

A close-up photograph of a person's neck and upper chest. They are wearing a black and white horizontally striped shirt. A thin chain necklace with a silver-toned anchor pendant is visible. The person's hand is partially visible on the right side of the frame. The word "Anchored" is written in a white, cursive script across the center of the image, enclosed within a thin white rectangular border.

*Anchored*

# ANCHORED



Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to His promise with confidence. This confidence (hope) is like a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain of heaven into God's inner sanctuary.

Hebrews 6:18b-19. The AMP version says that this anchor of the soul cannot slip and it cannot break down under whoever steps out upon it.

I am excited that you have made the choice to work through this devotional "Anchored". There are so many times in our lives that we feel like we are being tossed about without something to ground us. Fear drops in on us with a blast. We feel so uncertain about the right now and the tomorrows.

David Jeremiah said that "when you give your heart to Christ an anchor is thrown up into heaven and it continually pulls you toward heaven". So I want to encourage you today. Whatever it is in your life that causes you to feel alone, fearful or like you have to deal with life with uncertainty, remember that anchor. It is God's great pleasure to hold onto you and remove the fear and uncertainty and to continually pull you towards Himself. He holds onto us, He anchors us.

We love hearing about how powerful God is. Scripture is full of images that reassure us. He is a rock, a fortress, and a strong tower; He is a king and a warrior; He makes the clouds His chariots and rides on the wings of the wind. He is what/who anchors us.

My prayer is that as you go through each of these devotionals and learn how others just like you have remained "anchored" through the hardest times of their life journey, that you too will be encouraged to know that it is possible to be anchored through every circumstance that life throws at you.

Happy reading!

Trisha Naten  
National Director of Women's Ministries

# 2017

## January

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## JANUARY

National WM Registration Month  
 Women's Connection: January 1-31  
 New Year's Day: January 1  
 Empowered Women's Ministry Day: January 8  
 MLK Jr. Day: January 18

## JULY

Independence Day: July 4

## JULY

Independence Day: July 4

## FEBRUARY

Promotion for Alabaster Box  
 devotional giving: February 5  
 Valentine's Day: February 14

## OCTOBER

Light Another Candle: October 1-31  
 Pastor Appreciation Month  
 -Breast Cancer Awareness Month

## APRIL

*Good Friday: April 14 | -Easter: April 16*

## NOVEMBER

Veteran's Day: November 11  
 Empowered Women's Ministries Leadership  
 Meeting November 13-14  
 Thanksgiving Day: November 23

## MAY

Alabaster Box Outpouring: May 1-31  
 National Day of Prayer: May 4  
 Mother's Day: May 14  
 Memorial Day: May 29

## DECEMBER

Impact Appalachia: December 7-9  
 Christmas Day: December 25

## JUNE

Father's Day: June 18  
 Summerfest: June 26-30  
 Empowered Women's Leadership Meeting



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# Connection

## EMPOWERED WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

WE INVITE ALL WOMEN TO JOIN TOGETHER WITH US  
TO ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THIS NEW  
YEAR. REGISTRATION RUNS FROM JANUARY 1 TO  
JANUARY 31, 2017.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR  
DISTRICT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES  
DEPARTMENT.

\$5 PER LADY TO REGISTER

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

GET CONNECTED TO THESE MINISTRIES!



IMPACT  
APPALACHIA



AHIKAM CHILDREN'S  
HOME



MESSENGER  
COLLEGE



CANAS VERDES  
BOUQUETE- PANAMA

*empowered*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD



# LIGHT *Another* CANDLE



75% of all money contributed for Light Another Candle in 2016 will be given directly to Messenger College to fund a new laundry facility for the students.

Any surplus proceeds will be earmarked for a computer lab at the student housing complex.

WOMEN OF THE PCG MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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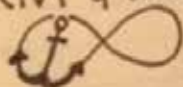
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hebrews 6:19



# *Anchored By God's Word*



By Mona McPherson

Mona serves as the Church Administrator for His Valley Church in Phoenix, Oregon. She and her husband, Walter have been married for 42 years, have 3 grown children, all of whom are serving God, as well as 7 wonderful grandchildren. She spends her leisure time sewing, quilting, researching genealogy, and playing with her sweet grandbabies.

## *Introduction:*

The Lord told Joshua “This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth; but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success” (Joshua 1:8). That is exactly the same instruction that the Lord gives to us. We should meditate on His Word day and night and have it written on our hearts, so that it is the first solution to any issue that comes before us. God is the answer to every question, and in order to be able to give that answer, you must have His Words and Thoughts filling your mind so that it will be your first place of refuge when times get tough. The Word is your anchor—to keep you safe, to keep you strong, to give you hope—because our God will NEVER abandon you or leave you on your own.

## *Why an Anchor?*

The anchor became a key Christian symbol during the period of Roman persecution. The first-century symbol wasn't a cross; it was the anchor. If you were a first-century Christian and you were hiding in the catacombs and your best friend was just thrown to the lions or burned at the stake or crucified and set ablaze as a torch at one of Emperor Nero's garden parties, the symbol that would most encourage you in your faith would be the anchor. Christian use of the anchor echoed Hebrews 6:19: “This

hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. . . .” Epitaphs on believers’ tombs dating as far back as the end of the first century frequently displayed anchors alongside messages of hope.

Where did Christians get the idea to use an anchor in the first place? The anchor appeared as the royal emblem of Seleucus the First; king of the Seleucid dynasty established after Alexander the Great’s campaigns. Seleucus reputedly chose the symbol because he had a birthmark in the shape of an anchor. Jews living under the empire adopted the symbol on their coinage.

