

MOVING TOWARD MATURITY

Anchor of the Soul

TEXT: Heb.6:19-20

INTRODUCTION: A Sunday School teacher asked her class if they knew the difference between kindness and loving kindness. One little girl said she knew the difference. She told the teacher that kindness is like when you ask your mother for some toast and she gives it to you, but loving kindness is when you ask your mother for some toast and she gives it to you with butter and jelly on it. And that's the way God is. God, in His loving kindness, is an exceedingly generous giver. He doesn't just give you some blessings, but He gives some blessings with some butter and jelly on it.

Chapter 6 of the Book of Hebrews is like that. It is so full to the point of overflowing that it is difficult to even preach all that is in this one chapter. Already I have brought you three messages from Hebrews 6, I will bring one more today, the end of the chapter introduces the message of Hebrews 7, and if I were to be 100% thorough I could preach yet one more. All of that to say that God filled Hebrews 6 with a lot of butter and jelly for us.

Today I take only two verses, Heb. 6:19-20, which, while brief, is as rich and satisfying as could be the message behind any of the Words of God preserved for us in Holy Scripture.

Hebrews 6:19–20 ¹⁹ This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Now some of you are asking, “What has this to do with Mother’s Day?” and I will tell you very soon, but first we must take hold of this text and see its meaning. Doug just sang so beautifully “The Anchor Holds,” one of my all time most favorite songs. And our text says we have an anchor of the soul.

Now the Bible shows us that the soul is that part of both woman and man where we feel, think, and make decisions. When we watch a heart stirring video about mothers, the mind processes the information, we feel it so intensely that we are moved to tears, and it may even result in us deciding to do something – to say a prayer of thanks for Mom, to say a word of thanks to Mom, to try to show more love and gratitude for Mom. But all of that happens inside each of us in what the Bible calls the soul.

So in our text, God is telling us, **“I have given you an anchor of the soul, a sure and steadfast anchor.”** The Lord has given us an anchor **to keep our minds from drifting into places they ought not to go**, an anchor **to keep us from slipping into feelings we ought not to have**, an anchor **to help us hold firm to our righteous commitments and decisions.**

Now the key question we ought to ask of this passage is, “What is the anchor? What can keep our soul from drifting in dangerous currents? What can keep our soul from being shipwrecked on the reef of culture?” The answer is also given in this brief text: Verse 19 says “This hope,” but what hope? What is the hope that serves as an anchor of the soul? Jesus! Jesus is the anchor. Look again.

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Paul is saying, “Jesus went into the heavenly Holy of Holies and offered His blood to pay the penalty for our sin; now He is our forever High Priest. He is our hope! He is the anchor of our soul!

Now what has Jesus being the anchor of our soul to do with Mother’s Day? Much indeed.

Who is concerned when various influences cause the minds of family members to start drifting into unhealthy or unwholesome areas? - Mother!

Who is concerned when husband or children are trapped in anger and unforgiveness or she detects the stirring of other feelings dangerous to those she loves? - Mother!

Who is concerned when decisions are made out of the wrong motives or for the wrong reasons? - Mother!

I am not saying that Dad does not have or share these concerns or that sometimes the shoe is on the other foot and a child is the one concerned for the parent. But by and large, who carries a burden for these things in the family more often and more heavily than anyone else? – Mother!

So I am speaking to all of us who sometimes bear this burden, but mothers, I am speaking especially to you because the weight of this burden is on many of you most of the time.

Mothers, Jesus is the anchor of the soul for every member of your family. He can keep minds focused on righteousness, feelings controlled by the Spirit, and

decisions based on God's Word. So, moms, how can you help each of your family members allow Jesus to be the anchor of their souls?

I. LET JESUS BE THE ANCHOR OF YOUR OWN SOUL.

A. You cannot help them stop drifting if you are drifting.

1. Any fisherman can tell you that the anchor in the boat is just as important as the motor.
2. My story of losing the anchor.

B. How do you let Jesus anchor your soul?

1. **Be saved!**
2. **Spend time in God's Word.**
3. **Let God's Word direct your mind, your thinking.**
4. **Put your feelings in subjection to your faith.**
5. **Make decisions based on what God's Word says.**

C. You will be surprised at how steady and steadfast you will become.

1. You will be like a ship at anchor. The currents rush, but you are unmoved.
2. You notice that you begin to think more like Christ.
3. Your feelings are in better control.
4. Your decisions are more sound.

II. DO BATTLE FOR YOUR LOVED ONES THROUGH PRAYER.

A. When we think of spiritual warfare, we think of the armor of God.

Ephesians 6:13–17 ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

B. We too often leave off the next verse.

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

C. Prayer is an offensive weapon in spiritual warfare.

Moms, your family is being attacked by spiritual forces. The devil is besieging them with lies.

Demons are stirring up every temptation.
Lost friends are seeking to influence them and not in godly ways!

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Prayer is the way you call in the artillery!
Prayer is the way you get the attention of the Commander of the Lord's army!
Prayer is the way you get victory in the spiritual battles your loved ones are losing right now!

Mothers, do you want the mind, the emotions, the will of your spouse and children to reflect the things of God Who made them instead of the devil who wants to destroy them? Then go to war! Do battle for your loved ones through prayer.

III. DON'T EVER GIVE UP!

Read the story of the woman from Shunem in II Kings 4:8-37.

Conclusion: Some of you remember back 4 years ago when I first came as your pastor, that Karen and I were greatly grieved over some things that had happened in the life of our oldest son. Bad choices had led to terrible consequences. For many years he was adrift. His thinking was wrong, his feelings were wrong, his decisions were wrong.

God is not finished with him yet, but today he has an anchor for his soul. He is reading the Word and developing the mind of Christ. He feels different and so much better. His decisions honor the Lord. Jesus is the anchor of his soul.

And while I give God all the glory for the doing of it, I tell you that I am convinced beyond all doubt that the Lord worked mightily through the prayers of my wife for Jeremy. She prayed Jer. 29:11 for him over and over and over again.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

And she never gave up! And I am not saying there are not more spiritual battles to be fought in the future, but I am telling you today our son whose life was adrift has an anchor for his soul.

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