

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: ~ GOOD ~ Live for something. Do good and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the storm of time can never destroy. Write your name in kindness, love, and mercy on the hearts of thousands you come in contact with year by year; you will never be forgotten. No, your name, your deeds will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind as the stars on the brow of evening. Good deeds will shine as the stars of heaven. ~ Chalmers ~ Leaves of Gold, p141

HOPE, THE ANCHOR FOR YOUR SOUL

What a joy to share God's heart for his precious children with you. Several weeks ago, I sought the Lord's heart for a Women of Hope meeting, and six words flowed into my spirit—**HOPE, THE ANCHOR FOR YOUR SOUL**. As nothing else immediately followed, I tucked them away in my heart until such a time when God would reveal the fullness of His word for this fellowship.

One day, Mira, my 6 year old great granddaughter, and I sat watching a Disney movie. Ships were sailing on the ocean and the lead ship stopped and we saw an anchor being dropped into the water. Immediately those six words came to mind—**HOPE, THE ANCHOR FOR YOUR SOUL**! I asked Mira if she knew what it was they dropped overboard. "Sure Nanny", she replied. "It's an anchor!"

"Well", I said, "what's an anchor; what does it do? Why did they drop it?" Thinking I had her.

Whereas she stood up, turned toward me, looked directly into my eyes and with animated hand and body gestures said, "It's that big, heavy thing that you drop into the water and it goes down to the bottom and the ship stops—it can't move. And then when you want to move again, you have to pull the anchor up, (again, with the hand motions) and you sail off again into the wild blue yonder! That's it Nanny! After I quit laughing over her wild blue yonder antics, I told her, "Mira, I'm impressed; you got it! Then a ticker tape image with the words **Hebrews 6:19** rolled before my eyes, and I knew I too, had got it; I had my sermon.

On my computer that night, I did a passage lookup on **Hebrews 6:19** starting with the **New King James Version** which reads, *This hope we have as **an anchor** of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.*

The **New Living Translation** reads *This hope is a **strong and trustworthy anchor** for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.*

The **New International Version** reads, *We have **this hope** as **an anchor** for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.*

The **New Century Version** reads, *We have **this hope** as **an anchor** for the soul, sure and strong. It enters behind the curtain in the Most Holy Place in heaven.*

Today's English Version reads, *We have **this hope** as **an anchor** for our lives. It is safe and sure, and goes through the curtain of the heavenly temple into the inner sanctuary.*

The Message reads, *It's an unbreakable **spiritual lifeline** reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God.*

J.B Phillips reads, ***This hope** we hold as the **utterly reliable anchor** of our souls, fixed in the very certainty of God himself in Heaven.*

What could be better than that—more hopeful? Do you have hope as the anchor for your soul? Are you anchored steadfast in hope as you face hurts, problems, and trials? You can be! Although hope is unseen, it is invisible, it is hidden from our eyes, and it is intangible; yet we see it linked in the Word of God with something we're all familiar with—an anchor! Hope stands alongside of faith as to being able to pin it down, but the author of Hebrews is only drawing a comparison between what an anchor does for its ship, and what hope does for our hearts. Bottom line, an anchor is a source of security and stability. In thinking of an anchor; we think of it as holding us firmly to a fixed place—a place of safety and security until the storm or storms pass by, and we are free to move on. We can depend upon it to do the job it was designed to do. In scripture, an anchor is seen as the link that allows us to enter into God's presence, into His Holy Sanctuary. Jesus is that link; He is our anchor.

Can you agree with me that Hope may at times seem elusive and out of reach as we go through various losses: broken relationships, sickness, loss of jobs, going from a full time job to only part time and losing your benefits, financial difficulties, possible death and the list goes on and on as human conditions affects our lives? Do you at times feel overwhelmed—struggle to hang onto your hope when faced with difficult situations? I do. In those times, it's hard to hold fast; to not allow doubt, unbelief, and fear creep in and take over our minds, to cause us to waver, and cause us to make foolish decisions.

