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Sermon Notes

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The Unchangeable Promise of God the Anchor of Our Souls

Hebrews 6:13-20

On Wednesday, May 21, 2003, a massive earthquake hit Algeria measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale and killing over a thousand people. 150 miles away, a yacht anchored in Porto Petro bay in Mallorca, Spain, was hit with the violent aftershocks of that earthquake; the yacht was buffeted fiercely by the waves, as were ten other yachts... all ten yachts were ripped from their mooring and crashed into each other and into the rocks of the harbor, destroying them... but the one yacht's anchor held firm for two hours, moored by a new kind of anchor and cable system—the strongest anchor ever designed for a private yacht. Because of the special design and strength of that anchoring system, the yacht and everyone on it was saved from certain destruction.

It is very common for us to speak of the “storms of life” and to see our hearts as small ships blown and tossed by the waves of those storms. The scripture actually uses such images in various places... speaking of immature people's hearts who are not rooted in sound doctrine, Ephesians 4:14 uses this kind of language:

tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching

So also James speaks of people who DOUBT GOD'S PROMISES:

James 1:6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

In Hebrews 6:13-20, God labors to give each believer in Christ a sense of the strength of our anchoring system in Jesus

He has made us astonishing promises: that if we believe in Jesus Christ, He will forgive us for all of our sins, protect us through the storms of life, guide us through death, and welcome us into heaven; that at the end of the world, He will raise our rotted corpse from the grave and give us a gloriously perfect resurrection body; that we will live in a perfect new world, the New Heavens and New Earth, forever and ever. What incredible promises!!!

BUT we have not received them yet... the fulfillment is yet to come; and now our faith is being tested and tried, assaulted and buffeted by the waves of temptation and trial: we are assaulted by lusts, and a guilty conscience; assaulted by illness, pain, struggles of many kinds... and God wants us to know that our souls are ANCHORED to Him through

the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross... by the constant intercessory work of Christ at the right hand of God

BUT more than that... we may be on that securely anchored yacht, going through the tidal waves that followed the earthquake... buffeted, smashed, perhaps our heads bleeding from smashing against the wall, wondering if we'll survive this onslaught: but in the middle of all of it, God wants us to be filled with HOPE...

He is greatly glorified by the HOPE of His children... a sweet confidence based on the promises of God... a lively, vivid, living sense of the beauty and perfection of the world to which we are going

He LOVES our hope!!! LOVES IT!!! You are here today to have an infusion of HOPE based on the promise of God; God wants you FILLED WITH HOPE in Jesus right now based on this text...

In order to achieve that, God is going to give you a series of encouragements to hope; He wants you to know that the anchor of your souls will not fail until you have been safely reeled into heaven.

I. Central Lesson: Only by Faith and Patience Do We Inherit the Promise

A. This Passage in Context

1. Overall context: First century Jewish people, made confession of Christ
2. Immediate context: verses 11-12

Hebrews 6:11-12 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. ¹² We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

B. Main Idea of Hebrews: Only by Faith and Patience Do We Inherit the Promise

1. The Christian life is presented as a long-distance race that must be run RIGHT TO THE END
2. Therefore, to begin, run for a while, and then fall out of the race is UNACCEPTABLE...
3. Such people prove by their falling out that they were not really ever running the true race of faith
4. The author is warning these people against spiritual LAZINESS
 - a. They had become “lazy listeners” to the word

- i) The word “lazy” used in the Old Testament for the sluggard of the Book of Proverbs... a listless, weak, self-indulgent person who loves sleep and avoids all labor and danger
- ii) These people had become sluggards of a certain type... sluggards in listening to the word of God

ESV Hebrews 5:11 About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing

Literally: LAZY LISTENERS... hearing week after week the faithful apostolic teaching of the word, but not stirring up your souls to cherish the word and not stirring up your bodies to obey it

- iii) This is devastating, because faith comes by hearing, and the ongoing sustenance of their faith was impossible if they continued to be lazy in their listening to God the Holy Spirit as He spoke to their hearts by the Word of God

Hebrews 3:7-8 So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸ do not harden your hearts