An even stronger explanation can be found in church history. Around AD 100, the emperor Trajan banished the fourth pope, St. Clement, to the Crimea. When the pope converted the people there, Trajan ordered that Clement be tied to an iron anchor and drowned. Tradition holds that the sea then receded three miles to reveal Clement’s body buried by angels in a marble mausoleum. This is hardly a believable tale, but the story of Clement’s martyrdom clearly inspired the persecuted Church.

## *Who Is Our Anchor?*

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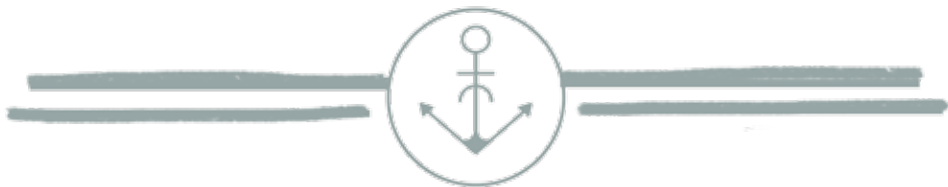
As a Christian, we are taught that if we don’t hold on to something that is solid and steady, we will drift in and out with whatever life hands to us. That solid and steady thing is Jesus Christ, our Rock and our Anchor. We need to anchor our souls to Jesus so that we don’t drift away from God—either slowly by simply letting life carry us with it, or quickly because of a storm that builds up around us. Psalm 119:11 says, “Your Word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” John 6:63 says “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are Life.” We are to carry God’s word in our hearts always, and that will ensure our connection to our anchor. God’s word is full of assurances for us that if we trust in Him and hang on to Him, He will carry us through any kind of difficulty. “Mightier than the waves of the sea is His love for you,”

*“Mightier than the waves of the sea is His love for you,” Psalm 93:4; “  
Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you,” Hebrews 13:5; “  
God’s word stands forever,” Isaiah 40:8.*

# *How Does He Anchor Us?*

Sometimes God calms the storm around us, and sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child. We don't know God's wisdom—He is the One that holds our lives in His hands, and decides how He will deal with our problems and circumstances. An anchor is a symbol of stability and a strong foundation—something to remind you to stay grounded or to symbolize a particularly stable or grounding relationship. An anchor is a perfect symbol for our relationship with our Heavenly Father: when we cry out to Him, we know that we can place our anchor in His hands, and He will hold us steady always because He is strong and reliable. We trust in the anchor; we do not see it, but we know it is there and trust that it will keep us grounded. When we are rushing toward a temptation or a bad situation, it is like being in a boat on a river headed to a waterfall. God's anchor holds us above the situation, stopping us before we give in to the temptation or let the situation overtake us.

God's anchors are different sizes, too. Whatever size your problem is, big or small, God will give you an anchor of sufficient size to keep you in place. All you need to do is ask Him.



notes 

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# key scriptures



Psalm 119:11

John 6:63

Psalm 93.4

Hebrews 13:5

Isaiah 40:8

## Take Aways

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# *Anchored in Destiny*



By Jennifer Hargestam



Jennifer, a Messenger college graduate and an appointed missionary with the Pentecostal Church of God for over 20 years, has given her life to full-time missionary service. She is also the cofounder of Joshua Campaign International and Mission One Eleven. Alongside her husband, Karl, Jennifer has been a driving force in unreached tribes

having a relationship with Jesus Christ, as well as investing her early ministry years in bettering the lives of Ethiopian women and children who were afflicted with and affected by HIV/Aids. Today, Karl, Jennifer, and their children, Hannah, Jacob, Abigail, and Luke, continue to champion unreached people groups and their right to hear the gospel.

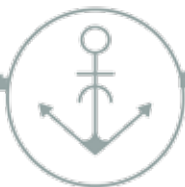
## *Introduction*

Destiny, many would say, is the power believed to control what will happen in the future; they call it fate, chance, or providence. As Christians we know that our destiny is not mere luck or chance, but a glorious future within our Lord Jesus Christ. No matter what the present or even the apprehension of our future may hold, we can be anchored in our destiny in Jesus Christ.

In 1 Peter 2, we see our destiny so wonderfully described. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9-10, ESV). It is through these words that we can find our anchor in our identity and our destiny. We can know that we are chosen, we are called to a life of holiness, and we are royal priests.

## *We are Chosen...*

This has nothing to do with predestination, but rather it defines our role and importance to God. One of God's greatest gifts to us is free will; it is our choice to accept and believe in Jesus, for those of us who have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior have received the chosen blessing of God. We see throughout the Bible the care and sacrifice that God grants to those who have chosen Him; He bestows honor and blessing, and an ultimate protection to us. God promises, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, ESV). We have been chosen and given the greatest gift, no matter our sin, for an eternal relationship with God.



## *We are called to a life of Holiness*

Our destiny lies in the choice to be holy and to walk in righteousness. While we are imperfect human beings with the temptations to do as we know we shouldn't, we should still strive to be holy. Holiness is an adjective but also a verb. First, we should live a life holy unto the Lord. In Hebrews 12:14, we are told to "make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." Holiness is in how we act and live in unity with each other. Living a holy life is living a life according to Christ's example of Godliness. Second, holiness is an action; holiness means a life dedicated to the service of God. Our life is not our own, our destiny is not our own, it is God's service which we were intended to follow.

