living in a small, impoverished settlement called Red Bays. My husband leads the men's Bible study and I lead the women's, and we both minister to the 80 kids that come to our church every week. Would you be willing to donate books for our small church? I rejoice that you are working for our Lord.

SUE, BAHAMAS

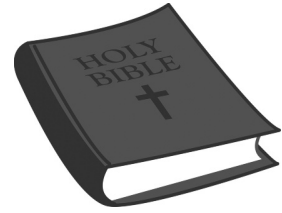
My wife and I are missionaries and have been involved in prison ministry for fifteen years. I was blessed to have, in French and English, *Prison to Praise* and *Power in Praise* to give to the prisoners to read. These are cherished books that they would read and re-read before giving to other prisoners. It gave them hope that their 'bad experience' had a 'good experience' effect on them as they learned to praise and thank the Lord for all things in their lives.

KEN, BRUSSELS

Your continued faithful support has enabled us to send shipments of free praise books to the following facilities:

County Jail, San Diego, CA
 Bryan County Jail, Durant, OK
 Correctional Center, Vienna, IL
 Lewis County Jail, Lowville, KY
 Correctional Facility, Jackson, MS
 Santa Rosa County Jail, Milton, FL
 Ben Hill County Jail, Fitzgerald, GA
 North Kern State Prison, Delano, CA
 County Detention Facility, El Paso, TX
 Chittenden County Jail, Shelburne, VT
 Transitional Center for Women, Tallulah, LA
 Lemon Creek Correctional Center, Juneau, AK
 Roxbury Correctional Facility, Hagerstown, MD
 State Cattle Ranch for Inmates, Greensboro, AL
 Christina Melton Crain Unit, Gatesville, TX
 Hot Springs Detention Center, Thermopolis, WY
 Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Ctr., Uncasville, CT
 Central Correctional Ctr., Penetanguishene, Ontario, Canada

Would you like to read the Bible

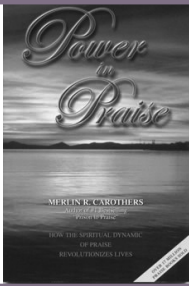


through in 2012?

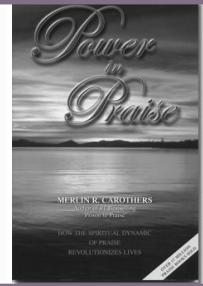
We will send you a free copy of the Bible Reading Chart upon request. You may also download a copy from our website at www.foundationofpraise.org.

We hope you will value it enough to place it in your Bible – and use it daily!

All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (II Tim. 3:16).



Power in Praise Special
 Coming next month!



*Happy New Year!
 Peace, love and joy to you and your family throughout 2012. May the good Lord bless and keep you, may He make His face shine upon you, and grant you peace!*

Merlin and Mary

Please agree with me in prayer for everyone who receives *Praise News*. We receive so many requests for prayer. Some of these requests are for:

- Unemployment
- Marital problems
- Health problems
- Financial difficulties
- Our military personnel
- Family hardships and conflicts
- Salvation and healing of loved ones

