

# Winds—Waves—Anchor

#0648

Study given by W.D. Frazee—October 30, 1959

“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek” Hebrews 6:18-20.

I like the ring of certainty in that text. I would like to have you notice what other translations gives about the anchor:

“It reaches up secure and strong into the sanctuary”  
Goodspeed.

“That hope we have as an anchor of the soul, an anchor that can neither break nor drag” Weymouth.

It won't turn loose. The anchor won't break and it doesn't drag. It holds. It is fixed. It is secure. Thank the Lord for that.

You need an anchor in the time of storm. When you don't want to be driven upon the rocks or reefs you need an anchor. Are we in the time of storm? Do you know anything about storms? Are you having any?

Are you having any stress? Any difficulties? Any temptations? Any trials? Ah, we have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll.

We have a picture of conditions that call for an anchor. We also read how hope and faith are developed that enable us to meet these situations:

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations” James 1:1-2.

“When you find yourself hedged in by various trials”  
Weymouth.

Goodspeed says various trials. That is the thought. Why are you to be happy when you fall into these experiences?

“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience”  
James 1:3.

The word that is translated patience has something more in it than merely meekly accepting situations. It has in it the idea of endurance, persistence, and perseverance. So other translations give it steadfastness, or power of endurance.

“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”  
James 1:4-7.

Different translations help to bring out different shades of thought. After you hear it in some modern versions, you can see it in your King James Version.

“Reckon it nothing but joy, my brethren, whenever you find yourselves hedged in by various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith leads to powers of endurance, only let endurance have perfect results so that you may become perfect and complete; deficient in nothing. And if anyone of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask God for it, who gives with open hand to all men, and without upbraiding. And it will be given him. But let him ask in faith and have no doubts, for he who has doubts is like the surge of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed into spray. A person of that sort must not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a one is a man of two minds, undecided in every step he takes”  
Weymouth.

Did you ever see a person like that. He takes a step and says, Wait a minute. Should I have taken that step? I wonder. Maybe I should not have. Maybe I ought to be back here. Maybe I ought to be over there.

He needs an anchor. He is driven with the wind and the waves. He is tossed about.

“You must find the greatest joy, my brothers, in being involved in various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith leads to steadfastness; and steadfastness must have full place so that you may be fully and perfectly developed without any defects. If any one of you is deficient in wisdom let Him ask God who gives generously to everyone, and does not reproach one with it afterwards, and He will give it to him. But he must ask

with faith and without any doubt, for the man who doubts is like the billowing sea, driven and blown about by the winds. Such a man must not expect to get anything from the Lord—an resilient person like him, who is uncertain about everything he does” Goodspeed.

As I have been meditating on these verses, I have been thinking of various winds and waves. You remember when Peter started out to walk with Jesus on the water that he looked around to see what his brethren thought of him. Then he became conscious of the wind and waves. He grew doubtful and full of uncertainty and began to sink.

If you and I spend too much time looking at the winds and waves we will have an experience like Peter. I don't want that. Let's look at them for a moment so we know what they are, and recognize them for what they are.

Notice the winds and waves of temptation to sin. “When ye fall into divers temptations.” This includes more than what we call temptation, but it does include that.

Are you tempted? Perhaps you are tempted over and over on the same thing. Perhaps there are certain times when a certain temptation comes with such force that it seems it will overwhelm you like a billow that goes over your heart. A temptation that perhaps you have failed on again and again comes like a wave.

If you have ever been down to the ocean you have seen waves come in. When a wave comes in, there is another one coming. And then another one coming. If you get out in the surf to swim, you know that unless you are looking carefully pretty soon one has gone over your head.

Temptation can be like that. It comes again and again. Those waves of temptation come rolling in, and you have to watch for them.

Then there are winds and waves of opposition of other human beings. They may be the wicked of the world. They may even be people in the church. Were you ever opposed by somebody in the church? It has happened.

Paul had that problem. Jeremiah had it. Many of the saints of God have had it. I suppose one of the hardest problems anyone has is opposition in his own family. Jesus experienced some of those difficulties in His own home.

