



Pastor Bob Hoekstra

**A Personal Message  
From  
Pastor Bob Hoekstra, Director  
INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY**

**P.O. Box 2868 Costa Mesa, CA 92628-2868**

**IPM Website: [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)**



**Founders:  
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra**

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Dear Friends of IPM,

In the Bible, we are given thousands of promises from God. The Lord wants us to learn about these promises. Then, He wants us to live our daily lives by trusting Him to fulfill these promises on our behalf. This promise-packed plan of God meets the deepest needs of everyone - - from a grandparent in the free world to a hardened criminal behind prison walls.

Thousands of years ago, the Lord made promises to Abraham that would offer great blessings to all the nations of the earth. *"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed"* (Genesis 12:2-3). All who have believed in the Messiah, Jesus Christ, are part of this eternal family of faith. *"Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all"* (Romans 4:16).

God has also promised to deliver His people from bondage and affliction, even bringing them into fullness of blessing. *"And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt . . . unto a land flowing with milk and honey"* (Exodus 3:17). Furthermore, the Lord promised to fight for His people in times of battle. *"The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes"* (Deuteronomy 1:30).

(over please)

In 1 John 2:25, all of God's promises can be seen in one great promise. *"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life."* This is the ultimate promise. It involves forgiveness of sin. It includes the indwelling Spirit. It brings new life in Christ. It provides hope, strength, and peace. It secures heaven forever.

What richness is offered to us in the promises of God. And what great assurance accompanies these promises. This assurance is anchored in the very character of God - - in His ability and His faithfulness.

Think of God's ability. *"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy . . . Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think"* (Jude v. 24 and Ephesians 3:20). Then, think of God's faithfulness. *"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised) . . . But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one"* (Hebrews 10:23 and 2 Thessalonians 3:3). God is infinitely able; God is eternally faithful.

So, how should we respond to the promises of an able and faithful God? *"The just shall live by faith"* (Romans 1:17). We are to trust in Him to fulfill every promise He has made in His word.

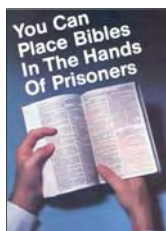
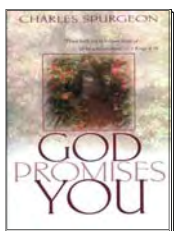
Relying upon the Promises of Our Able and Faithful God,

*Bob Hoekstra*

Pastor Bob Hoekstra

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

P. S. Our gift book for this month is God Promises You, by Charles Spurgeon.



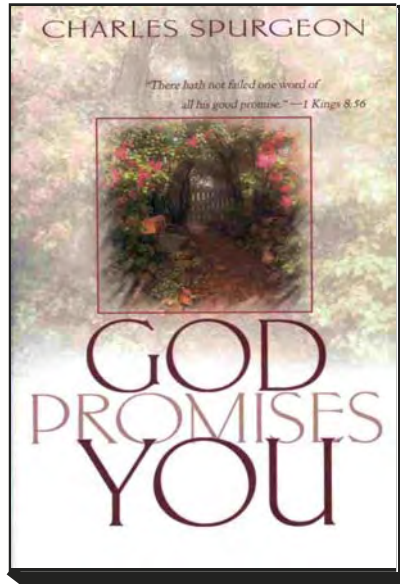
**The Bible, God's  
Promise-Packed  
Plan for All Who  
Believe.**



# Seeking and Finding God's Promises

“We may rest assured that somewhere in the inspired pages there is a promise fitting the occasion. The infinite wisdom of God is seen in His having given us a revelation that meets the innumerable varieties of His people's conditions. Not a single trial is overlooked, however peculiar it may be. As there is food specially adapted for every living thing upon the face of the earth, so there is suitable support for every child of God in the volume of inspiration. If we do not find a fitting promise, it is because we do not look for it or, having found it, have not perceived its full meaning.