## *Finally We are called to a royal priesthood*

A priest is a servant of God; it is a lifelong profession that each and every Christian is called to live. It is our ultimate destiny; we may live out this destiny through being chosen and pursuing holiness, but our destiny is ultimately our service to God. Service is not only an acceptance of our relationship with Christ; it doesn't end at the moment of salvation. Rather, it is carried out in our daily lives in obedience to the gift God has

given to us. We know that God will take care of our needs and our security, for He says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you" (Jeremiah 29:11, ESV). We so often miss the condition of the promise of God. God wants to bless us and protect us and give us a future better than we could ever imagine, but this promise requires our service. We must call upon the Lord; we must follow Him.

## *Conclusion*

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Ultimately, our destiny is an action; it's following the commands of Christ to be in service to God. Jesus Christ was never ambiguous in the tasks of our service. Actually, He spells it out to us in detail before He ascends to Heaven. Matthew 28 states, "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age'" (Matthew 28:18-20, ESV). Our service, our destiny, is to make disciples of all tongues and all nations. God has chosen us, to serve Him and bring people with us into the Heavenly realm. We have been chosen for an eternal life of freedom; the only thing we can bring, and we are commanded to bring, are the souls of others. It is more than the final commandment given by Jesus, it is our very destiny.

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# key scriptures



1 Peter 2:9-10

John 3:16

Hebrews 12:14

Jeremiah 29:11

Matthew 28:18-20

## Take Aways

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# *Anchored in Forgiveness*



By Elisa Johnson



Elisa is a mountain girl with a heart that beats for God and His kids. Born in western Montana she grew up as a pastor's daughter and began her relationship with Christ at a young age. Through years of childhood trauma and physical issues that relationship blossomed into a deep understanding of God the Father's heart for her and His desire to bring healing to the hurting. She felt the call to ministry at a very early age and began serving in any capacity she could. Her passion for God, people, and adventure have taken Elisa around the world; including England, Africa, and Central America. Much of her life has been spent serving in different ministries mostly revolving around children, youth, and mission work. Following a season of work at the Pentecostal Church of God's headquarters and Christpoint Church in Joplin MO

she moved to the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana to serve as pastor of a Native American church. Currently she is also the DYD of the Yellowstone District. Elisa desires to see people understand that they are a "masterpiece" created by a loving Father who longs to bring healing and purpose to every human through His transforming power in their lives. She truly believes that "my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

## *Introduction*

"Anchored in forgiveness." Honestly that phrase can insight a plethora of emotions. For some it is a convicting understanding, for others it is instant terror, and for some it is total denial. The need for forgiveness, both to give and receive, is clear throughout scripture. It also becomes an evident part of everyday life at a young age. As a whole we have relished the desire to be the recipients of forgiveness while downplaying our role in offering it. Forgiveness is a double-edged sword that is the bottom line to our relationship with the Lord and with others. Without it we lack the victory that Jesus

has already won.

As little children we are quick to say, "I'm sorry," or to be scolded into doing so, but have we embraced with the same tenacity the absolute necessity to learn the value of forgiveness? Don't get me wrong, I'm a firm believer in repentance and taking responsibility for choices, however, society has bought into allowing us to remain victims. We are crippled when we choose not to forgive. The media is inundated with heart-wrenching stories of young people unable to cope with bullying, taking drastic and tragic measures to deal with their pain. While there is absolutely no excuse for the victimization that takes place, in reality it is something we need to learn how to respond to. Let's make it personal: we as women deal with ridiculous amounts of cattiness, sadly even in the church. We will always face people and situations that are going to hurt us; the character defining key to freedom lies in our response. Have we trained ourselves to forgive and move on? Do we really love them anyway? I dare say we have tried to "forgive" as much as we can, but deep down many of us still cling to our right to feel mistreated. That is not forgiveness and has been a lie the enemy has used to keep godly women bound from the beginning of time. Yes, I said bound! The teachings of Jesus are very clear that if we do not forgive we will not be forgiven. In Matthew 6:14-15 Jesus said "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Therefore, when I choose to harbor unforgiveness, including the right to feel like a victim, I have chosen bondage. Forgiveness is not a mandated punishment; it is a tool to abundant life.

## *To grasp the other side of forgiveness*

is to come to a place of truly receiving it. The example that always stands out in scripture is the woman caught in adultery (John 8). She was humiliated and brought before Jesus to face not only Him and those accusing her, but herself. In that moment she was given the opportunity to embrace forgiveness. As we see in this story, and I think as most of us can attest to, one of our greatest challenges is getting past condemnation, and receiving the grace and mercy that only flows from the throne of our Heavenly Father. As the Psalmist wrote, "If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope" (Psalm 130:3-5). In our humanity we struggle to conceive that it is really possible for the slate to be wiped clean. It takes a revelation from the Holy Spirit for that knowledge to be made real in our hearts and minds. Where the enemy wants to bring shame and bitterness, the Lord gives freedom and love. Indeed "in his word do I hope."

## *Conclusion*

To be anchored in forgiveness is really to choose a life of freedom and grace. When I have spent time at the feet of Jesus and seek to understand that His greatest act of love was to become our atoning sacrifice with an attitude of forgiveness, my perspective changes. Jesus, the only sinless man to walk the earth, took on every act of darkness for all humanity and in the middle of His agony cried out for our forgiveness. We read in Luke 23:34 "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." This plea is an indication that Jesus understood sin to be an act of ignorance. Yes, there is willful sin; however, even then, it comes from a place that does not truly know God's heart. We know that hurting people hurt people, so let's as women of God rise to the occasion and through the power of the Holy Spirit see the cycle break. Let's respond to the pain with His heart. We can be the vessels anchored in forgiveness that bring His healing to a hurting world!