Then there are the winds and waves of doubt. Some people are troubled with doubts. I have heard of people who doubted the Bible. I have heard of some people who even doubted the existence of God. There are those who wonder whether certain doctrines are true or not true.

Some people are not troubled with doubts like that. They don't have those winds and waves to contend with. But some do. And really, they are like great billows. When some people get into an experience like that, it just seems to tear them to pieces.

Is the Bible true, or isn't it? Is God what the Bible says, or isn't He? Is this point of truth that has been proclaimed really true, or isn't it? What will we do with all those questions and doubts that come flooding in like a great tidal wave?

I suppose one of the most common kind of winds and waves that beset the Christian is that connected with uncertainty as to duty. Here is a man who is settled that God is true, the Bible is correct, and this message is God's truth, but he says, My problem is what to do about this practical detail in life. Shall I go here or shall I go over there? What am I going to do about paying the rent? Where am I going to get food for my family? What am I going to do about meeting the problem that is coming up next week?

All those practical day by day problems can sometimes be like winds and waves that buffet us, and roll us back and forth.

Then there are winds and waves of discouragement and despair. David cries, "All thy billows have gone over me." Jesus experienced this to the full in Gethsemane and on the cross. He even felt forsaken of His Father.

Those are some of the winds and waves I have been thinking about. But I am a lot more interested in what to do about them than I am in thinking about them.

The world today is filled with perplexity and distress and fear for looking after the things that are coming upon the earth. Thank God we have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll. That is the point.

An anchor, properly used, enables a ship to ride the storm and not be driven on the reef or rocks. It enables the ship to come through the storm safe and secure.

Should there be some peaceful soul here tonight who is riding in quiet waters, you may think you do not particularly need what we are studying. If I were you I would get it down in my soul because you will need it some day. It may be that before another sun shall set you will suddenly be plunged into some great temptation, some terrific trial, some loss or bereavement, some great perplexity, some problem that confronts you that must find an answer. All or any of these may flood your soul. What will you do?

Just the other day, in one of the national magazines that records the news of the day, there was a special report on the alarming increase in suicides. Men, women, and even children, are taking their lives for various reasons. But everyone that takes his life does so because he does not have an anchor. Isn't that true? You don't have to be an expert in psychology to know that. If a man has an anchor, if he has hope, he wants to live. He does not want to die. Oh, no.

It is those who have lost hope, and are full of despair and doubt and darkness in their lives. And for one who ends his life there are hundreds who would like to die one way or another. But how blessed it is to want to live on forever, and have the certain hope we shall have through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The anchor is hope. What is hope? Let me tell you first what hope is not. Hope is not reality. Hope is not sight. Hope is not possession. Hope is none of these things.

“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it” Romans 8:24-25.

Is there anyone here tonight hoping for a million dollars? It might be. You can hope for it without having it, can't you? Of course, hope used in that sense would be wishful thinking.

That isn't what Paul is talking about here. He is talking about a hope that not only wishes for something but expects to get it. There is a difference. That is what real hope is.

Please get those two things. It combines desire and expectancy. It not only wants something, it expects to get it. That is hope, and Paul says we are saved by hope. He says it is an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.

An anchor is not used to either push or pull a ship through the sea. There are other things used for that. An anchor is used for a ship to wait. That's it. “But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”

Can you wait, friends? Well, if you do not have hope you cannot. You will be jumping around, tossed like the winds and the waves and the billows. Oh, do you know there are few stable people in the world today? Very few stable people. But God is working the wonder work of the ages in this last generation. He is taking the generation that is most unstable, most tossed about in all history, and out of those He is developing characters which will be the marvel of the universe in stability.

You are invited to be one of them. You are called. Will you accept the invitation?

God has a process by which He is developing this hope. We read about it here in James. When people have this they will have the ability to wait.

In Romans 8 we read that with patience we wait if we have hope. James tells us how to develop that. It comes by falling into divers temptations.

