

You Lord are my anchor

...In the wind and the wave

Message 5: [You are my anchor series](#).

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Introduction

While living in the Caribbean many years ago, after a night of drinking alcohol, I was persuaded by friends to try Marijuana also called Gunja or Weed. I ended up getting a bad psychotic attack and I thought I was going to die. I ended up sleeping with my Bible. This is one of the times the Lord Jesus became an anchor for my soul and if you give him your life – he too can help you safely navigate in the wind and the wave when you encounter life's troubles. Are you interested in hearing more about how he can be your anchor?

About me and these series

As you know from my introduction, I have not always been a “man of God.” No, I was pretty wild until I eventually heard the Lord. He said: *“Whom shall I send? and who will go for us?” And I said “Here am I, send me!” (See Isaiah 6: 8).* Thus, he told me to preach a series of 12 messages called “You are my anchor” and, I am to show you the heart of the Lord as a King who loves his people very much. For this message, I will tell you how Jesus became the anchor for my soul – so you too can have this same hope – firm and secure, as I have. Today's message is very special to me because it is coming to you in a very important spiritual month, the month I remember the death of my old life and being reborn by the Spirit of God. In this month, I was baptized a second time many years ago so this message is also very intimate. Are you a minister of the Lord? We love our fellow brothers and sisters and we regularly profile different ministries.

Anchor verse

To understand how God is our anchor, here is the anchor verse for today's message:

*When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” **And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.***

*People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. **We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.** It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 6: 13-20*

What is this hope?

These verses are dealing with how God made a promise to Abraham, who became the father of all those who believe in God by faith. The promise was to bless Abraham and his seed – that is you and I and all who believe. God made this promise first by giving a word and then confirming his word with an oath – akin to swearing in court, BUT he swore by himself, since there is none greater than him.

The fact that he cannot lie means we can count on God and this is GOOD NEWS if you are escaping the troubles of this world and are seeking peace – then you can run to the Great I AM.

This hope, in God who cannot lie is what the bible describes as an anchor for the soul. Like a ship's anchor in choppy waters, this hope is firm and secure. Thus, in God who is not a man and so cannot lie, we know that he will fulfil what he promised, after we wait patiently with faith.

Now, many of us today because we do not know of this hope, this promise, that is SO FIRM, we are tossed on the winds and waves. When we see the world in a state of chaos – war, rumours of war, climate troubles, gender wars, sexuality troubles, hunger and food insecurity, poverty, gun violence, divorce, child abuse, slavery. ALL THESE THINGS, all these storms, all this wind and wave, they rightly can cause fear – BUT how does one navigate such a world?

We who have run to Christ know the answer and because of that we are not shaken.

Why aren't we shaken? We are not shaken because of where we focus our eyes. Let me explain:

Those in the world see the storm **AND THUS focus on the wind and the wave** (For homework/further reading, see Matthew 14: 22-33) – meaning, they see the tempestuous waters of this life rising and threatening to capsize their boat –their finances, family, job, health etc. They see this and panic. By comparison, for us Christians it is different.

We see the wind and the wave and we focus on the promise – **that promise is a person, he is Jesus.**

Sure, we are in the same boat like those in the world, so we suffer the same storms caused by the same wind and wave meaning - we too lose jobs, we lose loved ones, we fall ill, run out of money and other troubles – but we are different. We do not mourn like those of the world. We do not cry as they do. Why? For us, we have a hope (see 1 Thess 4: 13- 18).

Our hope is an anchor – a promise from the Lord Jesus himself that he is coming back to take us to him, to a new heaven and a new earth for this world and its present troubles is passing away and so we know that when he comes, he will make all things new.

Because of this promise we have, we know that any trouble, any fear, any sickness in this world, it is temporary and no wonder Jesus told his disciples this:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16: 33 NIV

So, brother and sister – be cheerful, take heart for the Lamb has overcome!

How is the Lamb my anchor?

#1. Hope in the past

Let me now tell you how I have this anchor and hope in the Lord Jesus who carried me on his wings of love when I thought I would die one night.