# key scriptures



Matthew 6:14-15

Psalms 130:3-5

Luke 23:34

## Take Aways

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# *Anchored in His Strength*



By Joyce Cristler

Joyce is an Ordained Minister and pastors with her husband, Bob, in Norwalk, California. They have pastored for over 40 years. She is Mom to two boys and has two granddaughters, Abby and Emma. Her passion is to see people grow in the Lord and walk strong in their lives.

## *Introduction*

My favorite quote is, "It's not what happens to you in life, but how you respond to it." I grew up believing if I did good, good things would happen to me. In Sunday school, we were taught, "Be a good girl and God will be good to you." I accepted Jesus at a young age and tried my best to keep His Word and do what was right.

Twenty-five years later, I stood at the isolate of my second baby boy and a doctor said, "Your baby only has half a heart, he only has twelve hours to live." I thought, "No, this can't be happening. I already have a three-year-old who is quadriplegic and doesn't walk." I searched my heart for what I had done wrong. I knew I needed God's strength.

Jeremiah 29:11 was given to us by a neonatal nurse. "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." This scripture gave me so much hope. God had a plan and it wasn't evil.

Over the years as we faced many surgeries and hospitalizations, I learned to walk in God's strength. God's strength comes completely from Him. It's not strength I muster up within myself but His strength that He has given to us throughout time. "The joy of the LORD is my strength."

I analyzed what would be best for my kids. Walking in sadness, defeat, or depression would not benefit them or make them what God wanted them to be. I wanted them to know and love God the way I did. I wanted them to grow up strong to serve Him with a whole heart. God had given me these two boys, and it was my mission to teach them His Word. They could also walk in His strength.

Not only did I need an anchor, but my boys needed an anchor—something they could hold onto as they grew up.

*How do we walk in God's strength?  
How do we stay anchored in Him?*

First, there were no pity parties. We didn't allow our boys to feel sorry for themselves. This was life. Now we live it the best way we can. We walk through each experience knowing God is with us, and whatever happens He will see us through.

Second, we pray. We prayed together as a family every day. Even when one of us was in the hospital, we would call and pray over the phone before we went to sleep. This kept us close and reminded us that God's grace surrounded us.

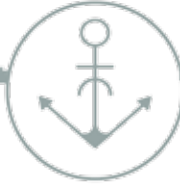
Thirdly, we stayed in The Word. The Word of God is what challenges the negativity in our lives—those things we hear and believe that aren't true. We have to line them up with the Bible; if they're not true, we replace them with the truth. God's Word brings strength to us.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9, it says, "And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Here, Paul states that God's strength is perfect in my weakness. It isn't my strength and it isn't sensible strength. His power is perfected in man's strengthlessness. It is in our weakness, sickness or infirmities by which God's power exhibits itself more perfectly. This isn't strength that comes from weightlifting because it isn't MY strength. I can be confident in God's strength and know that it is available to me. God's way is not to take His children out of the trial, but to give them strength to walk through it. The three Hebrew children walked through the fiery furnace; they weren't delivered from it. Daniel 3:23-26.

Jesus speaks in John 17:15. "I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth."

So, as troubles and trials come your way, know that God's strength is always there for you. It's not strength you produce, but rest in Him.





## *Conclusion*

My son, Chad is now 37 years old and although he is still quadriplegic, he is happy and loves the Lord with all his heart. The name "Chad" means "little warrior" and Chad is a Prayer Warrior. He prays every night in his bed. Many who need prayer call and ask Chad to pray for them.

Ryan, now 34, has had many heart surgeries with a transplant at 19 years old. God answered prayer for Ryan's heart. Everything the surgeon asked for, God gave us. He is healthy, talented and creative. Ryan is married to our dear, daughter-in-law, Caleh and has two daughters. They minister beside us, there is no greater blessing. Being anchored in God's strength got us through!



notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# key scriptures



2 Corinthians 12:9

Daniel 3:23-26

John 17:15

## Take Aways

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## *Anchored in Hope*



By Dawn Lawrence

Dawn is the wife of Randy, and the mother of Chase 9, Maia 7, Cali 5, and Jaxon 3. She and her family currently reside in Fort Worth, Texas, where Randy serves as the National Youth Director and President of Messenger College. She enjoys traveling and seeing familiar faces, and developing new friendships, as they serve at youth camps and events.

### This Ship Has Sailed

We've all heard the saying, "That ship has sailed." Perhaps it's one we use quite often. Uninterrupted night's sleep? "That ship has sailed." More kids? "That ship has sailed." We are really good friends, but we will never be more than that. "That ship has sailed."

I was inspired to Google the popular phrase, and the official "definition" inspired me all the more.

that (or the) ship has sailed  
phrase of ship

1. used in reference to an opportunity that has passed or a situation that can no longer be changed.

## *Do you remember that moment?*

Do you remember a time in your life when God moved you so deeply, changed you so profoundly, showed you who He was so convincingly that you knew there was no going back?

I can tell you that in my early years as a Christian I was a ship at dock. I was on the boat, but I can't tell you that I was sailing. I can't tell you that beyond a shadow of a doubt there was no taking a step back off that boat dock and onto an old familiar shore.

And then, I remember the season. The season in my life when the shore revealed that although you could see the ground, it wasn't always such a pleasant place. It looked secure, but, my goodness, the looks were deceiving. It beckoned me to step back ashore. But then there was an unknown, there was an ocean, and it beckoned even more.

