

The Anchor of My Soul

Hebrews 6:19

*Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul,
both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil;*



19 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. – **Hebrews 6:19-20 NIV**

Anchor of the Soul

Compare the passages side by side. The wording is awkward.

Hebrews 6:13-20 NKJV

- 12 That you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the **promises**.
- 13 For when God made **promise** to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he **swore** by himself,
- 14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.
- 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the **promise**.
- 16 For men verily **swear** by the greater: and an **oath for confirmation** *is* to them an end of all strife.
- 17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of **promise** the **immutability** of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath:
- 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:
- 19 Which *hope* we have as an **anchor of the soul**, both **sure and steadfast**, and which enters into that **within the veil**;
- 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an **high priest** for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 6:13-20 NIV

13. When God made his **promise** to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to **swear** by, he **swore** by himself,
14. saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."
15. And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was **promised**.
16. Men **swear** by someone greater than themselves, and the **oath confirms** what is said and puts an end to all argument.
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.
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.
19. 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.

God assures us with two unchangeable (immutable) things

- 1) God promised it
- 2) God guaranteed it

It is possible that language itself so changes over the years that it is almost indecipherable to a listener even a generation later.

Language changes, as do the experience and understanding of the recipients.

As I studied this passage it became quite evident to me that there are some archaic language and expressions being used here so as to make it difficult if not impossible to understand. The anecdote itself “an anchor” seems to be a simple tangible thing and easily understood but when one begins to explore nautical terms one is astounded by the change in language and expression.

(ie) Nautical Terms

Above board - Aft - Athwart, athwartships Avast - Aweigh - Baggywrinkle - Bilge keels - Bitter end - Boatswain or bosun (both pronounced bow-sun) Bowsprit - Capstan - Coxswain or cockswain (pronounced kock-sun) Flotsam - Forestays - Holystone - Jetsam - Larboard - Leeward - Mizzenmast (or Mizzen) - Poop deck - Slush fund –

These Are Hard Words

Immutability, strong consolation, fled for refuge, hope, promises, anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast, veil, forerunner, and high priest

So it is with this passage. **The language is archaic.** The expressions are **ponderous and awkward** for the 21st century mind so as to make the passage look and feel like it is **written in code** and needs to be **deciphered.**

Let me try it now not as a translation but a paraphrase amplification for our understanding.

God has never intended you to be hesitant in your faith but has given ample Old Testament examples of faith though many had to wait a long time for the fulfillment of the promises God made to them. God was always faithful. God made his promises doubly secure when he made his promise to Abraham in two ways, 1) He **made a promise** to Abraham that he would bless him, 2) and He **secured that promise** by His own oath that it would come to pass. So, God’s promise is certain and doubly sure and brings us great assurance and confidence because – God said it, and God guaranteed it with an oath. It is doubly secure because God said it, and God cannot lie.

(This hope is more than a promise. It is a person, Jesus.)

The True Anchor

This HOPE is JESUS.

He is the GUARANTEE of God's promise.

He is sure and ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE.

He is the one we hide in as a REFUGE.

He is the ANCHOR of our SOUL.

He has GONE BEFORE US INTO HEAVEN.

He is BEHIND THE VEIL interceding for us.

And finally, He is forever our HIGH PRIEST.

The Analogy

The Analogy is the sea, the storms, the shoals, the ship, the anchor.

The Anchor of the Soul

The Sea is life

The Shoals are bad things

The Ship is you

The Anchor is Jesus

The Rope is his promises

The Sure Anchor

We all need an anchor for our soul, the part of us that lives on beyond the body. In life, we tether ourselves to things we think will keep us safe in the storms of life.

**YOU are not
the anchor of your soul.**

Your strength is not the anchor of your soul.

Your faith is not the anchor of your soul.

Your faithfulness is not your anchor.

Your family is not your anchor.

You job is not your anchor.

Your spouse is not your anchor.

Your resources are not your anchor.

