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A Note from The President Of LCMI
Bishop Tim Dailey



An Anchor for Our Soul

Sometimes we just run out of hope. When we do, where can we turn? Hebrews 6:19-20 says, *"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."*

The anchor was an early Christian symbol commonly found in the Roman catacombs as a symbol of the hope we have in Christ beyond this life. It is indeed a fitting inscription for a Christian tomb. One of the oldest of the symbols of the cross is the anchor. Originally a symbol of hope in general, the anchor takes on in this way a much higher meaning: that of hope based on the Cross of Christ. The similarity of the anchor to the cross made the anchor a highly regarded Christian symbol.

Christians adopted the **anchor** as a **symbol** of hope in future existence because the **anchor** was regarded in ancient times as a **symbol** of safety. In general, the **anchor** can symbolize hope, steadfastness, calm and composure.

The anchor has one purpose—to steady the boat. You and I need a good anchor. Why? Because you have a valuable vessel—your soul. When God breathed into Adam, He gave him more than oxygen -- He gave him a soul. The anchor for the

soul is set, not on a boat or person or possession, but it is set in *the inner sanctuary behind the curtain where Jesus has entered on our behalf*. In other words, our anchor is set in the very throne room of God. Death, failure, betrayal, sickness, or disappointment—they cannot take your hope, because they cannot take your Jesus.

Many times, I've heard people say, "My situation is hopeless." They feel as if they're looking down a long, dark tunnel with no way out. However, for those of us who have believed in Jesus Christ and been born of His Spirit, there is no such thing as a hopeless situation. Although we experience pain, difficulties, and confusion, we have an anchor of hope that keeps us from drifting into despair.

Hebrews 6:19 calls this anchor "both sure and steadfast," which means our hope is certain and provides stability even when the harshest winds of adversity blow. The basis of our confidence is found in the preceding verses, where the writer describes God's unchanging nature and unfailing commitment to fulfill His promises. He then encourages us to lay hold of it. There are so many promises in Scripture that the Lord wants us to desire and see fulfilled. But to do so, we need patience, perseverance, and a focus on the Lord.

Unless anchors are dropped into the sea, they are useless. In the same way, we must take hold of the hope God has provided and use it as our source of stability. When we focus on our troubles, we are tossed about without a firm foundation. But when we concentrate on God's character and promises, we'll remember that He always works situations out for our good—even when we don't understand how. So whether we're facing an uncertain outcome or a situation we can't change, knowing God is faithful allows us to stand firm.

Although the early Christians suffered much persecution, they endured with hope. Archeologists have found 66 different types of anchors etched on the walls of the catacombs where Roman believers used to worship and where many of them were buried. The outcome looked bleak from an earthly perspective, but their hope was in the guarantee of eternal life.

That's the viewpoint we need. Our trials and suffering will be over when we stand before the Lord in heaven and behold His glory. While it's good to have aspirations and dreams in this life, we must remember where our hope ultimately lies. And until we're in God's eternal presence, we must grasp our anchor of hope and stay focused on the One who always holds us steady.

With all of the uncertainties of this life and the unending challenges that we face, let us anchor ourselves firmly to the *inner sanctuary behind the curtain where Jesus has*

entered on our behalf. Remember, nothing can take your hope because it is anchored in Jesus!

Timothy and Laurie Dailey
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SOME THOUGHTS ON BEING THANKFUL

The Meaning of Thankfulness

Dictionary Definition:

A feeling of thankfulness and appreciation
An expression of gratitude; or appreciation.

NT meaning: The concept of thankfulness in the New Testament comes from the use of two Greek words. The first is translated, "grace." The second is translated, "to confess, acknowledge," (Heb. 13:15).

Thankfulness is a mental and/or verbal expression of one's acknowledgement and appreciation of God's person, His grace, blessings, and sovereign work in one's life and the world.

SOME CONTRASTS TO CONSIDER

(a) **Thankfulness is the opposite of selfishness.** The selfish person says, "*I deserve what comes to me. God and others ought to make me happy and fulfill my expectations.*"

(b) **Thankfulness is the opposite of murmuring and pettiness.** The thankless person is one who is focused on his problems and thinks he deserves better.

(c) **Thankfulness is the opposite of pride.** The thankless person thinks he deserves what he has or better than what he has.

(d) **Thankfulness is the opposite of self-trust.** The thankless person tends to depend on His own merit and abilities. The thankful person, on the other hand, seeks

to triumph and live by the grace of God rather than by his own ingenuity or self-sufficiency (1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14).

Why should we be thankful?

SOME GENERAL REASONS WHY WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL

1. *Because it honors God.*

When we are thankful, we recognize that God exists, and we are acting on the reality of His life as the very source and means of ours. True thankfulness recognizes our total dependence on God and stems from realizing that everything going on in our lives and all we have is the product of God's sovereign control, infinite wisdom, purposes, grace, and activity (2 Cor. 4:15).

2. *Because it is commanded in Scripture.*

First, the Psalms are filled with the call to give thanks. An example is Ps. 100:4 which says, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." Then Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything keep on giving thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (my translation). In Colossians, he twice gives the command to be thankful (3:15, 17).