I remember the turning point, when God went from something nice to have in my pocket, to all I wanted and needed. There was no other option for me. This was when I realized this world will fade, and He is all I have, and the only one I entrusted my family, my husband, my children, my marriage, my future too.

I don't remember the exact moment I pushed off the shore, but I remember seeing it from a distance, and contrary to my previous assumptions, it wasn't scary. I wasn't full of fear. In fact, for the first time in my life I felt fearless. Here I was on open sea where the winds and rain and waves were so very real, but I was steady because, when I looked down, I saw the anchor. I saw the anchor of hope, and felt it so strong.

All the stories I had heard as a child about Jesus and forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternity with Him became the hope that I clung to.

I could let go of fear knowing that no matter what this life throws at us, our hope is that we will be with Jesus one day. It's a familiar scripture and an excellent anchor: John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not die, but have everlasting life."

My prayers, although still including health, safety, and security for my family, now were turned to a passionate desire that we would one day stand before Jesus together; that became the hope that I cling to. I cannot guarantee my children anything in this life, but I can guarantee them that with Christ at the head of their ship, no matter how long or short together our time is here on earth, we will stand together before our Creator for all eternity.

That's a hope and an anchor that gets us through the sleepless nights. That's a hope and an anchor that puts all our earthly struggles into perspective. That is a hope and anchor that warrants talking about, the hope that drives us to do life differently. What have we to lose here? What do we really lose when we step out? I'm discovering that the losses pale in comparison to the gain.

## *Conclusion*

I think of Peter in Matthew 14:25-32, and I think maybe our experiences though physically different were so very spiritually similar. The moment when sink or swim, I'm all in. That moment when you've seen God's goodness, and He's proven His faithfulness, and you know that the security in His anchor is in the end all that matters. His anchor is steadfast and secure. He can be trusted. Take heart, stand firm, remember this Hope.

... through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:2-5

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notes

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# key scriptures



John 3:16

Matthew 14:25-32

Romans 5:2-5

## Take Aways

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## *Anchored in Obedience*



Olivia is a senior at Messenger College and assistant to Trisha Naten in the National Women's Ministry office. She has grown up in the Michigan District of the Pentecostal Church of God until 2013 when she moved to Dallas, Texas, to attend Messenger College. In the Spring of 2017, she will be graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministries with a concentration in Biblical Studies. She has been student body president for the past two years of her time at MC and will be continuing to do so in her last year as well as taking on the role of Residence Assistant. After graduation, she plans to pursue her Master's Degree in Theology. She is unsure of exactly what the future holds but feels a call to write, travel, and preach the Word of God.

### *Introduction*

The definition of obedience is: compliance with an order, request, or law, or submission to another's authority. A lot of times, we associate obedience with anxiety-fueled rule following, but we can only truly understand obedience when we understand God's intention for obedience in our lives.

We should not obey God because we fear the consequences if we don't, but rather, our allegiance to submitting ourselves to His will should be motivated by the love that we have for Him. We can be in danger of having a works-based faith when we look at obedience as a goal rather than what it really is: a symptom. Obedience is simply a byproduct of the condition of your heart and a fruit of your relationship with God.

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. —John 14:15

### *The Price of Obedience*

As children of God and coheirs with Christ, we inherit many free gifts. Through Christ we have liberty, hope, joy, freedom, purpose, healing, grace, and so many other things that even in all of their beauty and splendor have cost us nothing. Although these gifts have cost the Father everything, they are not products of payment on our part whatsoever. However, obedience comes with a price.

If we seek to fulfill the call of God on our lives but are unaware of the costly nature of pursuing that call, it will not be too long before the reality of that price begins to supersede or replace our desire for God's will in our lives at all. Therefore, it is our decision as to whether or not the call is worth the price.

This "price" looks different for every single one of us. We do not all experience the same struggles, and that is just a fact. We all have temptations that are more difficult to overcome than others. We all have those sinful or destructive behaviors that our flesh retreats to when we face adversity. In the middle of insecurity and confusion, we can seek to find artificial comfort in certain actions or ways of thinking. And in the moment, these things seem right. You see, disobedience is appealing because we can get an immediate response out of it. We don't have dry seasons of disobedience. If you want to be disobedient, then you very well can be disobedient whenever you feel like it. But these bondages to temptation exist solely to try to persuade us to trade that which cost everything for something that is worth absolutely nothing.

Is the price of obedience worth it to you?



## *How can you be Anchored in Obedience?*

As stated earlier, true obedience is an indicating feature of an already completed, inward work. We can be anchored in obedience in the way that it should flow out of us as an expression of the Person of God, His Spirit that is active and living in us, and our willingness to yield to His guidance.

Oswald Chambers wrote in his devotional book *My Utmost for His Highest* that "when-  
ever there is a spiritual drain in your life, correct it immediately. Realize that something has been coming between you and God and change it or remove it at once."

As women who are called upon by the mission of God, it is our obligation to remove or change the spiritual drains in our lives. It is our responsibility to respond to the nudging of correction by the Holy Spirit, and if we fail to do so, there is a price to be paid. As much as there is a price of obedience, there is also a price for disobedience. This sounds kind of harsh, but God desires for His children to be pure and spotless, and if we are not being obedient to the inclinations of the Spirit, He will allow His Spirit to implement whatever process necessary to bring us back to Himself.

