

More

POWER to
YA

Céleste Perrino



REVIEW AND HERALD® PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
Since 1861 | www.reviewandherald.com

Copyright © 2001 by
Review and Herald® Publishing Association
All rights reserved

The author assumes full responsibility for the accuracy of all facts
and quotations as cited in this book.

Unless otherwise noted, all texts cited are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Texts credited to Message are from *The Message*. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Verses marked TLB are taken from *The Living Bible*, copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill. Used by permission.

This book was
Edited by Helen Lee
Copyedited by Lori Halvorsen and James Cavil
Designed by Trent Truman
Electronic makeup by Shirley M. Bolivar
Cover art by Greg Winters
Typeset: 11.5/13.5 Kandal Book

Printed by Pacific Press® Publishing Association
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

R&H Cataloging Service

Perrino, Céleste, 1965-

More power to ya, by Céleste Perrino.

1. Teenagers—Prayer—books and devotions—English.
2. Devotional calendars—Juvenile literature. 1. Title.

242.6

ISBN 978-0-8280-2880-6

March 2021

Start at the Very Beginning

Once upon a time. That's how all stories start, isn't it? It's always best to start at the beginning. And in our beginning was God. God was always there, had always been there, would always be there. Nothing that happened at Creation could have happened without God.

In the beginning God. God was always there. He had always been there, and He would always be there. Nothing that happened at Creation could have happened without God.

Genesis tells us how everything started. It tells us the mistakes people made and the opportunities they had. And it shows us clearly that God's way is the best way. Anything other than God's way involves pain and consequences.

Not too long after she was created, Eve found herself in a bad situation. She was where she shouldn't have been. We all end up in bad situations now and then. But whenever you find yourself in a similar situation as Eve, ask yourself, "What is God's best for me?"

God's best for Eve was that she obey Him and not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But she said, "No way," and found herself living outside the garden. Eve changed the whole course of her life with one decision. And we can too.

Let's make good decisions and choose God's best way. Remember, God doesn't abandon us to make our own choices. Ask Him what to do, and He'll tell you.



In the beginning God. Genesis 1:1.

The Devil Made Me Do It

One of the hardest things to do is to accept responsibility for something we've done wrong. Have you ever done something you shouldn't have and then blamed the devil for it?

"It's not my fault that I dinged the car, Dad. I was sure I could get my bike out of the garage without hitting it. The devil must have made me do it."

Eve made a bad choice. But instead of owning up to it, she blamed the devil without batting an eye. "The devil made me do it," she told God.

But you know what? The truth is that the devil can't make us do anything. Oh, he can suggest plenty of things. He can wheedle and bribe and make it sound so wonderful that you have a hard time turning it down. But he can never force you to do something.

It's always your choice to obey God or to give in to the devil. The most powerful weapon God gave us against the devil is prayer. Use it the next time you're tempted. It will send the devil running in the other direction.



Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."
Genesis 3:13.

Lose-Lose Situation



H

ave you ever been in a lose-lose situation? When you know that no matter what you do, you're going to lose in the end? That's how Hagar must have felt. After she ran away from Sarai and Abram, she sat down beside a desert spring, unsure of what to do next. That's when an angel appeared.

"Go back to Sarai," the angel said.

Go back to Sarai? Great, either wander aimlessly around in the scorching desert until she died, or go back and be beaten by a mistress who hated her. What a choice! It looked bad for Hagar either way.

But God cared about Hagar. He cares for everyone, even those who are rejected and abused. Hagar must have felt as though she had to choose between death and abuse, but God was in one of the choices. "Go back," He said. "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count."

In the end Hagar obeyed God, and His promise was fulfilled. Today God promises us, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," (Joshua 1:5). Remember that promise the next time you face a lose, lose situation.



"Your servant is in your hands," Abram said.

"Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. Genesis 16:6.

The “I” in SIN



he “I” in sin is there for a reason. When we start thinking about ourselves, we stop thinking about God. We might think we’ve got it all together, but we’re only fooling ourselves. It’s what gets us into trouble, just as it got Samson into such a mess.

Samson had a big problem in the way he related to women—Delilah, in particular. He wanted to be with her, so he ignored the problems. *Three times* she tried to turn him over to the Philistines. Some friend, huh?


