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Dear Friends of IPM,

There is a destructive spiritual tendency that resides in every human being, whether they be inside or outside of prison walls. It is "*the law of sin and death.*" As many inmates can testify to, this indwelling principle is always pulling people downward into sin and spiritual deadness. It comes from being physically born into a fallen race of sinners who are like their earthly father, Adam. Being born anew spiritually does not remove this problem, since this principle still operates within our natural humanity (the flesh). Yet, becoming a child of God does make His remedy constantly available to us.

God's remedy is a higher, more powerful principle: "*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death*" (Romans 8:2). This lofty principle involves the Holy Spirit making the life that is in Christ Jesus our resource for living. This principle is operating in the life of any new creature in Christ who is not walking "...according to the flesh, but [*is walking*] according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:4). This approach to Christian living is the only one that can liberate us from the internal carnal tendencies that influence us all.

In fact, this is the only hope of growing in godliness. Our lives can only measure up to the holy will of God when we are walking in the Spirit, because Christ is then being allowed to express His life through us. Jesus was (and is) the only one who could ever walk fully pleasing to the Father. Jesus said, "*I do always those things that please Him*" (John 8:29). For a victorious Christian experience, we need this

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same life of Jesus living in and through us now, by the working of the Holy Spirit. We need the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus setting us free from the law of sin and death.

What is our responsibility in this? We are to relate to the Lord in humility and faith. Humility can develop as we agree with our Lord that "the law of sin and death" characterizes our flesh (our best natural resources). Faith can be exercised as we look to our Lord to demonstrate that the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death.

Jesus alone can supply the life we are called to live. We need to humbly agree with His word that our own resources are marred by a tendency to sin. We need to trust in His Holy Spirit to free us from living by our flesh. These are vital truths for all who desire to live godly lives, whether outside or inside prison walls.

Proclaiming the Freedom of Life in Christ Jesus,

Dini Hoekstra

Dini Hoekstra

(for all of our "Chaplain Ray Family" and the IPM team)

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is [Seven Hours to Live](#), a testimonial booklet from IPM.

P.P.S. Please join us in prayer for the prison ministry in Russia, as recent increased Russian government restrictions and religious persecution have made it impossible to distribute Christian literature there. May God open doors that no man can shut!

*"For the law of the Spirit of life
in Christ Jesus hath made me free
from the law of sin and death"
- Romans 8:2*