This process can also take various forms. Most times, it looks like lessons learned the hard way or trials and tribulations which could have been avoided had we just obeyed in the first place. Sometimes it takes a difficult situation for us to realize how serious God is about His children being made pure.

The great thing about this is that God always presents us with the option to willfully obey first. He is a God of mercy and love, and His merciful and loving ways are demonstrated to us in His process of correction. He longs to bring us out purified and without blemish. He wants us to be able to recognize our own disobedience, but when we do not, that is when His Spirit steps in to bring us to that point of purity.

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. —Galatians 6:7-8

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## *Conclusion*

The Holy Spirit is what anchors us in our obedience. He is our advocate of truth, and if we sow to the Spirit, we surely will reap eternal life! He is with us forever, leading and guiding us, and as long as we are responsive to His voice, we will be anchored in obedience. It is imperative that we put ourselves in a position to submit to the Holy Spirit, as submission is an indispensable part of obedience.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# key scriptures



John 14:15

Galatians 6:7-8

## Take Aways

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# *Anchored in Purpose*



By Kelsey Lasher



Kelsey resides in Castle Rock, Colorado, with her husband and children. She spends her days raising her two, soon to be three, kids up to be mighty people of faith, blogging for various websites for women, and speaking to different women's groups. You can find her writing over at [glowliveaslight.com](http://glowliveaslight.com) and [whilewemother.com](http://whilewemother.com). She's also been featured on MOPS International's [hellodearest.org](http://hellodearest.org) and [coffeeandcrumbs.net](http://coffeeandcrumbs.net). With her combined experiences of Children's and Youth Pastoring, motherhood, and writing for and

speaking to women, she has found that her passion is to build the Kingdom of God through ministering to and encouraging the women that are raising up the next generation of it. She is passionate about people, especially little ones in footy pajamas and the women that are raising them, and the way to her heart is through good books, fall days, flowers, and quality time with family and friends.

## *Introduction*

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. —Matthew 28:19

That is what a Christian's purpose boils down to. We are to live our lives in such a way as to bring glory to God and to make disciples of those around us. It's easy to say this, to know this, to yearn for this—especially with the compelling love of Christ burning within us—but being anchored in this purpose in such a way as to know how to do it is different all together.

# *The difference between Purpose and Ability*

They're building a new community center and clubhouse up the street from my house. We've watched as the walls have taken shape, the ground has been overturned, and the finishes have been added. It's a fascinating process really; watching all of the different machines do their jobs. They're each designed differently from the others. Some dig, some haul, some lift, but all of them are working towards the same goal: to build something.

It's easy to mix up the purpose of the machines with the function of the machines. Take a crane for example. What is the purpose of a crane? You might say it's to lift things, and, indeed, that is what the crane is specifically designed and gifted to do. But is that it's purpose? It's purpose is to build something.

No, the function and ability of the machine is not it's actual purpose. Its purpose is in what it is aiming to achieve, and that's to work alongside all of the other machines; to cause something to take shape and grow and become. It might seem like all it is meant to do is to lift heavy objects but really, the builders are only employing the greatest function and design of that crane to fulfill the greater purpose and task at hand.

## *We Aren't Any Different*

We each have our own unique talents and abilities. Some of us can write, some can sing, some can dominate on the athletic field, some can craft, some can listen, some can talk, but all of it was given to us for a purpose: to build the Kingdom of God.

When I was growing up, I defined myself by my talent—specifically, my talent for singing. I sang in the top choirs at school, on worship team at church, in competitions, and with friends. I thought for sure that that was my purpose and identity. However, right now, in the season of life that I'm in, I hardly have any opportunity to sing aside from lullabies to my kids and worship while I get dressed in the morning.

At first, this was a hard truth to come to terms with. I wondered why the Lord wasn't giving me opportunities to sing anymore and why the talent that I had spent years cultivating was going to waste. What I slowly began to realize is that He is giving me so many other opportunities instead. Opportunities to write and encourage women in their faith, to speak to them, and to raise my kids.

Then it hit me. Singing was only a gift I had been given. A function. An ability. It was

useful for a season because it brought me in contact with people that needed to know the love of Jesus and let me lead them in worship. However, now the Lord has given me new functions and abilities to achieve the same goal: building His Kingdom.

I realized that all of these things, our abilities and our giftings, are only a vehicle for our purpose. Our true and real and unchanging purpose is to build the Kingdom of God, to go and make disciples, to show Jesus to the world. All of the talents that we have are only tools that we use to do that. Like the crane, the talent is not the purpose. The building is.

## *Conclusion*

Are you anchored in your talent or are you anchored in your purpose? Do you find your calling and meaning in the thing that is only your current function or your current gifting or your current opportunity? Or are you anchored, held fast, and unmoving in the knowledge that no matter how He asks you do it, what he gives or what he takes away, what he blesses you with and what He doesn't, your purpose is to use it all to build His Kingdom?

Let the knowledge of your purpose and your calling hold you fast and keep you from wavering. Let the confidence that comes from a God-given purpose that is untouched by circumstance, ability, age, knowledge, or change anchor you. Because the promise was He "is with you always, to very end of the age." With power and love like that behind us, we can be sure that our purpose will prevail.





# key scripture



## Matthew 28:19

### Quotes

"Your calling and what God has given you to fulfil it are different." Tehinse Korede

"We don't choose what we will do for God; He invites us to join Him where He wants to involve us." —Henry T. Blackaby, *Experiencing God*

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God,  
1 Corinthians 10:31 NIV.