Where do men learn to swim? In the water. We develop faith and hope in wrestling with these various difficulties. It is in meeting these various winds and waves that we develop that hope and faith which will enable us to meet the terrible tidal wave that is soon to sweep over this world in the time of trouble.

I would like to be very practical in this tonight and study with you the simple steps in finding our way through every one of these waves, whether it be some terrible temptation to sin, or some discouragement and despair. Whether it be some

uncertainty to do, or doubt, there is one way to find our way through. It is the way of prayer and faith.

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him” James 1:5.

“Every saint who comes to God with a true heart, and sends his honest petitions to Him in faith, will have his prayers answered. Your faith must not let go of the promises of God, if you do not see or feel the immediate answer to your prayers” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, page 120.

You must not let go. What is it that holds the ship so it does not let go? The anchor. But that anchor must be fixed into something so it does not drag. Your faith must hold on to something. What will it hold on to?

We read in Hebrews 6 that our anchor enters within the veil where the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus. Then our anchor is fixed where? He is within the veil. He is in the most holy place before the ark holding up His wounded hands for us. By faith we see Him in the sanctuary, and we know He is praying for us, and we hold on by prayer and faith, no matter that these winds and waves and waves beat about us. Oh friends, can you do that?

Again I say, let us be very practical. What does it mean when you get into a great temptation or test or trial, and you are in doubt as to what to do? When friends or loved ones or enemies oppose you what do you do?

God wants you to go to your knees and ask Him for help. He wants you to open your Bible and let Him speak to you through it.

This thing of anchoring in Christ is very practical. You cannot see Christ up there in the sanctuary. It is all a matter of faith. But His name is called the Word of God (Revelation 19). He is called The Word again and again (John 1:1-3). In the Bible Christ gives Himself to us.

It isn't just a figure of speech when the Bible is called the Word of God and Christ is called the Word of God. Christ is a literal person up there and this is a bound volume. I understand that. But this book is different from the ordinary books of the world. It is made with paper and printer's ink, but there is something in here that is not in books penned by men. Jesus says:

“The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” John 6:63.

There is life in this book. Yes. Wonderful life. That is why it goes to the South Seas and changes cannibals so that instead of eating one another they become peaceable and loving. It has life in it. Wonderful life. It has more power than all the guns of the great empires. This book has life changing, heart changing, power. There is life in this book.

I repeat, it is the Word of God. Christ is the Word of God. In this book Christ is offering Himself to us. And when we speak of our hope being anchored in Christ, let's be practical. That anchor of hope has got to dig down and tie itself to one of the text in this book. That's the thing I want you to see.

Some promise that fits your needs, and some assurance that deals with your problem is where the anchor of your hope must rest. You must take that text in your mouth and repeat it again and again. For instance:

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” Psalm 46:1.

Is that something for the anchor to hold to? Sure. When you get into some test or trial or trouble, the anchor of your hope can fix itself on that promise. You can repeat it, and down on your knees say, “Lord, I believe you are with me in trouble. You have said You are my refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Now I am anchoring to that promise, for I believe it is your Word. Oh, to do that.

Somebody says, I have done that, and it doesn't seem to do any good.

What do you mean it does not do any good? What did you expect? Did you expect the winds to cease and the billows to stop? If that happened the first minute you started to pray, or even the second minute or the third, then you never developed very much faith because you had sight. The storm was gone? Oh, the experience we must have comes through times where the answer is delayed.

“I saw that if we do not feel immediate answers to our prayers, we should hold fast to faith, not allowing distrust to come in, for that will separate us from God. If our faith wavers, we shall receive nothing from Him. Our confidence in God shall be strong; and when we need it most, the blessing will fall upon us like a shower of rain”  
*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, page 121.

So when you and I pray, and then begin to doubt and do not get much, we are simply proving the truth of the Scripture. The wonder is that we ever get anything on that program. It doesn't promise us anything. But if we will have faith and hope, and stick to it, it promises us everything. We can have our choice of nothing or everything. Oh, let us have faith.

Now I want to come a little closer to this thing of clinging to the promise. When Jesus was here in this world, there were times when the hopes of His disciples rose high.

