



PO BOX 1088  
CHULA VISTA, CA 91912-1088  
chaplainray.com

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Chaplain Ray

May, 2022

Dear Friends of IPM,

Our gift book for the month of May is The Bible Promise Book. It is filled with over 1,000 Scriptural promises from God. God wants us to rely upon His promises to us, rather than on our promises to Him.

When man attempts to live up to God's standards by his own human resources, he typically tries to live by his promises to God. The children of Israel were a vivid example of this futile tendency. *"...all that the LORD hath spoken we will do"* (Exodus 19:8). This well-intended promise to God was consistently broken. Moses ended up saying to the children of Israel, *"Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you"* (Deuteronomy 9:24).

The desire to obey God resides appropriately within the hearts of His children. However, we must find a better way to obedience than relying upon our promises to God. That better way is the path of grace, which offers a life based upon God's promises to man. Ezekiel speaks of what God promises to do in the lives of those who humbly trust in Him. *"A new heart also I will give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments and do them"* (Ezekiel 6:26-27).

God's people are to live in dependence upon the promises of God to us, instead of relying upon our promises to Him. Living by God's promises produces a growing confidence in the Lord, a confidence that results from His unique character.

(over please)

"God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" (Numbers 23:19). Man may make promises to God, but eventually he will fail. God is not like man. God is true to His word. He will not lie, nor will He change His mind. Whatever He says, He will do! We can fully rely upon the promises of God that we find in His word.

Many prisoners share with us how their former lives were filled with many empty promises. Now, inmates are so encouraged to learn that they don't have to develop their walk with the Lord based on their promises to Him. They begin to experience the freedom and the joy of relying on His promises to them. May we all learn how to think and live this way as we trust in the Lord and rely fully upon His promises.

Trusting in the Promises of our Wonderful Lord,

*Heidi Hoekstra Ceballos*

Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is [The Bible Promise Book](#), a collection of Scriptural promises covering a variety of topics.

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