

NEWSLETTER 2021-2

To: My Fellow Saints

Date: April 1, 2021

Re: **The Anchor Holds!**

Originally, I was more focused on making a presentation more directly on the Easter Story. This thought "**The Anchor Holds**" came during one of my late-night musical meditation (this is done after my final prayer; I meditate using worship music); this song came up and it really touched my heart. I googled the lyrics and again listened to the song on You Tube, after listening the third time I knew why God laid it on my heart. *Time will not allow for more details but be blessed, pray for others and reach out with compassion as God leads.*

Challenges of life will be experienced as long as we live in this world, as I have stated ever-so-often "the Church is a called-out community in a hostile world." We are not going to glamorize our trials, testing and tribulations so as to make the devil look as if he is all-powerful. God forbid; the devil has been conquered and his time is limited!

The believer will experience continued attacks from Satan, and that's a fact we all know, but at the same time victory is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord!! Note a few Scriptural highlights of those who didn't give in, didn't give up, didn't become negative or hopeless:

1. The Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:1-37), she was hurting and grieving both mentally and factually (2 Kings 4:19-28) but her response to Elisha was "**It is well**" (2 Kings 4:26c).
2. Job was in a physically awful state; in addition to the loss of all his possessions and children, nevertheless he could say ". . . **blessed be the name of the LORD**" (Job 1:21).
3. **Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the midst of all His excruciating suffering, prayed for the forgiveness of His accusers, murders and all the others** (Luke 23:34).
4. As for Bro. Stephen, stones were breaking his body, hatred was fuming, etc. but for Stephen hope was high and heaven assured . . . **he likewise prayed for his murderers** (Acts 7:60).
5. Paul and Silas were bound, bruised, battered and bleeding **but they prayed and sang praises** (Acts 16:25).
6. *I can only note three other references, without comments, these I have used frequently: Psa. 34:19; John 16:33; Rom. 8:28-39, highlight Vv. 28, 31, 35, 37-39.*

I am fully persuaded that God has some persons in mind that He is reaching out to with this message and I stand as a witness, with the assurance that no matter what we experience victory is assured! Beloved, stand firm, keep your eyes on Jesus, hope in God, keep trusting in Him!

A partial quote of **“The Anchor Holds”**

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

The Scripture God impressed on my heart is **2 Cor. 4:7-18, NB Vv. 8-10**. *Not much detail can be shared but we will allow God to lead.*

There are five things to be noted in verses 8-10 . . . *you may to add to what is shared below. **Be Blessed!!***

The believer faces all kinds of trouble and difficult situations in life, however, he should always remember that he has one great resource and that is the power and presence of God. What is important is our unswerving allegiance, keeping in mind that without Jesus Christ we can do nothing (John 15:1-8, NB v. 5). Whatever the situation we can rely on God to see us through, even if there is trouble on every side, God remains our way maker!!

A. Pressured but not Crushed 2 Cor. 4:8a

NKJV: “We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed.”

Amp. Bible: “We are hedged in (pressed) on every side [troubled and oppressed in every way], but not cramped or crushed . . .”

1. **“On every side”** means in every imaginable way, place and occasion.
2. The believer (*the passage in 2 Cor. 4 is addressed in relation to ministers but applicable to all believers*) experiences all kinds of trouble and pressure and he sometimes feel as though he is pressured and troubled beyond what he can bear.
3. But God steps in and saves him from being distressed and crushed.
4. **The ship may be battered and the sails are torn but the anchor holds!!**

B. Perplexed but not in Despair 2 Cor. 4:8b

NKJV: “We are perplexed, but not in despair.”

Amp. Bible: “We suffer embarrassments and are perplexed and unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair.”

1. The believer is often perplexed, not understanding why this or that happened, what should be done or said, how the situation should be handled and the queries continues.

2. There are times when situations become so puzzling that he is almost hindered and the threat of despair faces him.
3. But again the presence and power of God saves him from despair and gives him hope, stirs his confidence and shows the way out.
4. **The ship may be battered and the sails are torn but the anchor holds!!**

C. Persecuted but not forsaken 2 Cor. 4:9a

NKJV: "persecuted but not forsaken."

Amp. Bible: "We are pursued (persecuted and hard driven), but not deserted [to stand alone]."

1. Believers are sometimes opposed, and sometimes the opposition is severe.
2. Persecution may occur behind his back or to his face. It may be done in several ways: ridicule, martyrdom, criticism, isolation, mockery, etc.
3. God always stands by His Word and never forsakes or abandons any of His dear children!! **NEVER!!**
4. **The ship may be battered and the sails are torn but the anchor holds!!**

D. Put Down but not Destroyed 2 Cor. 4:9b

NKJV: "struck down, but not destroyed"

Amp. Bible: "we are struck down to the ground, but never struck out and destroyed."

1. The believer may be struck down to the ground, but never allowed to strike out (*no giving up, no surrender*) he may be knocked down but not out!!
2. The enemy (enemies) may seem to be prevailing in great measure and our strength begins to fail, there may be opposition within and without but despite it all we are not destroyed!!
3. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psa. 46:1 . . . *read the Psalm*).
4. **The ship may be battered and sails are torn but the anchor holds!!**

E. Putting Self to Death, Alive in Christ 2 Cor. 4:10 ... (Read Vv. 10-12)

1. To minister life to another person, we **must** share Christ's sufferings and experience the working of death in our lives (v. 12).
2. Self-denial, trouble, disappointment and suffering for Christ's sake will allow our lives to minister grace to others (2 Cor. 11:23-29; Rom. 8:36-37; Phil. 1:29; 1 Peter 4:14). Jesus taught this same great principle of brokenness in John 12:24-25.
3. **"Let Me Lose Myself" . . . (Partial Quote)**
 Let me lose myself and find it Lord, in Thee
 May all self be slain, my friend, see only Thee
 Though it cost me grief and pain
 I will find my life again
 If I lose myself I'll find it, Lord in Thee.
4. **The ship may be battered and sails are torn but the anchor holds!!**

*I will be able to quote **only** a portion of the rest of the theme song for this newsletter. You may download the song for you benefit: “**The Anchor Holds.**”*

Partial Quote

The anchor holds
Though the ships battered
The anchor holds
Though the sails are torn

I have fallen on my knees
As I face the raging seas
The anchor holds
In spite of the storm.

Psa. 46:1-3 Amp. Bible

“God Is our Refuge and Strength [mighty and impenetrable to temptation], a **very present and well-proven help in trouble**. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains be shaken into the midst of the seas, Though its waters roar and foam though the mountains tremble at its swelling and tumult. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]!”

Website:

1. Lessons 15 and 16 were added in March.
2. The final three lessons for our study in Joshua are in process and will be added by mid or late May; I will try for late April but May is guaranteed (2021).
3. A new series will be introduced and more information will be given in our next bi-monthly newsletter.

Your continued prayers are appreciated as this work is not by might nor by human power but by the enabling of God (the anointing). We cannot afford to do less especially in times like these.

My prayers are that you and your entire family, irrespective of where they may live, be blessed, kept and all their needs supplied **according to His riches in Christ Jesus** (Phil. 4:19).

You are genuinely loved and highly appreciated!!

Yours-in-Christ
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