**EVERY ONE NEEDS AN
ANCHOR FOR HIS SOUL**

Every one of us attempts to anchor ourselves to something. It is the thing we cling to for safety and security. It can be our own resourcefulness, cleverness, intelligence, ingenuity. It can be family, a spouse, parents, children, or friends. It can be money, resources, assets, bank accounts or investments. But none of these things are immovable. None of these things guarantee security in trouble.



Anchored to the Rock which cannot move

We need to be tethered to the anchor for the anchor to do us any good. The anchor is unmovable – sure and steadfast, but if my cable, chain or rope that holds the anchor is weak or broken then the anchor will of little use or consequence to us. We must tether ourselves to the anchor of our souls.

A three fold cord is not easily broken. I would like to suggest that you tether yourself to the ANCHOR Christ Jesus with three strong cords of God's promises.

1. His love and forgiveness – never-ending
2. His security and safety – absolute
3. His care and protection – constant

There are great (megisto, superlative) precious (most precious)

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,

NIV 2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his **very great and precious promises**, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**Anchors do not fail –
the ropes or chains that hold them do.**

Just as a ship needs to be tethered to an anchor for the anchor to do any good, so we need to be tethered to Jesus by a **threefold cord** based on the promises of God.

These are the cords that bind us to this never-failing anchor. 1. His Love 2. His Security 3. His Care

1. His Love is Never Ending (measureless)

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. His Security is Absolute

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

3. His Care is Constant

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be* without covetousness; *and be* content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

Isaiah 49:16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me.

We need to daily verify and test that these cords that bind us to this never-failing anchor. (ie. Songs)

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness.”

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live**

**There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt of life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

My Anchor Holds

Though the angry surges roll
On my tempest-driven soul,
I am peaceful, for I know,
Wildly though the winds may blow,
I've an anchor safe and sure,
That can evermore endure.

Refrain:

And it holds, my anchor holds:
Blow your wildest, then, O gale,
On my bark so small and frail;
By His grace I shall not fail,
For my anchor holds, my anchor holds.

Mighty tides about me sweep,
Perils lurk within the deep,
Angry clouds o'ershade the sky,
And the tempest rises high;
Still I stand the tempest's shock,
For my anchor grips the rock.

I can feel the anchor fast
As I meet each sudden blast,
And the cable, though unseen,
Bears the heavy strain between;
Through the storm I safely ride,
Till the turning of the tide.

Troubles almost 'whelm the soul;
Griefs like billows o'er me roll;
Tempters seek to lure astray;
Storms obscure the light of day:
But in Christ I can be bold,
I've an anchor that shall hold.

Haven of Rest

My soul in sad exile was out on life's sea,
So burdened with sin and distressed,
Till I heard a sweet voice, saying,
"Make Me your choice,"
And I entered the Haven of Rest!

I've anchored my soul in the "Haven of Rest,"
I'll sail the wide seas no more,
The tempest may sweep over wild, stormy deep,
In Jesus I'm safe evermore.

I yielded myself to His tender embrace,
In faith taking hold of the Word,
My fetters fell off, and I anchored my soul,
The Haven of Rest is my Lord.

Refrain

The song of my soul, since the Lord made me whole,
Has been the old story so blest,
Of Jesus, who'll save whosoever will have
A home in the Haven of Rest.

Refrain

O come to the Savior, He patiently waits
To save by His power divine;
Come, anchor your soul in the Haven of Rest,
And say, "My Beloved is mine."

Music - George D. Moore, Words – Henry L. Gilmour
<http://www.singers.com/2894c/Haven-Quartet/Best-of-Vol-1/>

Body, Soul and Spirit

...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... (Ephesians 6;17)

That reminded me of another quote related to this spiritual sword that is the word of God:

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

The word is a sword that is *so sharp* that it can divide your spirit from your soul!

