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*Ministering to
prisoners for over
50 years*



Chaplain Ray,
Founder

October, 2024

Dear Friends of IPM,

When we as believers go through trials, difficulties, and impossibilities we might be tempted to say that it is strange, pointless, or hopeless. Many hurting, seeking souls inside and outside prison walls are experiencing this. The Lord has much to say on this subject in His word.

When we go through various trials, we might find ourselves feeling shock and surprise. Nevertheless, we are really not to be surprised when trials occur. *"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you"* (1 Peter 4:12). Problems and difficulties are built right into the Christian life. Far from being strange, they are really necessities that God uses, first to reveal, then to purge us of the things that corrupt our lives and hinder our spiritual growth.

When we go through various difficulties, it might seem like it is completely pointless. The Scriptures reveal a purpose God wants to accomplish. *"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations (trials): 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 1:6-7). Trials can cause considerable grief, but this grief is certainly worth the discomfort because of the spiritual benefits that it may produce. Our faith can be demonstrated as genuine. Our faith can be refined unto greater purity. God takes us through circumstantial fires that true faith in Him might be separated from dependence upon ourselves or others.

(over please)

When impossibilities come our way, instead of feeling hopeless, we are to consider it a reason for joy. *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations (trials); knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing"* (James 1:2-4). The impossibilities of life are certainly not enjoyable. But, by faith, we see what God can do with them, and it stirs rejoicing in our hearts. God uses trials to produce patience, spiritual stamina, godly steadfastness, and Christ-like endurance into our character. When we walk through trials God's way, not only will we become more spiritually mature, but we will bring praise, glory, and honor to the Lord.

We thank the Lord for our dear ministry partners who have a heart to reach prisoners with God's love and truth. We are blessed to offer as the IPM gift for October, Trials, Difficulties and Impossibilities, by Bob Hoekstra.

Trusting in the Lord Through Trials and Impossibilities,



Heidi Hoekstra-Ceballos

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

P.S. Our appreciation gift this month is Trials, Difficulties, and Impossibilities, by Bob Hoekstra.



"...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

LETTERS FROM PRISONERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED BIBLES, EDIFICATION BOOKS, OR INMATE TESTIMONIALS FROM IPM

(See reverse side where a sample resource is highlighted and is available to you as a free gift upon request)

Thank You for the Gift of the Word of God

Thank you for your letter and your prayers and words of encouragement and for the gift of the word of God. I thank our God in heaven for your ministry, your compassion, and the work you guys do. May the Lord bless you and your families for your faithfulness and serving. It uplifts my heart and spirit. A few brothers along with myself have started a Bible study in here. God is good and faithful. May God bless you guys always!

- *Dino M., California Prison*

Second Chance at Life

Thank you for what you guys are doing for prisoners. Most people, me included, didn't know the Lord before coming to prison. But thanks to ministries like yours, we have a true second chance at life.

- *Brandon M., N. Carolina Prison*



Inmate Artwork

Thank You For Carrying On

Dear IPM, I want to say Thank You for carrying on the legacy of Chaplain Ray! Thank you for all of the wonderful literature and materials you provide. May God bless you!

- *Brody N., Georgia Prison*

Your Ministry is a Blessing to All

Thank you for being so dedicated to the growth, edification, and enrichment of the lives of us who are incarcerated. I thoroughly enjoy the literature that your ministry has been sending me and have passed on each one that I have received to other inmates who needed to read them. Your ministry is a blessing to all. Thank you so much for all of your hard work!

- *Roy T., California Prison*

IPM prayerfully responds to every prisoner who writes to us. We bless them with an encouraging letter and a variety of biblical resources, such as: Bibles, Testimonial and Devotional Books, and other Bible Study helps.

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

*"...to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound"
Isaiah 61:1*

At the request of many, contributions to IPM can also be made online at www.chaplainray.com

It is the policy of I.P.M. to use each gift as it is designated by the donor. If any project is completed, any surplus will be used where it is needed most.

Dear IPM, My gift to help share God's love and truth with inmates

- Use this gift for Bibles For Prisoners.....\$ _____
- "Library of Life-Changing Books" for Prisoners.....\$ _____
- Support for Prison Ministry in India.....\$ _____
- Use My Offering Where Needed Most.....\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Mail to: International Prison Ministry PO Box 1088 Chula Vista, CA 91912-1088

HERE IS ANOTHER BIBLICAL RESOURCE THAT OUR
MINISTRY PARTNERS HELP US DISTRIBUTE TO PRISONERS

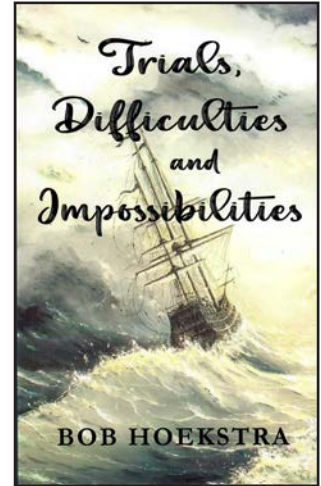
(This book is available as a gift by requesting it in the box below)

Trials, Difficulties and Impossibilities

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” - James 1:2-4

Problems and difficulties are built right into the Christian life. Christians undergoing them are apt to think it very bewildering and strange. But, far from being strange, they are really necessities that God uses first to reveal, and then to purge us of the things that corrupt our lives. Just as gold must be tested in the fire to bring impurities to the surface, so the Lord allows trials and difficulties to bring to the surface any impurities in our lives. The Lord uses trials and difficulties to prove the genuineness of our faith.

We must resist the temptation to flee or hide from trials. We must not overlook the bigger work of transformation that the Lord desires to do in our lives. If we trust in the Lord in the midst of stretching adversities, He brings spiritual stamina, godly steadfastness, and Christ-like endurance into our character. If we allow God to work out the process involved in our trials, we will be perfected, mature, and whole in Christ. As we look to and trust in Him, God is faithful to bring us through this process.



Our Gift to You

We pray this book will be a blessing in your life and spiritual growth. Please pray with us that this book will be a blessing to many inmates as well.

We praise the Lord for all who partner with IPM through their faithful prayers and generous giving which enable IPM to continue to share God's love and truth with those behind bars.

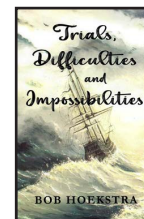
Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

YOUR MESSAGE OR PRAYER REQUEST:

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE IPM LETTER VIA

EMAIL : _____

Yes, Please Send Gift



**Trials, Difficulties and Impossibilities
by Bob Hoekstra**