This is a correct representation of many a perplexity. You cannot get at the difficulty so as to deal with it correctly and find your way to a happy result. You pray but do not have the liberty in prayer that you desire. A definite promise is what you need. You try one and another of the inspired words, but they do not fit. The troubled heart sees reasons to suspect that they are not



strictly applicable to the case in hand, and so they are left in the old Book for use another day. They are not available in the present emergency. You try again and in due season a promise presents itself that seems to have been made for the occasion. It fits as exactly as a well made key fits the lock for which it was originally prepared. Having found the identical Word of the living God,

you hasten to plead it at the throne of grace, saying, “O my Lord, You have promised this good thing unto Your servant; be pleased to grant it!” The matter is ended. Sorrow is turned to joy and prayer is heard.

For the poor, the sick, the faint, the erring, there are words of good cheer that they alone can enjoy. For the fallen, the desponding, the despairing, and the dying, there are friendly people who have a special sympathy for their particular maladies. The widow and the fatherless have their promises, and so have captives, travelers, shipwrecked mariners, aged persons, and those in the article of death. No one ever wanders where a promise does not follow him.”

Check “Yes, Send Gift Book” to receive “God Promises You.” It will help deepen your prayers and your relationship with God.

God's Blessing and Promises to you as you pray and share.

Yes, Send Gift Book:

*God Promises  
You  
by Charles Spurgeon*

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.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY  
Website: [www.chaplainray.com](http://www.chaplainray.com)

*Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail*

Dear Pastor Bob, My gift to help prisoners seek and find God's promises for their daily lives.

- Use this gift for *Bibles For Prisoners* .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$54.00 for a *Library of Life Changing Books* .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bibles and Books for *Russia & India Prisons* ...\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Use My Offering *Where Needed Most*.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: *International Prison Ministry, P.O. Box 2868, Costa Mesa, CA 92628*

I truly appreciate all of your correspondence, Bible and books, and prayers along with the unconditional love that International Prison Ministry sends out to all of the inmate population of this country. *Tracy W., Texas Prison*

### Prisoner Art



James W., in  
Pennsylvania

I just read "God's Prison Gang" and I would like to find what they have found. I am tired of living a life behind locked doors. When you are in prison, people seem to forget about you, like you never lived in the first place. James? James who?

I have tried it my way and it does not work. I want Jesus to take over. I know He is already there because He healed my body. Please send more books to help me find Him.

### Texas High Security Unit

Because of the high security environment that we are housed in, I am unable to get out and talk to other guys about my faith. This unit has about 600 men and we live in such a way that we have very little contact with anyone. Inmates spend their days either reading, writing or pacing back and forth in their cells. I have watched how even those who are not Christians ask for reading materials when the volunteer chaplain comes through here. They are starved for something to do to break up the monotony of their day.

I used to get upset about this because it limited the materials that we Christian brothers were able to get. Then the Lord showed me that through this circumstance He was going to put His word in their minds where later that seed would grow and bear fruit. So instead of just complaining, I wrote to you asking for books. Then I read and studied the materials. After that I passed them to the volunteer chaplain so that he could share with others who were then blessed.

Thanks IPM! *Bill E., Texas Prison*

### Sunshine Kissed

I feel His presence like the wind --  
With no beginning and no end.  
He's like a breeze, a morning mist --  
Like being gently sunshine kissed.  
He's like the rain is to the ground.  
Like Autumn leaves fall with no sound.  
Although He roars like ocean waves,  
His strength is silent. He softly saves.  
His love is strong like summer heat.  
Within my heart He strongly beats.  
I am His flower growing mild.  
Through all His seasons I am His child.  
He touches me like wind blown plains.  
He is the sun, His love remains.  
He's fresh and cool like flakes of snow.  
He melts my heart and makes me glow.  
He gives me warmth all year round.  
Within my soul is where He is found.

He is the Lion and the Lamb.  
The Son of God, The Son of Man.  
Some people need  
this love they missed --  
To gently be Sunshine Kissed.

*Poem sent in by Ray C., a lifer prisoner incarcerated in a California prison. Ray says: I am also a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and I am Free as He lives in me, comforting me through the Holy Spirit who guides me daily in praying unceasingly. Praising our Lord continually. Thank you, IPM.*

*Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail*

### Message or Prayer Request for IPM:

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