5. Therefore: only by FAITH and PATIENCE will we inherit the promise of eternal life... of an eternity in heaven with God
 - a. The author speaks of IMITATING people... heroes of the faith whom he will list out in Hebrews 11
 - b. Especially in view is Abraham, the father of our faith, whose specific example is unfolded in the rest of this chapter...
 - c. Abraham is a plain example of a man who walked patiently in hope year after year, waiting on the promises of God
 - d. His lifestyle of patience in faith is help up to us all as an example
 - e. The author speaks in verse 11 of “making your hope sure”... hope is a character trait of the heart, a joyful expectation of a blessing that will certainly come, but which hasn’t arrived yet
 - f. This HOPE is a precious commodity of the soul... it is based on the promises of God, and it is intimately related to faith
 - g. To “make your hope sure” = “the full assurance of hope to the end”... to run the whole Christian race KNOWING that there is a glorious welcome awaiting the successful completion

- h. BUT it takes DILIGENCE or ZEAL or EARNESTNESS in running this race in order to finish it
- i. This precious traits of the soul are very much in the author's view for the rest of the chapter

II. God's Goal: Our Strong Encouragement to Hope

^{NIV} **Hebrews 6:18** *God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.*

^{ESV} **Hebrews 6:18** *so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.*

^{KJV} **Hebrews 6:18** *That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us*

A. The Main Goal of this Passage: "Strong encouragement..."

1. This is the goal of the entire letter

Hebrews 13:22 *Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written you only a short letter.*

2. The author calls the entire letter a "word of exhortation"
3. This Greek word is a rich, beautiful, full word, related to the word Jesus uses for the Holy Spirit, the "Counselor" or "PARAKLETE"... the one "called alongside to help"
 - a. But "Help" is too pale a word
 - b. Sometimes the "paraklete" rebukes, sometimes He consoles, sometimes He exhorts, sometimes He encourages
 - c. In other words, the paraklete puts into the heart of the believer whatever is necessary to KEEP RUNNING THIS MARATHON of faith right to the finish line
4. Vs. 18: The author intensifies this word
 - a. He adds the adjective "strong"... also translated "mighty", "powerful" or "effective"

- b. In this passage, the author is saying that God gives us two unchangeable things in which it is IMPOSSIBLE for God to lie... his PROMISE and his OATH
 - c. The combined effect of these things should give us a STRONG encouragement to persevere in the Christian life... to keep striving, to keep believing, to keep being diligent in loving service to God and to other believers
 - d. This is EFFECTIVE MEDICINE... but only if you take it!!!
 - e. The medicines God gives here are WORDS... scripture concepts, like meat, which must be chewed thoroughly and digested
- B. By Meditating on These Verses... we can have STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT TO HOPE in the long Christian race of faith
- C. Hope: a sense of glad certainty based on the promises of God
1. God is laboring on our hearts to give us HOPE
 2. This HOPE is a positive force in the heart... an optimism, a confidence, an assurance
 3. HOPE always has to do with SOMETHING POSITIVE in the future... hope happens as you LOOK FORWARD to the future
 4. Three types of hope
 - a. Short-term hope: the immediate future is bright, I am looking forward to what is going to happen to me later today: perhaps you are going out to eat with friends after worship today and you are going to your favorite restaurant... the feeling of happy anticipation that fills you as you LOOK FORWARD to that time in the restaurant is HOPE
 - b. Long-term hope: I am looking forward to the rest of my life; I like my life, and I look forward to the way the years are going to unfold; this is especially pronounced in the hearts of a loving couple on their wedding day: the future looks bright; as they drive off to begin their honeymoon, their hearts are filled with HOPE
 - c. Eternal hope: I am looking forward to eternity: I believe in heaven, believe that I will go there when I die; it is going to be incredibly beautiful, and I LOOK FORWARD to it.. I am longing for it! I believe in life after death, and am unafraid to die
 5. The gospel gives all three types... but the third is the most important: based on the promises of God, we can look forward gladly to later today or this week,

we can look forward to the rest of our lives, and we can certainly look forward to eternity with God in heaven

6. Non-Christians are stripped of at least the third one... some are stripped of all three

Illus. Haiti's tent cities... thousands of people living day after day with no hope for a brighter future... the government is impotent and unstable and corrupt.... The aid agencies are disorganized... the prospect for a strong economy is bleak... people sit in the doors of their tents and do nothing all day... and tomorrow is just like today

Ephesians 2:12 without hope and without God in the world.

Jesus Christ ALONE can minister hope in a hopeless world... of which Haiti is just an extreme example!!