### Take Aways

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# *The Anchor Holds in Trials*



By Margaret Cox



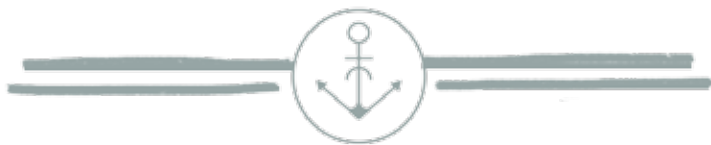
Margaret is currently the women's ministry director for the Northern California/Nevada District and an ordained minister with the Pentecostal Church of God. Margaret has been married to Bishop Lonnie J. Cox for 45 years and is the mother of 3 children and the grandmother of 9. Women's ministries have always been a priority and a passion in her life. Margaret loves to preach conferences and rallies, and bring laughter to all who come in contact with her.

## *Introduction*

"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." —Jeremiah 29:11

## *Some days we hurt...*

Pain and problems are a part of our world and Christians are not exempt. Faith includes the supernatural, but it also includes a daily, dependent trust in God in spite of the circumstances around us. I have met people with problems, or "trials" as we Christians fondly like to call them, who find it difficult to talk about anything else. Storms (difficult times) are felt by everyone. The belief that God guides us rests upon the assurance that God has an all-embracing plan by which He directs us and keeps us safe. Confidence in my anchor in God is believing in divine providence and protection and not fatalism. The purpose of the providence of God is to preserve life and the quality of it. I have a promised future in Him. When God says my trial is over, IT IS OVER! Meanwhile, my anchor also keeps me from going out too deep in my storm and drowning. Paul found himself in the worst storm of his life, and at the bottom of that boat, he says, Acts 27:25 "Wherefore sirs, be of good cheer; for I believe in God, that it shall be even as it was told me." I suggest reading the entire chapter of Acts 27 as a guide to dealing with things when they are not going your way. Paul was not having a good day!



Paul was not the cause of the storm (a message in itself), but he became the comforter in the storm. First thing the men in the boat did was QUIT STRUGGLING. It is very wise to learn to yield to God early in the storm to avoid further pitfalls. Second, they had to forget the boat. What are you so interested in holding onto? An angel told Paul that because of Him, all would be saved. Check your friends, because friends can help point you to the power of an overcoming God, they can lead you to connect with Him victoriously, or they can pull up your anchor and you will sink. No storms or trials baffle our Savior, nor will He ever leave your side.

Having an anchor prevents helplessness. Hope is a great antidote for this. Hope for relief. Just knowing that trials are temporary and will someday be rewarded if we stay faithful is key to stabilizing faith under trial. Sometimes our circumstances will drive us. Paul's circumstances led to shipwreck, but not fatal losses. There was pain and the shipwreck was not pleasant, but you can allow the storm to drive you into the arms of God and not the depths of despair.

Second Thessalonians 2:2 says "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand." This is spiritual composure in a storm. The anchor is holding.

I would love victory, but no trials. I would love to lose weight, but not exercise and diet. I would love financial freedom, but no budget. I would love water, but not get wet. It's not going to happen! How does one learn faith, other than a simple dependence on God? God even allows shipwreck so that we feel our need for Him. Life doesn't exist without storms and our abundant life does not exist without our anchor.

In conclusion, I read the story of how Lawrence Chewning came to write the song "The Anchor Holds." It was written in 1992 where the author described this as "our year of sorrows" for him and his wife. His father died; health problems arose, and he grew burnt out, weary, and discouraged in his pastoral ministry. The church he founded was entering into a devastating split, and his wife suffered her third miscarriage. They felt their best years were behind them. Have you ever felt this way? You may be feeling that right now. During this time in his life, God gave him words to a song. Through this song, God took their broken pieces and made something of value out of them. The anchor still holds for you.



## Conclusion

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There is one thing about a woman who truly walks with God and has complete trust in Him; circumstances and trials will never affect her fellowship and communion with the Lord. Trust teaches us how to handle adverse winds and to make progress in spite of them. Mature Christians learn how to handle adverse times without backsliding. When the winds are contrary in my life, I don't have to see my anchor because I know it's there. I feel steady.



