

Encounter Church
Sunday August 18, 2024

Anchor Down
Overcoming Discouragement

INTRODUCTION: What is an anchor? A device used to secure a sailing vessel to the floor of a body of water to prevent from drifting.

Hebrews 6:18-19- “He has given us both his promise and his oath, two things we can completely count on, for it is impossible for God to tell a lie. Now all those who flee to him to save them can take new courage when they hear such assurances from God; now they can know without doubt that he will give them the salvation he has promised them. This certain hope of being saved is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, connecting us with God himself behind the sacred curtains of heaven,”

The right anchor in the right place keeps us from drifting. Especially during the storm! Especially in high winds.

A man named Paul experienced a storm that had hurricane force winds. He was on a ship sailing from Caesarea to Rome. He's with 275 other people (most of them prisoners) and they are sailing at a time when Paul advised them they shouldn't sail.

They would encounter these hurricane force winds on the journey to Rome and would become shipwrecked on the small island of Malta.

But before becoming shipwrecked on Malta they dropped four anchors from the back of the boat to prevent them from drifting into the rocks and being destroyed.

We've been adding spiritual principles to these four anchors in this series. Two weeks ago we talked about the ANCHOR OF PRAISE. We opened this series talking about the ANCHOR OF HOPE.

From our main text in Hebrews 6 we discovered that HOPE and COURAGE go hand in hand.

Today we're going to be talking about the ANCHOR OF COURAGE!

The Anchor of Courage will keep us from drifting in the storm.

Acts 27:22- “But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down.”

Acts 27:25-26- “So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island.”

“Courage isn't having the strength to go on – it is going on when you don't have strength.” – Napoleon Bonaparte.

WE'RE GOING TO LET DOWN THE ANCHOR OF COURAGE AS WE OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT!

Discouragement is a reality in life. We're all flesh and blood and have to fight discouragement.

Two Big Things that Cause Discouragement

1. Unfulfilled Expectations.

The passing of time works against hope and faith in your life.

Proverbs 13:12– “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”

Many times lose hope and when we lose hope we get discouraged!

Have you ever heard this phrase? “Don't get your hopes up.” If your hope is not up your faith is not up and the door is open for discouragement!

Hebrews 11:1 - “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”

Romans 4:18-21- “Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That's how many descendants you will have!” And Abraham's faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah's womb.

Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises”

Unfulfilled expectations can cause discouragement. Another cause of discouragement.

2. Attacks of the Enemy

Attacks of the enemy can cause you to lose hope and become discouraged.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10- We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us.”

Unfulfilled expectations and attacks of the enemy can cause you to be discouraged.

Two Big Things to Overcome Discouragement

1. Get around God

(When Paul told his shipmates to take courage)

Acts 27:23-24- “For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, ‘Don’t be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What’s more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.’ *So take courage!*”

1 Thessalonians 2:2- “You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition.”

2. Get around People of Courage

Acts 4:23-24- “As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God: “O Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them..”

Acts 4:31- “After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.”

When Peter and John were released from being arrested the door was open for them to get discouraged.

But they got around some people, other believers, and prayed for courage!

Conclusion: It’s time to let down the ANCHOR OF COURAGE!

Deuteronomy 31:6- “So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

1 Corinthians 16:13- “Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.”