7. HOPE is of the essence of FAITH, as Hebrews 11 makes plain:

^{ESV} Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

8. These heroes of FAITH spent their whole lives LOOKING FORWARD to a beautiful city of God that would come in the future; they DIED without receiving it, but were still trusting God for it in HOPE

D. It is Necessary... because God tests our patience throughout our lives by NOT giving us what He has promised

1. So also Abraham had to wait on God
2. And all the other heroes of the faith had to wait on God
3. God tests our patience and faith by calling on us to run a toilsome difficult race up a mountain... opposed every step by the world, the flesh and the devil
4. Only by STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT can we make it to the end

III. How God Gives Us Strong Encouragement to Hope

- 1) The Promise of God; 2) the Oath of God; 3) The Character of God; 4) the Example of Abraham; 5) the Fulfillment in Jesus; 6) the Ultimate Fulfillment in Heaven

A. The Promise of God (to Abraham... and to Us)

^{KJV} Hebrews 6:14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

1. Literal translation:

- a. Surely: the Greek gives a sense of the absolute certainty of this statement with a small phrase, translated “Surely”
 - b. “Blessing, I will bless you”
 - c. “Multiplying, I will multiply you”
 - d. The idea is of CERTAINTY and ONGOING BLESSING
 - i) “Blessing, I will bless you” = I have already blessed you some, and I will keep on blessing you
 - ii) “Multiplying, I will multiply you” = I have already begun to multiply you... I will keep on doing it
2. This promise was made in Genesis 22:16-17
- a. God had commanded Abraham to sacrifice his precious son, Isaac
 - b. Abraham trusted God, obeyed him and was just about to sacrifice Isaac
 - c. The angel of the Lord stopped Abraham and told him not to lay a hand on the boy
 - d. He made this incredible statement:

Genesis 22:12 “Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

3. Then came the promise quoted in this passage:

Genesis 22:15-18 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

4. However, this was just a restatement of earlier promises made to Abraham... several times
5. How is the PROMISE a source of HOPE? A promise is a statement of a commitment an individual makes for a future blessing
- a. We make each other promises all the time
 - b. The most significant in life is the WEDDING VOW: a promise a man and woman make to each other concerning future blessings they will most

certainly make for each other... they will love and cherish each other, share worldly goods, care for each other in good times and bad, forsaking all others, to cling to that one person till death parts you

- c. Parents make many promises to their children: I promise I will take you to the State Fair next weekend; I promise that, if you get all A's on your report card, I will take you out for ice cream; or when you graduate from high school, I will buy you a new car... AMAZING how children never forget these kinds of promises parents make... and can remember years later if the parent should ever fail to keep their promises
- d. GOD fills the pages of Scripture with more promises than we can possibly count accurately; some people have tried to count them all and they come up with different numbers... some say 3000, some 4000;
- e. A Canadian schoolteacher named Everet R. Storms from Kitchener, Ontario, on his 27th reading of the Bible, decided to count and categorize the promises in the Bible, a task which took him a year and a half: he came up with 7,487 promises from God to man, 2 by God the Father to God the Son, 991 from one man to another (such as the promises made to Nebuchadnezzar by his counselors to interpret his dream), 290 made by man to God, 21 promises made by angels, one made by man to an angel, 2 made by an evil spirit to the Lord, Satan made 9, such as when he promised to give the whole world to Jesus if he would bow down and worship him... altogether, Mr. Storms tallied 8,810 promises in the Bible
- f. a man named Herbert Lockyer published a book, available on Amazon.com from Zondervan, called *All the Promises of the Bible*... he lists 8000 promises from God in the pages of Scripture!!!
 - i) The Promises God gave related to the Jewish world
 - ii) The Promises God gave related to the Gentile world
 - iii) Promises Connected to Creation
 - iv) Promises Connected to the Jesus Christ
 - v) Promises for the Individual Christian
 - vi) Promises for the Christian Church as a Whole
 - vii) Promises related to Marriage
 - viii) Promises related to Parenting and Childraising
 - ix) Promises concerning physical health or material prosperity

x) Promises connected with Prayer or Bible reading

xi) Etc.!!!

g. Scattered throughout the Bible like so many gems are these promises from God... what 2 Peter 1:4 calls the **very great and precious promises**;

h. In the 19th Century, Charles Spurgeon published a daily devotional called *Faith's Checkbook*... in the introduction, he spoke of the power of trusting in God's promises:

A PROMISE from God may very instructively be compared to a check payable to order. It is given to the believer with the view of bestowing upon him some good thing. It is not meant that he should read it over comfortably, and then have done with it. No, he is to treat the promise as a reality, as a man treats a check.

