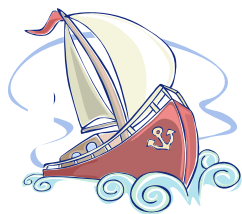




"The Anchor Holds!"

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, (Hebrews 6:19 NASB)

Ray Boltz sings a song written by him and Lawrence Chewning titled, "The Anchor Holds." It's a song of faith and how faith in God guides us when battling the raging storms in life. And of course the only anchor that holds in life's storms is Jesus Christ. Unchangeable. Some of the words in the song are;



I have journeyed through the long,
dark night. Out on the open sea,
By faith alone, sight unknown,
And yet His eyes were watching me.

The Anchor holds, though the ship is battered.
The Anchor holds, though the sails are torn.
Well I have fallen on my knees,
as I face the raging sea,
But the Anchor holds, in spite of the storm.

There are many songs written about the raging storms in our life and how through faith in Jesus Christ we are able to handle the storms until these real life storms are made calm by Christ Jesus. Faith is important when the



raging storms start turning our life ship up-side-down. We need that anchor of Jesus Christ to keep us on track. Do you have that anchor "Jesus Christ" in your life when the storms come calling?

He will not fear evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is upheld, he will not fear, Until he looks with satisfaction on his adversaries. (Psalms 112:7-8 NASB)

For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. (2 Timothy 1:12 NASB)

Many a ship has been saved by anchoring to a solid rock. Let me ask you a few questions.



- Has the storms of doubt, discouragement, despair and defeat battered your ship?
- Has the winds of temptation, trials and tears ripped your sails?
- Has the seas of sin, sorrow, and sickness left you wounded and discouraged?
- Are you anchored to all that stuff in your life, your job, success, money, relationships, possessions, position? We can name our own anchors, we all have them.
- Or are you anchoring to that solid rock of Jesus Christ?

Yes, we can have that solid rock that no one can move; it's our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Put Him in your life today, if He's not already there.



The storms may batter you, the winds may blow, the sails may be torn, but the anchor holds. The anchor holds because of your faith in Jesus Christ.

In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, (Hebrews 6:17 NASB)

so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

(Hebrews 6:18 NASB)

This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

(Hebrews 6:19 NASB)

There are two foundations, one is of the world, which is not very solid or stable and the other one and only one that is everlasting and unchangeable is Jesus Christ. Jesus speaks of these two foundations in the book of Matthew, Chapter 7, and Verses 24-29.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:24 NASB)



"And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. (Matthew 7:25 NASB)

"Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. (Matthew 7:26 NASB)

"The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall." (Matthew 7:27 NASB)

When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; (Matthew 7:28 NASB)

for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes. (Matthew 7:29 NASB)

When storms of life come at you on all sides, when the rain is pouring down and we have built our house upon the solid rock of Jesus



Christ, the anchor will hold. "No doubt about it!"

Remember, there is only one foundation that has an anchor that will not fail. And I can't say it

enough, that anchor is Jesus Christ. Look to Jesus! Don't ever forget it!

Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, "Unless these men remain in the ship, you yourselves cannot be saved." (Acts 27:31 NASB)

Yes, Paul told them, "Stay on the ship." Why? Because he knew the Anchor! He knew in whom he had believed! Look at the following verses.

"Yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. (Acts 27:22 NASB)

"For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, (Acts 27:23 NASB)

saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.' (Acts 27:24 NASB)

"Therefore, keep up your courage, men, for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told. (Acts 27:25 NASB)

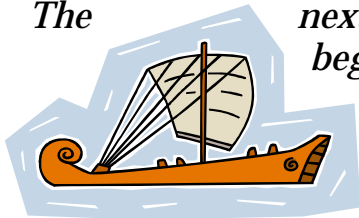


Can you see it? Paul identified himself in verse 23 as “God’s, he was not the property of the world, but the property of God, not anyone else, for he said*whom I belong, and whom I serve.....!*” Paul knew in whom he had believed, beyond a shadow of a doubt, “.....*for I believe God that it will turn out exactly as I have been told.*” (Verse 25)

Paul not only knew who he was, “A servant of God,” he knew in whom he had placed his trust, and what God told him was absolute fact. Paul made his declaration of faith “during the storm,” not after peace prevailed. Can we make our “Declaration of Faith” during the storm? Prepare before the storm.