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your **whole spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

EXEGISIS

Hebrews 6:15-19 (verse 19)

- 15 And <2532> so <3779>, after he had patiently endured <3114> (5660), he obtained <2013> (5627) the promise <1860>.
- 16 For <1063> men <444> verily <3303> swear <3660> (5719) by <2596> the greater <3187>: and <2532> an oath <3727> for <1519> confirmation <951> *is* to them <846> an end <4009> of all <3956> strife <485>.
- 17 Wherein <1722> <3739> God <2316>, willing <1014> (5740) more abundantly <4054> to shew <1925> (5658) unto the heirs <2818> of promise <1860> the immutability <276> of his <846> counsel <1012>, confirmed <3315> (5656) *it* by an oath <3727>:
- 18 That <2443> by <1223> two <1417> immutable <276> things <4229>, in <1722> which <3739> *it was* impossible <102> for God <2316> to lie <5574> (5664),

we might have <2192> a strong <2478> consolation <3874>, who <3588> have fled for refuge <2703> to lay hold <2902> (5658) upon the hope <1680> set before us <4295>:

- 19 Which <3739> *hope* we have <2192> as <5613> an anchor <45> of the soul <5590>, both <5037> sure <804> and <2532> steadfast <949>, and <2532> which entereth <1525> into <1519> that within <2082> the veil <2665>;**

we might have <2192> a strong <2478> consolation <3874>

CONSULATION

3874 παρακλησις paraklesis *par-ak'-lay-sis*

from 3870; TDNT-5:773,778; n f

AV-consolation 14, exhortation 8, comfort 6, intreaty 1; 29

- 1) a calling near, summons, (esp. for help)
- 2) importation, supplication, entreaty
- 3) exhortation, admonition, encouragement
- 4) consolation, comfort, solace; that which affords comfort or refreshment
 - 4a) thus of the Messianic salvation (so the Rabbis call the Messiah the consoler, the comforter)
- 5) persuasive discourse, stirring address
- 5a) instructive, admonitory, conciliatory, powerful hortatory discourse

TO LAY HOLD

to lay hold <2902> upon the hope <1680> set before us <4295>

Here is where HOPE appears

2902 κρατεω krateo *krat-eh'-o*

from 2904; TDNT-3:910,466; v

AV-hold 12, take 9, lay hold on 8, hold fast 5, take by 4, lay hold upon 2, lay hand on 2, misc 5; 47

- 1) to have power, be powerful
 - 1a) to be chief, be master of, to rule
- 2) to get possession of
 - 2a) to become master of, to obtain
 - 2b) to take hold of
 - 2c) to take hold of, take, seize
 - 2c1) to lay hands on one in order to get him into one's power
- 3) to hold
 - 3a) to hold in the hand
 - 3b) to hold fast, i.e. not discard or let go
 - 3b1) to keep carefully and faithfully
 - 3c) to continue to hold, to retain
 - 3c1) of death continuing to hold one
 - 3c2) to hold in check, restrain

HOPE

1680 ελπις elpis *el-pece'*

from a primary elpo (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); TDNT-2:517,229; n f

AV-hope 53, faith 1; 54

- 1) expectation of evil, fear
- 2) expectation of good, hope
 - 2a) in the Christian sense
 - 2a1) joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation
- 3) on hope, in hope, having hope
 - 3a) the author of hope, or he who is its foundation
 - 3b) the thing hoped for

ANCHOR

45 αγκυρα agkura *ang'-koo-rah*

from the same as 43; ;n f

AV-anchor 4; 4

- 1) an anchor
- 2) metaph. any stay or safeguard

Ancient anchors resembled modern ones in form: they were of iron, provided with a stock, and with two teeth-like extremities often but by no means without flukes.

OF THE SOUL

5590 ψυχη *psuche psoo-khay'*

from 5594; TDNT-9:608,1342; n f

AV-soul 58, life 40, mind 3, heart 1, heartily+1537 1, not tr 2; 105

1) breath

1a) the breath of life

1a1) the vital force which animates the body and shows itself in breathing

1a1a) of animals 1a1b) of men 1b) life

1c) that in which there is life 1c1) a living being, a living soul

2) the soul

2a) the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions (our heart, soul etc.)