He is to take the promise, and endorse it with his own name by personally receiving it as true. He is by faith to accept it as his own. He sets to his seal that God is true, and true as to this particular word of promise. He goes further, and believes that he has the blessing in having the sure promise of it and therefore he puts his name to it to testify to the receipt of the blessing.

This done, he must believingly present the promise to the Lord, as a man presents a check at the counter of the Bank. He must plead it by prayer, expecting to have it fulfilled. If he has come to Heaven's bank at the right date, he will receive the promised amount at once. If the date should happen to be further on, he must patiently wait till its arrival; but meanwhile he may count the promise as money, for the Bank is sure to pay when the due time arrives.

Some fail to place the endorsement of faith upon the check, and so they get nothing; and others are slack in presenting it, and these also receive nothing. This is not the fault of the promise, but of those who do not act with it in a commonsense, businesslike manner.

God has given no pledge which He will not redeem, and encouraged no hope which He will not fulfill.

6. BUT this promise made to Abraham is not like the other 8000 or so promises made by God in the Bible... it seems to be the CENTRAL PROMISE made by God to sinful man in Redemptive History... the ultimate blessing of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Jesus' name; and our salvation from sins is TOTALLY BASED on this one thing: faith in the promise made to Abraham, fulfilled in Jesus Christ

7. The original promise of blessing to Abraham:

Genesis 12:2-3 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

8. The extended promise

- a. Many descendents: descendents as numerous as the stars in the sky
- b. A Promised Land: "I will give to you and your descendents this land forever"

9. The ultimate promise: "heir of the world"

Romans 4:13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

10. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Promise to Abraham... through Jesus, we Gentiles have become heirs of the Promise to Abraham

Galatians 3:26-29 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ... ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

So, this passage calls us HEIRS:

Hebrews 6:17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

This means the Angel of the Lord that said "I swear by myself..." was really thinking of US, Abraham's heirs, when he spoke these words!!

11. The Promise to Abraham was begun to be fulfilled in his lifetime; but the central reality of the promise he is still waiting for: a resurrected body in a resurrected world

B. The Oath of God

Hebrews 6:13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself

- 1. "I swear by myself"... a remarkable statement
- 2. The Reason for the Oath

Hebrews 6:16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

- a. In human life, the oath confirms the statement
 - b. In human life, the oath puts an end to all disputes
 - c. The word “disputes” has to do with murmuring, contention, arguing...
TALKING BACK
 - d. The real issue here is the contention that DOUBT gives to our minds concerning the promise
 - i) Doubt murmurs, doubt talks back against the promise
 - ii) Doubt speaks about the obstacles, what cannot happen...
 - iii) God wants each believer to be able to conquer doubts concerning His promises
3. The Reason God swore by Himself: there was no one greater for Him to swear by... and he wanted to give His children unshakable confidence that He would keep His promise

Hebrews 6:17-18 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

4. Bottom line: God is laboring for our assurance, our confidence, our faith, our HOPE... so He does these two things: MAKES A PROMISE and SWEARS BY HIMSELF

C. The Character of God

- 1. The key foundation here is the CHARACTER OF GOD
- 2. Liars make and break promises all the time
- 3. Liars swear oaths on a stack of Bibles, and it doesn't mean a thing
- 4. Our HOPE is based on three ATTRIBUTES of God: 1) the unshakable foundation of God's commitment to TRUTH; 2) God's power to bring about His promises; and 3) His unchanging nature
 - a. If God were a liar, we would have good reason to doubt His promise... but vs. 18 says “it is impossible for God to lie”
 - b. If God were not all-powerful, we would have good reason to doubt His promise... we could say “He meant well, but He couldn't bring it

about"... But this is the God of the Universe, who sustains all things by His powerful word (Hebrews 1:3)... there is NOTHING He cannot do

- c. If God changed all the time, we would have good reason to doubt His promise; we would say "He made the promise, He meant it at the time, and He could certainly bring it about... but maybe He will change His mind"; But this same book of the Bible testifies to God's UNCHANGING NATURE

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

And James says:

James 1:17 Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Unlike us human who speak frivolous words and make spurious promises that we 1) never intend to keep, or 2) meant to keep but find we cannot keep them because we lack the power or the time or the money or the right circumstances, or 3) meant to keep but we later changed our minds...

