

IPM INTERNATIONAL
PRISON
MINISTRY
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*Ministering to
prisoners for over
50 years*



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

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Dear Friends of IPM,

As we correspond with inmates to offer them spiritual encouragement, we find more often than not that they are the ones offering us spiritual encouragement as they share what they are learning and what God is doing in their lives. We recently received a letter from Richard M., from a California prison. He wrote: *"I have seen God's goodness, mercy and generosity with my own eyes, I have tasted it, and I am learning to wait upon God in His own time to answer me. I know there are blessings to the one who waits upon God."*

Richard shared such rich spiritual truths that every believer can apply to their own lives. The Lord wants us to *"taste and see that [He] is good..."* (Psalm 34:8). It is one thing to hear about the Lord and read about His character. It is quite another thing to taste, and see, and experience firsthand His life and character attributes working in our lives and circumstances. The Lord wants us to experience His goodness and mercy in our lives more and more. *"But thou, O LORD, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth"* (Psalm 86:15).

The Lord also wants us to learn to wait upon Him. *"The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him..."* (Lamentations 3:25). This is something the Lord continually teaches us throughout our walk with Him, because it certainly doesn't come naturally. When we are waiting upon the Lord we are not just sitting back and doing nothing while time passes. This waiting involves an expectant hope and an assurance, a confident trust in the Lord — who He is and what He is capable of doing. *"I wait for the LORD, my soul doth*

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wait, and in his word I do hope...My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation (hope) is from him..." (Psalm 130:5, 62:5).

The Lord is so good to us, that He even promises to strengthen us and equip us as we wait upon Him and seek Him. *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint"* (Isaiah 40:31). As we seek Him through His word and prayer, He promises to renew our strength that we may keep pressing on in our walk and service unto Him.

Finally, as Richard mentioned in his letter, we need to remember that the Lord's timing is perfect. *"As for God, his way is perfect..."* (Psalm 18:30). As we are seeking Him and waiting upon Him, He will bring things to pass in His perfect timing, in His perfect way, all for our growth and His glory!

These are such important truths for all Christians to remember and apply to our own lives, whether outside or inside prison bars. May we taste and see that the Lord is good, and keep seeking Him and waiting in expectant hope upon Him as He works in His perfect timing.

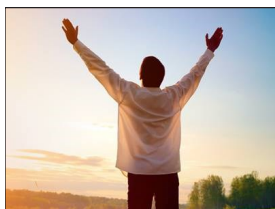
Waiting Upon the Lord and Trusting in Him,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is [Knowing God](#), by Bob Hoekstra.



"The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him..."
- Lamentations 3:25