Like the day when He fed the five thousand. What were they ready to do? Crown Him king. Like the day He rode into Jerusalem and the multitude waved the palm branches and sang Hosanna. Their hopes were at an all time high.

But before the week was over, where were their hopes? Buried with Christ in Joseph's tomb. Their hopes were gone. They simply repeated the mournful words, We hoped He was the One who would redeem Israel. It is all gone now. We don't understand it. It is a great disappointment.

Were they in despair? Oh, yes. They couldn't understand it.

Now watch. The first day of the week Jesus arose, and various ones carried the report that He was risen. What did almost everybody do? They doubted. They were still under the billows.

That afternoon two were walking out toward Emmaus. Jesus drew near and walked along with them. They did not recognize Him. Luke says their eyes were holden. They couldn't see Him.

Jesus walked along with them and asked what they are talking about. They said, Are you a stranger in Jerusalem that you haven't heard all these things that have happened? Then they told Him about the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. They said they hoped Jesus was the one, but now they were disappointed and dejected and felt badly over it.

What did Jesus do? A lot of us, if we had the power, would have opened up and showed Jesus to them. Would their doubts have all been gone then? Yes. Would the sorrow have been gone? Yes. Did Jesus do that? No. He started pointing them to the Word:

“Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself” Luke 24:25-27.

If you can get hold of this, you will have something to help you in trial. Jesus was telling them that here in the Word was evidence that the things they were telling Him were correct. Where did He anchor Himself? In the Word. He knew that He, in the flesh, was soon to be withdrawn from them and taken up in to heaven. But His Word would abide with them always. He sought to fix their faith on the Word.

Bless God, that same Word you and I have tonight. We begin with Moses where Jesus began. And in those prophecies and in those Scriptures we can find what He showed them—the things concerning Himself. He is in these books from Genesis to Revelation. He is there.

So I say to you, when you speak of being anchored in Christ, what does it mean? It means to be anchored in this Word. It means that when the billows of doubt, the billows of temptation, the billows of opposition, the billows of discouragement, sweep over your soul that you put the anchor of hope down around one of those texts and hang there. Say, Lord, I believe Your Word. How I feel has

nothing to do with it. I believe Your Word. What others say has no effect. No matter how I feel or what others say, I believe Your Word.

That is being anchored. That is the way to go through a storm. That is the way to meet every billow.

James says to count it all joy when you fall into these experiences, knowing that the trying of your faith works out this patient endurance, this ability to deal with situations. In other words, if you get in a trial, get out the anchor and fix it around one of these promises, get down on your knees and pray your way through with God.

If the answer is delayed, you still hang on to the throne of God and keep repeating that text and say, Lord, I believe it. I know it is so. In Your own good time I will see and feel the answer, but I have it now by faith.

When you do that you are developing something, and you will come out of that experience stronger in faith and hope than you went into it.

Is Wildwood a training school? Is Wildwood a place to be trained for the tests and trials ahead? Do we believe in practical education? Do we believe in the laboratory method? Do we believe that the best place to learn how to grow food is on the farm or in the garden? Do we believe that the best place to learn how to milk cows is in a dairy? Do we believe that the best place to learn to cook is in a kitchen? Yes. And the best place to learn to nurse is in a sanitarium.

Why do we believe all that? Because the best way to learn to do anything is by doing it.

If God is conducting a training school, and you are a student enrolled, and getting ready for the great tests and trials ahead, and you are where God wants you, do you suppose you will have some laboratory experiences? And if this is a place God is using to train people, will there be any of these trials and temptations, these winds and waves?

I find in our human nature that when anything begins to happen like that we wonder what is wrong. And if we hear of several people who are having tests and trials at various times, then we do begin to say something must be wrong. You know what I am talking about, don't you? The question comes, Why should there be all these problems, these temptations, these difficulties, these tests, these trials, these financial problems, or this or that? If we are following Jesus, why should we have all this?

Well, it is because God is leading that these experiences come. Do you believe it? Do you see it as we study these Bible texts? If we are ever to have our anchor within the veil, fixed so firmly that we can ride out the storm of the future and not be driven upon the rocks, we have got to have an experience in little storms now to prepare us for the great storm ahead.

