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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 every week, many share with us their prayer requests. Christopher T., from a California prison recently wrote: *"My prayer request is for me and my brothers in Christ at this facility. That we may endure in strength to do God's will so that the genuineness of our faith may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

What a great prayer! And what a godly, biblical example for all of us. It takes much strength to run the Christian race of life. Relying upon our own resources, we will not make it very far. Praise the Lord, He is ever available to offer the strength that is needed. *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might...I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me...But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength"* (Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:13; Isaiah 40:31).

It also takes much endurance to withstand the constant onslaught of the world, the flesh, and the devil. The scriptures offer us hope for enduring and holding fast to the Lord. *"For ye have need of [endurance]...Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ...And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (Hebrews 10:36; 2 Timothy 2:3; Galatians 6:9).

When we are enduring in strength to do God's will, as Christopher prayed, our faith is actually being proven and refined. Through the challenging situations of life, our faith can be demonstrated as genuine. *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though*

(over please)

it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ...But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (1 Peter 1:7; Job 23:10). When difficulties arise, they provide an opportunity to trust in the Lord. Others can see that our claim to faith in God is real, not merely religious words. We also are able to see the reality of our own dependency upon the Lord.

The ultimate result of this refining process is to bring praise, honor, and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. He deserves to receive all of the honor and glory for what He did in each situation, as we trusted in Him. Like Christopher, may we all pray this wonderful prayer, asking for the Lord's strength to endure the hardships we face as we follow Him, allowing Him to refine and purify our faith in Him, all for His glory!

Pressing on in the Lord's Strength, for His Glory,

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 [One With Christ](#) by Hudson Taylor.



"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ"

- 1 Peter 1:7