

# Hold the Rope!

Hebrews 6:19-20

MOTHER'S DAY! And we are so glad for all of you moms who have joined us to worship God Most High! We are not only thankful for our own moms or for the mother of our own children, we are thankful for each of you. Your love and investment in the lives of your children and grandchildren has blessed each of us, even though we are not related to your family.

Moms, I have selected two verses of Scripture which offer you blessing this morning. They come from the book of Hebrews.

I love the book of Hebrews, especially when my primary purpose in preaching or teaching is growing believers into mature disciples. That is what the book of Hebrews is all about.

The text I share with you this morning is one of my favorite texts in this grand book of God's Word.

**Hebrews 6:19–20 NKJV** 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.

## **WHAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS TEXT?**

### **THE ANSWER: An anchor of the soul**

I hope you remember what the Scripture says about the soul.

We all have three parts to our being: body soul, and spirit.

- Our body is the physical part of us.
- The spirit is innermost portion that is capable of communication and fellowship with God Who Is Himself Spirit.
- **Our soul includes our mind, our feelings, and our will.**
  - Another way of saying this is that the soul includes the mental, emotional, and volitional part of a person.

- We think; we feel, we decide with our soul.

## WHAT DOES AN ANCHOR DO?

**THE ANSWER: An anchor stops a boat from drifting.**

Hebrews 2:1 NKJV Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

So, an anchor of the soul keeps the soul from drifting.

- To keep our minds from drifting into places they ought not to go.
- To keep us from slipping into feelings we ought not to have.
- To help us hold firm to our righteous commitments and decisions.

And do we not all need this help?

Not just moms, all of us! Men and women, teenage boys and girls.

Satan loves to cause the currents of culture to cause our soul to drift toward dangerous places.

- The tempter may use a book, a movie, a TV show, a YouTube video, a song, a teacher, to try to move our mind toward seeing the world or a situation more like he wants us to see it rather than seeing it like God tells us it really is.
  - This is what the devil did to deceive so many concerning abortion. He began to populate the cultural conversation with the thought, “My body, my choice!”
  - The convictions of the majority did not change overnight, but they began to drift toward the perspective of the evil one.
  - Only in the last decade has the understanding begun to noticeably move back toward the truth God declared in His Word long ago: The baby in the womb is a person whose life is created by God, not just a part of his or her mother’s body.
  - Believers, we must stand firm and we must pray! Now that the Supreme Court is on the cusp of reversing one of the most anti-God rulings the court has ever made, bedlam is being raised by those whose souls have drifted onto the mudflats of reason, carried by the devil’s lies like a mighty current.
- Satan also tempts our feelings to drift.

- Through media's efforts to make homosexuality appear normal and natural and its refusal to even acknowledge the perversion associated with this lifestyle, he has been tragically successful in causing the feelings of society to drift so much that the ones persecuted are those who stand by God's declaration that homosexuality is an abomination to Him.
- The devil has done the same, also with devastating consequences, with the approval of gay marriages.
- The evil one is in the middle of trying to cause the current leading to godlessness to flow swiftly toward the ridiculous thought that gender is a choice. Praise God we live in a state where our governmental leaders have at least said, "We are not going to allow the currents flowing through public education to usurp the influence of parents on their own children."

Folks, I offer these current examples of how Satan uses drifting of our minds, our feelings, and our decisions to slowly but surely drift in his direction.

**WE ALL NEED AN ANCHOR FOR OUR SOUL!!!**

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:

**Hebrews 6:19–20 NKJV** 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.

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.

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?

### **HOLD THE ROPE!**

- **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.
  3. The anchor will not keep you from drifting if you don't hold the rope!
- **How do you hold the rope?**
  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.**

- 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.

### **DO BATTLE FOR YOUR LOVED ONES THROUGH PRAYER.**

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

Ephesians 6:11–17 NKJV 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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*.** 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;

We too often leave off the next verse.

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

### **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!
- 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. I know a family where the husband was on the verge of divorcing his wife. She and her teen children went to see the movie War Room. They set up a Prayer Room in their house. Today this family is restored!

### **DON'T EVER GIVE UP!**

I heard on the radio some years ago about a boy's hand which had three scars. If you had asked them how they got there, you might have been horrified to hear him answer, "From my mother's fingernails."

But your impression would change if you heard the whole story. Young Michael was swimming in the middle of a pond with a sister and cousin behind their house in Florida where the family had just moved. His mother had just come to the shore's edge to call him in to do some chores when she heard a neighbor across the way scream for the kids to swim to shore. She looked, and saw an 11 ft. alligator headed right for the kids.

The girls heard the warning and swam for shore; but Michael had on his mask and snorkel, so with his head buried in the water, calmly moving about with his swim fins, he was oblivious to the danger that glided dangerously straight toward his head.

Actually, the mask and snorkel that kept Michael unaware of his perilous predicament helped save his life. As the huge jaws of the giant gator engulfed the little boy's head and upper body, the upright snorkel acted like the proverbial stick stuck in the open mouth of the alligator. Michael struggled free, leaving the gator with the mask and snorkel in its jaws. Michael swam for shore, underwater at first, while the gator circled, looking for its prey.

Michael surfaced for air about twenty feet from safety and the alligator immediately spotted him. Just as Michael reached the outstretched arm of his mother, the gator engulfed his legs. What ensued was essentially a tug of war between a 400 lb. alligator and a 100 lb. mother for the life of little Michael. Eventually the swim fins came off in the gator's mouth and Michael's mother pulled him to the safety of the shore.

A few months later, you would never have been able to detect any sign of this awesome ordeal in this little boy's life. A long scar on his head was covered by his bushy brown hair. His shoes and socks hid the scars from the gator's teeth imbedded in his feet. The only thing at all that showed were three scars on his hand, caused not by the gator, but by his mother as she hung on to her son with all she had to pull him from the jaws of death because she never gave up.

### **HOLD THE ROPE! DON'T EVER GIVE UP!**

Oh moms, dads, may the scars on our kid's lives be from those times that we wrestled them from the instruments of the enemy that seek to steal, kill, and destroy our children.