GOD KEEPS ALL HIS PROMISES... and to make us certain of it, He swears an oath by Himself and we are called on to bank on His character

D. Abraham's Example of Faith and Patience

- 1. God made His promise to Abraham, and Abraham, our father in faith shows us what to do with the promise

Hebrews 6:15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

- 2. Abraham had already waited patiently for Isaac, the child of the promise to be born
 - a. He waited for twenty-five years for that baby boy
 - b. Romans 4 tells us more about how he waited, and how he trusted

Romans 4:19-21 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead-- since he was about a hundred years old-- and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

- c. This is the exact pattern the author of Hebrews wants us to follow
- 3. But this promise goes beyond the birth of Isaac
 - a. Yes EARLIER Abraham and Sarah had waited patiently for the birth of Isaac

- b. BUT the angel of the Lord made this promise to Abraham AFTER Isaac was born:

“Blessing, I will bless you; multiplying, I will multiply you”

- c. In other words, I still have MORE blessing to give you
 - d. The real issue is Abraham’s own inheritance of the promised land, surrounded by His offspring... the ultimate issue of salvation, resurrection
4. Now Hebrews 11:13 says Abraham DID NOT receive what was promised
- a. This is NOT a contradiction with verse 15: verse 15 goes beyond death, in which Abraham received the promise of SALVATION at death
 - b. After death, Abraham was separated from his body and immediately went into the presence of God and thus received what was promised IN PART
 - c. The fullness of the promise awaits the end of the world and the final resurrection

E. The Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus: Fulfillment of the Promise

Hebrews 6:19-20 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,²⁰ where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

- 1. God feeds our hope by pointing to Jesus as the anchor for our souls
 - a. He is called an “anchor for the soul”... meaning that which secures our souls from wandering or drifting away from Christ
 - b. He is described as “firm” and “secure”
- 2. He points to the fact that Jesus, as our high priest, has entered the inner sanctuary behind the curtain

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

- 3. The true sanctuary is the one in heaven, and Jesus has entered that sanctuary with His own blood shed on the cross
- 4. It calls Jesus our FORERUNNER... the one who goes ahead of us to scout it out and find a safe haven of rest

5. Our SECURITY is based on the fact that Jesus is a perfect high priest, forever ministering on our behalf in the Holy of Holies... in the presence of Almighty God
6. He is there ON OUR BEHALF... our own high priest
7. That is the essence of our security
8. He is our ANCHOR that holds within the veil... no matter how strong the storm may be

F. The Ultimate Fulfillment: Final Salvation in Heaven

1. Like Abraham, we have received an aspect of our salvation already: by our faith, we have been justified, and have been adopted into the family of God
2. We have received the Spirit of Adoption in our souls that tells us we are now family members with Jesus... He is our brother, we are His own flesh and blood
3. BUT like Abraham, we will die without fully receiving the promise
4. The real fulfillment is the New Heaven and New Earth... our final salvation

IV. Application: Let God Feed Your Hope!

A. Flee to Christ

Hebrews 6:18 we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us

1. This is a graphic image of GREAT DANGER
2. We have to run for our lives!! The danger is the coming wrath of God

Matthew 3:7 Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

3. Jesus rescues us from the coming wrath

1 Thessalonians 1:10 Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

4. "Taking hold" is an image like someone in a raging river, whitewater, trying desperately to find something to take hold of that will provide a safe haven from being carried over the waterfall... suddenly a hand is extended—the last hope of salvation
5. Jesus is offering you full forgiveness through faith in His blood

B. Feed Your Hope

1. Go over these words
2. Understand that God has sworn BY HIMSELF to keep His promises you you
3. He will certainly forgive all your sins
4. He will certainly protect you the rest of your life
5. He will certainly rescue you from judgment and hell
6. He will certainly take you into His presence when you die
7. He will certainly raise your body from the dead and make it glorious like Jesus
8. Hope should shine brightly in you day after day...

C. Understand How Secure Your Anchor Is: Nothing Can Break the Chain of God's Love in Christ

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

D. Why He is "Behind the Veil"

1. His work for us is hidden from our eyes
2. He is at the right hand of God and is interceding for us... but we cannot see it
3. He is holding onto you firmly, and nothing can break that grasp
4. Circumstances may swirl about you... He will never let you go
 - a. You may be assaulted by lusts and temptations... and may even yield to some of them: Jesus is our advocate who will pray for you that your faith will not fail
 - b. You may be tried by serious illness—either your own or that of a loved one—but your anchor will hold within the veil
 - c. You may be tested by unemployment... or the sins of other Christians... or the disappointment of some fond hope or dream... Jesus will never let you go