So I appeal to you, as never before enter into this experience today, tonight, tomorrow, next week, in the very trials God let's you come into. Whatever the test. If it is uncertainty about what duty is, don't be jumpy. Get down on your knees with God. Find a text that meets your need and hang to it like a bulldog. Let your anchor grip around that text and say, Lord, I am going to wait until I know what You want me to do.

If the billow is a billow of temptation, don't yield to the temptation. Don't be driven upon the rocks of failure. Wrap your faith and hope around a text of scripture and stand right there. Let the billow roll over your head and go on up the beach if it wants to. You stand right there with that text, anchored in Christ.

That is the way Jesus did out there in the wilderness of temptation. When the Devil came to Him with seemingly overpowering temptations, every time He said, "It is written." Whatever the test, whatever the trial, whatever the billow or the wave, meet it in this practical way.

I will go over it again from a little different angle. When you get into these problems, go to your knees and plead with God, but plead with Him on the basis of His Word. Take a promise and present it to Him, and claim that promise. And when you have done it, assert your faith.

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire,  
when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall  
have them" Mark 11:24.

Take the matter of wisdom of what to do. I get down and cry, Lord, help me to know what to do. But suppose I say, Lord, I don't know if I will know or not. Will I get an answer? No. Or if I do, I am afraid of what source it will be from. But if I will have faith I can say, Lord, I know you have heard me, and I know You will answer. And I will have the answer when I need it.

To be very practical, let me introduce this point: Suppose I have prayed and prayed earnestly, and I have read the Word and have my faith and hope anchored in a promise, but still I do not know what to do. Then what? Wait on God. We read that in Romans 8:25, didn't we? Yes. As my dear friend, Elder Luther Warren used to say, "When you don't know what to do, then you know just what to do." Sure. Wait on God.

But don't just wait without doing anything. Again and again get down on your knees and plead with God for the answer, and again and again keep telling Him you know you are going to have it. Always express your faith. And the longer the delay the stronger your faith must be.

That's what Elijah did upon the mountain. How many times did he pray for rain? Seven times. We are told his faith endured the test. He kept praying and his faith kept getting stronger as the answer was delayed. As sight goes down, faith comes up like the setting sun and the full moon.

Oh friends, as the night of doubt and darkness and despair settles down, as the sun of sight fades away and you have nothing, look in the East. Yonder rises that beautiful moon of hope and faith. Believe the promise of God. And as darkness deepens, let the light of hope and faith increase.

In other words, the worse you feel, the more you must quote the promises and hang to them. Keep saying, Lord, I do believe. I believe Your word. I know You are going to help me. You said so, and I don't doubt. I am going to be true.

Then you must act in harmony with your prayer. Act as if you believe it.

“The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. . . . Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God” *Great Controversy*, page 621.

This is from the chapter *The Time of Trouble*. It would be worth your while to read it in connection with this study tonight. Hear those howling winds and see those mighty waves. See those great billows as they come sweeping. Ah, I cannot fight them with my fists. I may not be able to rise above them.

But thank God; Oh, praise His name, I can anchor my soul to the promises of God. Down on my knees I can open the Bible and place my hand upon those precious promises and say, Lord, I believe, and I am going to stand for You no matter what. I am going to believe You no matter what I feel.

No matter how dark and discouraging everything looks around me, I am going to look up where Jesus stands before the mercy seat, and I am going to believe He is praying for me because He says so. I am going to believe He will keep me because He says so. I am going to believe He loves me because He says so. And I am going to be true to Him and do what He says. That, dear friends, is victory.

“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus.”

Precious Lord, with all our hearts we thank Thee tonight that the way has been opened for our anchor to be cast within the veil. We thank Thee there is a forerunner there, and on Him our hopes are fixed tonight. We thank Thee for the written Word, this living Word where our eyes can read the message of God, and our hope can entwine about the promises of God. We thank Thee for prayer where we

can plead these promises and hang on to Thy pledged word, regardless of feeling.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

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