2b) the (human) soul in so far as it is constituted that by the right use of the aids offered it by God it can attain its highest end and secure eternal blessedness, the soul regarded as a moral being designed for everlasting life

2c) the soul as an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death (distinguished from other parts of the body)

Which <3739> hope we have <2192> (which we have an anchor)

Hope does not appear in the original. That is an interpretation into the text.

both <5037> sure <804> and <2532> steadfast <949>,

SURE

804 ασφαλης *asphales as-fal-ace'*

from 1 (as a negative particle) and sphallo (to "fail"); TDNT-1:506,87; adj

AV-certainty 2, certain 1, safe 1, sure 1; 5

1) firm (that which can be relied on)

2) certain, true

3) suited to confirm

STEADFAST

949 βεβαιος *bebaios beb'-ah-yos*

from the base of 939 (through the idea of basality); TDNT-1:600,103; adj

AV-stedfast 4, sure 2, firm 1, of force 1, more sure 1; 9

1) stable, fast, firm

2) metaph. sure, trusty

VEIL

2665 καταπετασμα *katapetasma kat-ap-et'-as-mah*

from a compound of 2596 and a congener of 4072; TDNT-3:628,420; n n

AV-veil 6; 6

1) a veil spread out, a curtain

1a) the name given to the two curtains in the temple at Jerusalem, one of them at the entrance to the temple separated the Holy Place from the outer court, the other veiled the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place

SPIRIT

4151 πνευμα *pneuma pnyoo'-mah*

from 4154; TDNT-6:332,876; n n

AV-Spirit 111, Holy Ghost 89, Spirit (of God) 13, Spirit (of the Lord) 5, (My) Spirit 3, Spirit (of truth) 3,

Spirit (of Christ) 2, human (spirit) 49, (evil) spirit 47, spirit (general) 26, spirit 8, (Jesus' own) spirit 6, (Jesus' own) ghost 2, misc 21; 385

- 1) the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, coequal, coeternal with the Father and the Son
 - 1a) sometimes referred to in a way which emphasises his personality and character (the Holy Spirit)
 - 1b) sometimes referred to in a way which emphasises his work and power (the Spirit of Truth)
 - 1c) never referred to as a depersonalised force
- 2) the spirit, i.e. the vital principle by which the body is animated
 - 2a) the rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides
 - 2b) the soul
- 3) a spirit, i.e. a simple essence, devoid of all or at least all grosser matter, and possessed of the power of knowing, desiring, deciding, and acting
 - 3a) a life giving spirit
 - 3b) a human soul that has left the body
 - 3c) a spirit higher than man but lower than God, i.e. an angel
 - 3c1) used of demons, or evil spirits, who were conceived as inhabiting the bodies of men
 - 3c2) the spiritual nature of Christ, higher than the highest angels and equal to God, the divine nature of Christ
- 4) the disposition or influence which fills and governs the soul of any one
 - 4a) the efficient source of any power, affection, emotion, desire, etc.
- 5) a movement of air (a gentle blast)
 - 5a) of the wind, hence the wind itself
 - 5b) breath of nostrils or mouth

SOUL

5590 ψυχη *psuche psoo-khay'*

from 5594; TDNT-9:608,1342; n f

AV-soul 58, life 40, mind 3, heart 1, heartily+1537 1, not tr 2; 105

- 1) breath
 - 1a) the breath of life
 - 1a1) the vital force which animates the body and shows itself in breathing
 - 1a1a) of animals
 - 1a1b) of men
 - 1b) life 1c) that in which there is life 1c1) a living being, a living soul
- 2) the soul
 - 2a) the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions (our heart, soul etc.)

- 2b) the (human) soul in so far as it is constituted that by the right use of the aids offered it by God it can attain its highest end and secure eternal blessedness, the soul regarded as a moral being designed for everlasting life
- 2c) the soul as an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death (distinguished from other parts of the body)

BODY

4983 σῶμα *soma so'-mah*

from 4982; TDNT-7:1024,1140; n n

AV-body 144, bodily 1, slave 1; 146

- 1) the body both of men or animals
 - 1a) a dead body or corpse
 - 1b) the living body
 - 1b1) of animals
- 2) the bodies of planets and of stars (heavenly bodies)
- 3) is used of a (large or small) number of men closely united into one society, or family as it were; a social, ethical, mystical body
 - 3a) so in the NT of the church
- 4) that which casts a shadow as distinguished from the shadow itself