Samson refused to admit that there was a problem. *I can take care of myself*, he thought. And finally he told Delilah what she wanted to know. The fourth time the Philistines came they captured him. Samson had been so busy thinking about what he wanted (being with Delilah) that he forgot to look at the bigger picture (where it was going to lead him in the end).

We have to admit every day that we have no power over sin. Only God does. After all, when we take the “I” out of sin, it’s not even a word anymore.



He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him. Judges 16:20.

Humble Beginning



It's very uncomfortable to admit that we are powerless. I mean, who wants to admit that something is out of his or her control? That's like being a failure, right? Nope. Not at all.

Naaman was the kind of guy who had it all together. He was a big shot. Then he got leprosy. He couldn't cure it. He couldn't ignore it. He couldn't even command it to leave. Poor Naaman. Here he was with a big problem, and there was nothing he could do about it. On top of that, he faced the humiliation of jumping into the Jordan and taking seven baths. He didn't want to do it. He wanted something more spectacular.

But there is no spectacular cure for the bad stuff. There is no easy way to forgive people. There is no fantastic way not to take drugs. There is no nifty way to keep yourself pure while you're dating. The only way to be strong in tough situations is to admit that by yourself you can do nothing. Then ask God to give you the strength to do it His way.



So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. 2 Kings 5:14.

The Sand of a Thousand Seashores

Sand is neat stuff, especially real beach sand. It's so fine that you can pick it up, sift it through your fingers, and the wind will just carry it away. But what if the same sand were wet? You'd probably break your back trying to lift a shovelful of it to toss over your shoulder.

Job's sadness and troubles felt as heavy to him as the sand of a thousand seashores. That's pretty heavy, even if it wasn't wet!

Have you ever felt as though you'd lost everything? Life can change in ways we don't like. Maybe you have to move to another state. Maybe you want, more than anything, to play basketball—but you're too short.

God never promised us that we'd have fantastic, happy, fun-filled lives. It doesn't mean we won't. He just never promised that. So if you find yourself feeling bummed out, keep in mind that what He *did* promise us is even better.

He promised that He would always be with us. He promised to help us in all circumstances. He promised He'd never send us more than we could bear *with His help*. That's the key. Lean on God through prayer, through Bible study, through the support of godly people. His help is only a prayer away.



Oh, that my sadness and troubles were weighed. For they are heavier than the sand of a thousand seashores. Job 6:2, 3, TLB.

The Braggy King of Babylon



e was walking. Well, maybe swaggering would be a better description. King Nebuchadnezzar was swaggering along on the rooftop (it was flat) of his house. Actually, it was a palace, a really big royal palace. And as he looked out on Babylon, bathed in the glow of a sunset untouched by pollution, he couldn't help the swelling of his chest as he glowed with pride.

"I built all this, by myself, for my glory," he said to himself.

And just like that, God took it all away from him. For the next seven years he wandered in the fields like a wild animal, nuttier than a tree full of acorns. It wasn't until he admitted his sin of pride that God restored him.

Until we admit our sin to God and look to Him for help, we can't be healed of it. We must submit to God's will. *Then* we will receive His power. Sometimes it takes a real tumble to bring us to our knees where we belong. But when you get there, you'll know you're in the right place.



Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble. Daniel 4:37.

Yeahbut



ave you got yeahbuts? They're handy when you don't want to be responsible for something you did. Someone says "But you said" and you say "Yeah, but" and come up with an excuse. Or you don't do your homework, and you use a yeahbut to explain why. "Yeah, but a comet crashed through the roof of my house."

The biggest problem with yeahbuts is that we think they release us from responsibility. But they don't. An excuse doesn't really excuse anything. When we throw up our hands and say "It's not my fault," what we're really saying is "OK, it was my fault, but I refuse to admit it because I don't want to learn anything from this experience."

We pass up a lot of learning that way, and it always leads to problems later on. When you get to be old like me and graduate from high school and get a job, your boss isn't going to care what crashed through your house. He's going to want your work done anyway.

Two words will rid you of yeahbuts. They are: "I'm sorry." If you did it, own up to it and apologize. Learn something from it. And the yeahbuts will never bother you again.



The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment. Proverbs 10:21.