Paul in **Galatians 5:17** warns us of that very thing as he tells us *For the flesh lusts (wars) against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* These two forces are constantly fighting each other.

Matthew 26:41 also warns us to *Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

We must remember that our hope is an anchor—sure and steadfast. It is unshakeable, for it rests in the One [Jesus] who cannot be moved. How many times when we are going through these trying times that a brother or sister will come along and share God's hope with us and we are encouraged; we see a light at the end of our tunnel. We trust the God of hope, whose truth never fails us and will meet our every need. Hope abounds in our hearts, and will touch every area of life. We have a firm footing in Jesus, the anchor for our soul.

We live in uncertain times. We don't know what each day will bring for us or for those we love. More and more our days are filled with unexpected turns—with ups and downs. We never know what to expect anymore—not sure what will show up to turn our world upside down. It's hard to trust when we can't seem to control our lives, and all the wishing and wanting in the world cannot change that fact. But let me tell you, I do not want to live my life without God's hope. I do not want to live my life as a gamble—hoping for the best—but not trusting it will happen. I once read that Christian hope is not a fragile thing. It is rock solid, (oh, I love reading and declaring that truth) and by God's grace we can abound! Can you agree with me that is a truth—a fact-- we can COUNT ON? No matter what you are facing today, **YOU HAVE HOPE AND AN ANCHOR FOR YOUR SOUL.**

You've heard the saying, "*When the odds are against you, just hope against hope that things will work out!*" I would rather trust **Colossians 1:27b**...*Christ in you, the hope of glory.* Jesus is our glorious, eternal hope. He is always with us. We will never be abandoned. His truth gives us hope for every day we are on this earth. Jesus is the anchor that's cannot be yanked out of the water. He holds us steady.

An image comes to my mind of a woman who has fallen into a dark, dried-up well of undetermined depth. Clinging to the end of the rope, she holds on for dear life, yelling at the top of her lungs for help. Finally, when she has been hauled to the surface, her hands have to be pried from the death grip she has on the rope. One of her rescuers notes the approximate length of the rope and observes that it is nearly as long as the well is deep—short only by about the woman's height. .

Sure enough, a tape measure is dropped into the black hole and the rescuers determine that the woman was dangling only inches from the bottom. The whole time she was clinging on for dear life, she could have been standing. She could have used her strength, or at least saved it, to assist in her own rescue when the time came.

We, at this point, have our own ideas on what she should have done. Some of you may be thinking, "*But she didn't know!*" That is true; she didn't know and neither do you until someone either illuminates our pit or measures the rope while we dangle there. We need one another and we certainly need the God of hope in those times of intense emotional demands or financial strain or when circumstances and relationships are strained to their limits. We need Jesus, the anchor for our hope.

We need to remember that we can let go of the ropes of our lives and drop, assured of the security that waits to catch us. Remember that directly underneath us are the everlasting arms of our heavenly Father. God is always there. Life may take more than it gives, but God is always there to give more, so much more, that life can ever take.

Don't hang on when God is saying to drop! **DROP! Let Him be the anchor for your soul.**

IN CLOSING: Would you agree with me in this prayer?

Father, when we get tangled up in our problems, help us to be still, and wait for Your directions. We can trust You to help untangle the knots in our lives. Let us be assured of Your ever loving presence as the anchor for our soul. Help us to be willing to take chances and not let doubt or fear rule our lives. For if we never *step out* in faith and hold tight to our anchor of hope, then we will never experience all that You have planned for our lives.

We see a gigantic mountain while you are trying to tell us it is only a mole hill. We see a road full of pot holes while in truth; there are only a few. When we encounter difficult problems, help us to see them through Your eyes, therefore, solving them through Your perspective. God help us to yield our minds to you so that You can teach us Your ways. Be our Hope—the Anchor for our soul always. Amen.

Women of Hope Ministry: **H**ealing hands: **O**pen hearts, **P**assionately prayer and **E**verlasting love!

I leave you with this thought

You can live without chocolate, but you can't live without HOPE!