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*Ministering to  
prisoners for over  
50 years*



Chaplain Ray,  
Founder

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Dear Friends of IPM,

As we follow Christ in this fallen world, we often find ourselves crying out for the Lord's peace in the midst of turmoil and His strength in the midst of impossibilities. We recently received a prayer request from Donovan M., in an Ohio prison. Donovan wrote: *"Pray that I will find the peace that surpasses understanding and that God gives me the strength I need to press forward."*

How can we know the perfect peace of God within our hearts? *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus...Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee"* (Philippians 4:7; Isaiah 26:3). When we rely upon and trust in the Lord, His goodness brings forth peace in our lives. His peace is able to guard our hearts and minds and provide us with perfect inner rest. This peace can only be experienced as we fix our minds on Him, not on our circumstances. We must fix our eyes upon Jesus, hoping in Him, seeking Him, and trusting in Him.

Where can we find the strength needed to press forward? *"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). If we are in need of spiritual strength, we shouldn't try to muster up our own strength, which is completely inadequate. This is God's reminder to seek His supply of strength. To receive this power, we must admit our own weaknesses. We must wait upon the Lord. This waiting involves hoping in Him and placing our expectations upon Him, not upon ourselves.

(over please)

Those who place their hope in God are strengthened by the Lord Himself. They are enabled by God to live above their circumstances, whatever they may be. Oh, how we need this strength—whether inside or outside prison walls!

In summary: *"The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace"* (Psalm 29:11). These are promises from our faithful, loving, all-powerful Lord and Savior. We can trust in Him to supply these needs in our lives. Like Donovan, may we continue to look to the Lord for what only He can provide.

We thank the Lord for all of our dear ministry partners. Through your faithful partnership and the Lord's enablement, we will continue to reach out to needy souls, pointing them to the One who is able to pour out His perfect peace and strength into their lives.

Relying on the Lord for His Perfect Peace and Strength,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is [Big D](#) by Donald Garcia.



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