

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 the battles often rage heavy in our lives, the Lord promises to be ever present in the midst to fight for us. Jessee B., from a Kentucky prison recently wrote: "I want to be able and willing to call on Him in all my spiritual battles."

In the Old Testament, God promised to fight for His people, assuring them victory in battle as they entered the Promised Land. Israel faced many battles as ungodly nations persistently opposed them. Moses expressed the Lord's commitment to do battle for Israel. *"The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you"* (Deuteronomy 1:30). The Lord had done mighty things for Israel in bringing them out of Egypt. Now, Moses assures them that God will act again on their behalf *"according to all that He did for you in Egypt before your eyes"* (Deut. 1:30).

Later, the Lord Himself reassured Joshua of a similar truth. *"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life"* (Joshua 1:5). Many would try to come against the people of God under Joshua's leadership. Yet, God pledged the same faithfulness to Joshua that Moses had enjoyed. *"As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee"* (Joshua 1:5). Then, the Lord added the ultimate words of reassurance. *"I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee"* (Joshua 1:5). When facing the certainty of battles, there is nothing greater than having God committed to always be present to fight against the enemy.

We are also engaged in warfare, spiritual warfare. *"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"* (2 Timothy 2:3). As spiritual soldiers we must use

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spiritual weapons. *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds"* (2 Corinthians 10:3-4). The promises of God are part of our spiritual weaponry. We can stand victorious in battle by the promises of God, just as the Apostle Paul did.

Like Jesse, in a Kentucky prison, may we be willing to call upon the Lord when facing spiritual battles. He is faithful to be our ever present help in time of need. *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"* (Hebrews 4:16). We thank the Lord for all who partner with us as we share God's love and truth with needy souls behind bars.

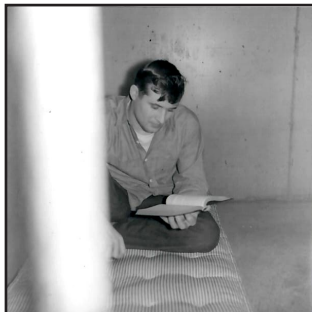
Looking to the Lord to Fight our Battles,

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 EX 83, the story of Clyde Thompson.



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