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50th Anniversary



Chaplain Ray

September, 2022

Dear Friends of IPM,

Whether one is a new believer or has been a Christian for most of their life, we all experience spiritual warfare. Whether we are inside or outside of prison walls, we are all involved in an on-going spiritual battle.

In Ephesians 6:12, the Lord reveals who our spiritual struggle is (and is not) against. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* Our battle is not against people. Our battle is against spiritual forces. People are usually involved in our struggles, but they are not the ultimate foe. The enemy is Satan and his hierarchy of fallen angels. They are at work in, around and behind human affairs, in their attempts to deceive, confuse, and destroy lives. They are always maneuvering to tempt people to doubt and disobey God, to get them to walk in their counterfeit kingdom of rebellion.

The great breadth of the tactics that the devil has at his disposal can be seen in 1 John 5:19. *"...and the whole world lieth in wickedness (or, under the sway of the wicked one)."* Because of sin and its resulting deadness and blindness, the whole world is easily influenced by Satan. Every unsaved person and all of their systems (education, politics, economics, communications, media, entertainment, etc.) are arenas for the *"god of this world"* (2 Corinthians 4:4) to operate in, as he plots to blind and enslave lives. At times, it may seem as if there is no hope and no victory to be found.

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Where can we find hope and victory in the midst of these battles? Our hope in spiritual warfare is not in ourselves. It is in Jesus Christ. "...for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). Our Lord came to earth to win the necessary spiritual victory for us. We are no match for our adversary. But, we are not to fight him with our own strength. We are to depend upon the One who lives in His people. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Our enemy is no match for our Lord!

As we minister to others (and especially to prisoners), may we be familiar with these foundational biblical truths. May we be looking to the Lord and pointing others to Jesus Christ, for "...the battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:47)!

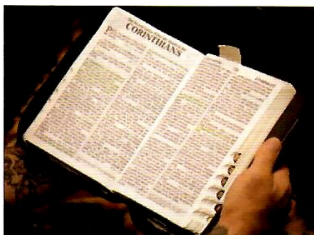
Trusting in the Lord in the Midst of Our Battles,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is [Day by Day by Grace](#) by Bob Hoekstra.



"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world"
- 1 John 4:4