Many years ago in the Caribbean, after drinking a lot of wine at a house party, I was finally convinced to try Marijuana (weed, Gunja) for the first time. I took it in form of a cake – a *Hush Brownie*. I soon left the party and at around 3.00 am I drove home – drunk and high. Shortly after, I went to bed. I did not know that the full effect of the Gunja took time to kick in for I later woke up feeling so terrible.

I honestly felt like I was dying. I cannot describe the feeling, it is like my head was spinning, endlessly and there was nothing I could do to make it stop. I tried to make myself throw up, to clear it – like I had done after a night of heavily drinking alcohol but this feeling never went away!

I now knew I was going to die – what I was later told was paranoia. I thought the ceiling fan would chop my head off, then that the leftover chicken I tried to eat would choke me. I eventually got into the shower to try to “wash off” the feeling I felt. Even there I thought I would slip and fall in the bath tub.

Eventually, knowing I was now done for, as if in my final act, I asked the Lord for forgiveness and closed my eyes – sleeping with my bible in my arms. I reasoned that this way if they found my drug overdose body, they would tell my poor mother in Africa that they found me holding a Bible.

Weed is not the only thing my Lord saved me from. Many years after that episode, God delivered me from living a life of hypocrisy and thus I became saved and got baptized a second time. Just like that, the promises of God proved true –that is: *“Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10: 13)”* He thus instantly saved me from sexual immorality, from alcoholism, from arrogance, from hedonism among my many many sins.

How did I know that he had saved me? My hope was in his promise and he can’t lie. His word promises thus: *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2: 38.*

#2. Hope for today

The Lord Jesus has continued holding me up and showing me his love over and over again!

When I for example almost lost hope, he saved me from a crushed heart. It took over 5 years for my wife and I to finally be able to live in the same home. His word was however an anchor for me, for he had told me several times: *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1: 9.* Through this hope, my wife and I continued in prayer until he eventually fulfilled his promise for us. We now live together, Hallelujah!

#3. Hope for tomorrow

If this same Jesus was with me in the past and is daily lifting me, I have confidence then that this same Jesus, who also commissioned me as a preacher of righteousness will fulfil the promise – IF ANYONE CALLS ON HIS NAME, HE will be saved. Thus, if you too want to make him your anchor, then you can

receive the same hope I have and thus I tell you: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. Matthew 3: 2*

Conclusion

Having the Lord as an anchor for your soul is a very personal thing because the Lord who cannot lie, in giving you his promises – which cannot be broken, is giving you assurance, you can count on. Just like an anchor fastens a ship in a storm, you can rest assured that he will help you in the winds and the wave. He will anchor you, like he has anchored me – in the past and he continues to do today and will continue tomorrow. If you want to know Jesus intimately, I have a message for you.

The Message Jesus wants me to pass on to you

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The world he created was perfect, not like the broken world we see. He created it so that in enjoying the perfect world, we might get to know God intimately, the one who created this world, but also created us – to be with him forever.

We have however been cut off from our anchor by the waves of sin that take us further and further away from God – who loving as he is, is also Holy and hates sin.

God in his mercy, seeing our helpless situation however looked at humans with pity – he looked at you and I and thus sent his son Jesus, as an anchor. Jesus came to this earth as a human being like us. He however lived a perfect and holy life, doing everything that God commanded him.

He was however killed by his enemies. His enemies did not know that this death was in line with God's eternal purpose and promise – a promise that he would eventually crush the serpent, the ancient dragon called Satan who had led humans into sin. Meanwhile, this Jesus after being dead for 3 days, he rose again by the power of the Spirit and he went up to heaven, where he is seated at God's right-hand side. While we wait for him to come back, as he promised, he has however given those who believe him, the gift of his Holy Spirit – as a deposit and a guarantee that he will come again and take us to himself. This is the hope we hold on to – like an anchor.

Do you believe this? If you believe this and want to make the Lord your anchor, then pray this prayer to become a Christian:

"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen"

Lord Jesus, come, Maranatha!