After they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and fearing that they might run aground on the shallows of Syrtis, they let down the sea anchor and in this way let themselves be driven along. (Acts 27:17 NASB)

The *next day as we were being violently storm-tossed, they began to jettison the cargo;* (Acts 27:18 NASB)



and on the third day they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. (Acts 27:19 NASB)

Since neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small storm was assailing us, from then on all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned. (Acts 27:20 NASB)

Paul, as a prisoner was being taken to Rome, Italy to stand trial. Paul had warned the ship’s captain not to set sail from Crete due to damage to ship and self. They would not listen to what God had told Paul about the damage!

⚓ They had already let down sea anchors and used supporting cables in undergirding the ship. (Acts 27:17)

⚓ They had jettisoned the cargo. (Acts 27:18)

⚓ They threw the ship's tackle overboard on the third day. (Acts 27:19)

⚓ Their hope of being saved was gradually abandoned. (Acts 27:20)



This was apparently a storm of all storms. They were also sailing in the early winter months and the weather was cold and unpredictable. The storm lasted fourteen days; with no loss of life, just as God had told Paul. Paul believed and had his faith in God.

Where do we get our power? From the world, our own self or The Holy Spirit?

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, (Ephesians 3:20 NASB)

When Jesus and His disciples were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee crossing to the other side there came a fierce gale of wind and the waves were breaking over the boat. And the boat was filling with water.

Let's read the story in Mark 4, beginning with verse 35.

*On that day, when evening came, He *said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." (Mark 4:35 NASB)*

*Leaving the crowd, they *took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. (Mark 4:36 NASB)*

*And there *arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. (Mark 4:37 NASB)*

The Sea of Galilee is susceptible to sudden, violent storms. Cool air from the Mediterranean is drawn down through the narrow mountain passes and clashes with the hot, humid air lying over the lake.

*Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they *woke Him and *said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38 NASB)*

And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. (Mark 4:39 NASB)

And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40 NASB)

Where was Jesus? - Asleep in the stern (back) of the boat. The others awoke him and said; (now get this) “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” Where was their faith in this storm? They had Jesus right there in the boat and they had seen all the miracles that He preformed. What does it take for some people to believe? Where was the disciple’s faith in the time of storm? Does this sound like us today when we go through even minor trials and issues? Boy, are we hard-headed humans! Just have faith in Jesus Christ!



Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. (James 3:4 NASB)

Who is the captain of our salvation? Who is the captain of our ship? Who is the person at the helm, guiding us through the storms of life?

Most Christians today have a full agenda, which does not include prayer, praise, worship or study. Is it any wonder that we don’t know what to believe? Is it any wonder that we are powerless? Where does all this spiritual power, faith and belief come from? We are to become mature Christians bathing daily in God’s Word. Let us see what Paul says in Ephesians 4:14.



As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; (Ephesians 4:14 NASB)

Even in the Old Testament Book of Ezra, he had a word for us concerning our studying instructions from the Word of God.

For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel. (Ezra 7:10 NASB)

This instruction from Ezra is powerful. I call it the three-step plan!



1. Study the law of the Lord.
2. Practice it.
3. Teach others the Word.

You see, nothing can separate us from the love of God?

Nothing, for He is always there just waiting to put His loving arms around us.

We may turn from Him and walk away, but He is always there. But nothing can separate us from the love of God unless we break the relationship. We are free moral agents; we have a decision whether to follow Jesus or the world.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

(Romans 8:35 NASB)



If every plan you have fails, if everything you own is gone, if all your plans fall by the wayside, whatever may happen we have to believe and have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. What did Paul write in Romans 8:38-39.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
(Romans 8:38 NASB)

nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8:39 NASB)



Matthew's writings give us some insight into what is "the priority" of the soul.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
(Matthew 16:26 KJV)

When you are lonely,
⚓ **The Anchor Holds**
When you have no job,
⚓ **The Anchor Holds**
When you've lost your best friend,
⚓ **The Anchor Holds**
When everyone else deserts you,
⚓ **The Anchor Holds**
When you've lost a loved one,
⚓ **The Anchor Holds**
When the finances are not good,
⚓ **The Anchor Holds**
When the doctor gives up,
⚓ **The Anchor Holds**



⚓ **The Solid Rock and Anchor of Jesus Christ will always hold!**

but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57 NASB)

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58 NASB)

Do you know who your God is?



Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. (2 Corinthians 4:16 NASB)

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, (2 Corinthians 4:17 NASB)

while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18 NASB)

And fix our eyes on:



fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2 NASB)

Who will be with you?

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. (Isaiah 43:2 NASB)

The True Hero of the Titanic – John Harper



Hollywood put out a movie by the name "The Titanic" which tells of the sinking of this great ship which was told that people said; "Even God could not sink the Titanic." It was the largest cruise ship of its time. As far as that goes it was the world's largest man made moveable object

when it set sail. I never saw the movie, so I can't comment on it. But let me tell you the real story or as Paul Harvey may say; "Stay tuned for the rest of the story."

It's the story of John Harper, a preacher born in 1872 in England. He received Christ when he was thirteen years old. John Harper began to preach at the ripe old age of seventeen. He went up and down the streets of his village, pouring out his soul in earnest entreaty for men to be reconciled with God.

One thing was apparent.....he was consumed by the Word of God. When asked by various ministers what his doctrine consisted of, it was known that his reply was, "The Word of God!"

John Harper was blessed with a beautiful little girl he called Nana. His wife died shortly after their marriage. Mr. Harper also started his own church which is now known as Harper Memorial Church.

Ironically, John Harper almost drowned several times during his life. These events took place when he was two and half years of age, then at age twenty-six and then again at the age of thirty-two.

On the fateful night of April 14, 1912 the Titanic, while in the cold ocean waters an iceberg scraped the ship's starboard side showering the decks with



ice and ripping open six watertight compartments. The sea water poured in. On board the ship that night was John Harper and his beloved six-year old daughter Nana as he called her. According to documented reports, as soon as it was apparent that the ship was going to sink, John Harper immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat. Getting in the lifeboat himself never crossed his mind; he kissed his daughter and told her that he would see her someday.

It was reported that John Harper made his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and the unsaved into the lifeboats!" As the ship was breaking apart and sinking many jumped, including John Harper into the icy, dark waters below.

John Harper was seen swimming to people in the water leading them to Jesus. Mr. Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris. Preacher Harper asked, “Are you saved?” The young man replied that he was not. Harper then tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man reply, no! John Harper then took off his life jacket and threw it to the man and said, “Here then, you need this more than I do....” and swam away to other people. A short time later Harper swam back to the young man and succeeded in leading him to salvation. Of the 1528 people that went into the icy water that night, six were rescued and this “now saved” young man was one of them.

Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up and in tears recounted how John Harper had led him to Christ. John Harper’s last words before going under the frigid waters that night were, “Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”

Does Hollywood remember John Harper? No, it won’t sell to the world.

Well, now you know “The rest of the story” and “By the way the best part of the story.” Someone was reconciled with God, maybe many others thought about salvation in those icy dark waters on that fateful night of April 14, 1912!

William C. Martin wrote a song in 1902 titled “My Anchor Holds.” The song is based on Hebrews 6:19; *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,* (Hebrews 6:19 NASB)

“My Anchor Holds”

Though the angry surges roll
On my tempest driven soul,
I am peaceful, for I know,
Wildly though the winds may blow,
I’ve an anchor safe and sure,
That can evermore endure.

Chorus

And it holds, my anchor holds:
Blow your wildest, then, O gale,
On my bark so small and frail;

By His grace I have not fail,
For my anchor holds, my anchor holds.

Many tides about me sweep,
Perils lurk within the deep,
Angry clouds o'ershade the sky,
And tempest rises hight;
Still I stand the tempest's shock,
For my anchor grips the rock.

Chorus

I can feel the anchor fast
As I meet each sudden blast,
And the cable, though unseen,
Bears the heavy strain between;
Through the storm I safely ride,
Till the turning of the tide.

Chorus

Troubles almost 'whelm the soul;
Griefs like billows o'er me roll;
Tempters seek to lure astray;
Storms obscure the light of day;
But in Christ I can be bold,
I've an anchor that shall hold.

Chorus

And it holds, my anchor holds:
Blow your wildest, then, O gale,
On my bark so small and frail;
By His grace I have not fail,
For my anchor holds, my anchor holds.



I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things.

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August 23, 2008

Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