3. *Because of the dangerous consequences of thanklessness.*

Thanklessness is dangerous to self and others. It dishonors God and leads to proud humanism or dependence on man rather than God (cf. Rom. 1:21). In addition, it leads to bitterness, complaining, and a joyless life (Heb. 12:15).

Since thankfulness is a response to the grace of God, its opposite, ***bitterness*** with its companions, ***complaining*** and ***grumbling***, are the product of an unthankful heart that fails to properly respond to God in faith to His person, infinite wisdom, grace and purposes.

Thanklessness promotes pettiness and occupation with self, people, and problems. That in turn creates depression and feelings of hopelessness because we become focused on our problems rather than on the Lord.

THE TIME FOR THANKSGIVING (THE WHEN AND WHERE)

First, we should give thanks whenever we pray.

Scripture teaches us, by direct admonition (Phil. 4:6f; Col. 4:2), that prayer should generally be accompanied by or offered in a context of thanksgiving. The reason is perhaps found in the very nature of thanksgiving! Thanksgiving turns our eyes from our problems and ourselves to the Lord that we might focus on Him and His sovereign grace. It helps us to see life through the perspective of God's ***person, principles, promises, plan, provisions, and purposes***. Then, as this happens, this upward focus promotes faith and courage in the face of the trying and painful situations that we all eventually face to one degree or another.

Second, we should always give thanks in everything and for everything (Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18).

THE SOURCE OF A THANKFUL HEART:

A few of the sources that promote thankfulness are:

(a) Since **spiritual understanding** is so vital to a thankful heart, a **Word-filled life is a necessity** (cf. Col. 1:9 with 12; 2:7; 3:16). **Living in the Word keeps our focus where it belongs.**

(b) God has designed the Christian life to be lived under **the control and influence of the Holy Spirit**. Thus, the Spirit-filled life is a vital source of thankfulness (cf. Eph. 5:18 with 20).

(c) **Remembering who we are as God's children** is another source of being thankful (cf. Eph. 5:1 with 4b).

(d) **Remembering to what we have been called**, to one body in which there should be peace, and recognizing the consequences of a thankless heart (cf. Col. 3:15 with Heb. 12:15b) is another source.

Leadership Lessons

More Lessons from Noah and the Ark

Part 2 – Continued from our last edition of Connect
(Vol. 7, February 2020)

Everything I need to know about leadership I learned from Noah and his Ark.

Read: Genesis 6:1-8:4; Hebrews 11:7

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. Hebrews 11:7

11. Put all of your energy into this plan, because there is no other plan.

There is no plan B. Put all of your eggs in this basket. Burn your bridges behind you (no fire escapes). Paint yourself in a corner. Half-hearted efforts yield half-hearted results. God does have a plan. There are other sources from which you can get a plan. Don't put God's plan to a committee for a vote.

12. Make sure your vision is big enough for everyone that God wants to include.



Sometimes we limit God. There is room for every kind in God's plan; don't make your filter, your net or your target too small. God's desire is for every nation, kindred, tribe and tongue.

13. We must be willing to be in close quarters with others if God's plan is going to be fulfilled.

You will have to endure the closeness of the local church and all of the smells and other issues that go with it. But don't give up on the plan and jump ship (Acts 27:30-32).

And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, 31 Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, "Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved." 32 Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off.

14. Don't walk into the future without bringing the next generation into your experience and work.

Without the next generation Noah would not have been able to repopulate the earth and all his labor would have been in vain. It would have been terrible to save yourself only for humanity to die off later by natural causes.

15. You must get on the ark first if you expect others to join you in your vision.

People need to see that you are willing to put your own time and resources into your vision. If you do not believe in it enough to go for it alone if necessary, no one else will make it a priority.

16. If you lead, God will choose the right ones to be with you.

Two of every kind were drawn by God. They may not have been the most attractive lot, but they had the right DNA to produce everyone you see today. Remember that the ark was built by amateurs the titanic by professionals. Don't judge team members by their outward appearance (could have been some very ugly dogs but they had the right DNA).

17. When you are in the doldrums, know that the Lord has not forgotten you (Gen. 7:24- 8:1).

And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days. Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.

Sometimes the hardest times are not when all hell is breaking loose; it is in the quiet times when nothing seems to be happening at all. Remember they

shall run and not be weary; they shall *walk* and not faint. God remembered Noah, that is, He again began working in his behalf.

- 18. Trust that the wind of the Spirit will go before you to remove all of the obstacles that hinder you from reaching your final destination (Gen. 8:1).**

On the seventeenth day of the seventh month, the ship landed on the Ararat mountain range.

- 19. Following God's instructions will always lead to higher ground (Gen. 8:4).**

Even though you can't see the destination clearly, know that He always leads us from glory to glory and level to level.

- 20. Your efforts will eventually bring salvation to others if you do not give up in hard times (I Cor. 15:57-58).**

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort. –Msg

- 21. Don't miss the boat; when God is in something get on board!**

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