notes

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# key scripture



Jeremiah 29:11

Thessalonians 2:2

## Take Aways

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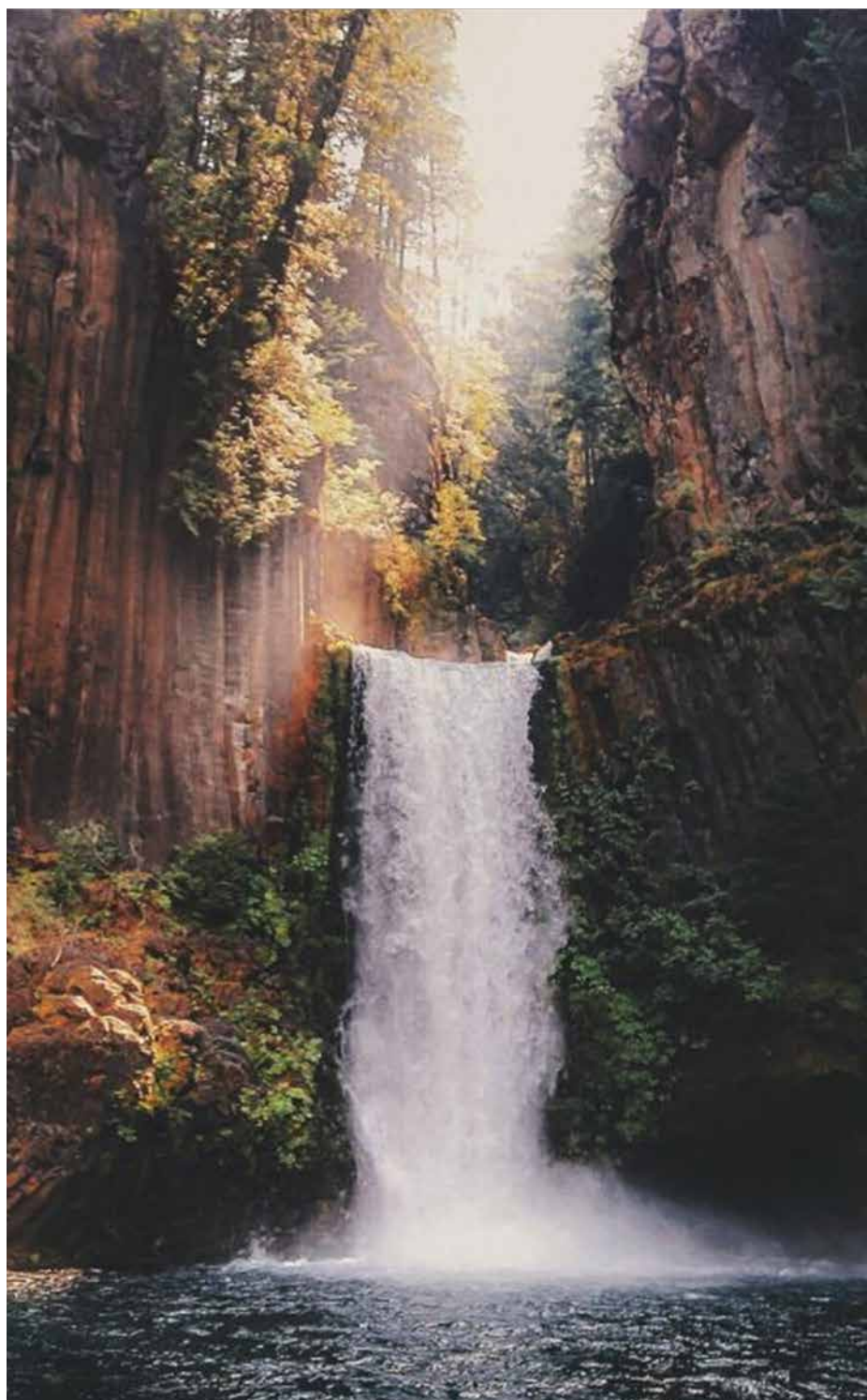
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## *Anchor of Peace*



By Donna Neville



Donna and her husband, Michael, began pastoring in Southeast Los Angeles in 1976. They labored together for 20 years until the Lord took Mike home in 1996. Donna stepped into the senior pastor role and has pastored the church another 20 years. Donna has been involved in church-planting and has traveled extensively, ministering the gospel around the world. She is a proud mother and grandmother and says her greatest joy, next to knowing Jesus, is having grandkids!

### *Introduction*

I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. —John 14:27

"Peace with God is the most precious possession I have!" That was the answer I gave when, in a very introspective moment, I asked myself, "What is your greatest possession?" Of course I treasure my children, my grandchildren; I love the church I serve . . . but my greatest possession is "peace with God." That peace has held me steady through many threatening storms. That peace has been an anchor through every challenge I have faced in life. It is, without a doubt, life's greatest possession!

### *The Gift of Peace*

"I am leaving you with a gift. . . ." This anchor of peace is a gift from God and is available to everyone. There is no one so far from God or so broken that He cannot secure your heart and mind. It is attainable by receiving what only the Prince of Peace can give.

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us" (Romans 5:1, NLT). Our Lord Jesus paid the ultimate price so that you and I, who were enemies of God and separated from Him because of our sins, could be reconciled to our creator. (Read Colossians 1:21-22, NLT.)

Without Christ we were spiritually lost. Our minds were darkened and the god of this world (Satan) held sway over our worldview; but Jesus paid the sin debt, set us free, and not only forgave us, but also took all the guilt and torment connected with our sins.

There is nothing as disruptive as an unsettled conscience. Guilt torments and does destructive things to the conscience and personality. People will explore every avenue, no matter how damaging, in pursuit of peace. But the peace they are looking for will never be found outside of coming into a right relationship with their creator.

All other peace is temporary and vulnerable. You can attempt to gloss over your conscience, telling yourself “it doesn’t matter.” You can try to silence it, outrun it, outwit it, but if you are looking for genuine peace, it must start here. You must make peace with God through Jesus Christ.

## *Not of this World Peace*

“And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give.” The world’s idea of peace is based on perfect circumstances. (No emotional disturbances. No enemies. No disagreements. Everyone understands and likes us. No money problems, betrayals, or declined loans.) You get the picture.

When Jesus spoke this promise to the disciples, they were getting ready to face some tough times. Clearly it was not a promise of a trouble-free life. It was not an escape card from the pressures and struggles connected with the real world. This gift of peace is an “other world” peace. It is a supernatural assurance and an unexplainable hope that lifts the mind and heart to see from a higher perspective even in the crush of present difficulties.

Jesus said, “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrow. But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NLT).

## *Not of this World Peace*

“So don’t be troubled or afraid.” Fear threatens to eclipse this peace. We human types battle fear constantly. Most sins are rooted in fear. We fear loss, rejection, pain, death, and more. When fear strikes, we panic and often do and say foolish things.

Yet the Word of God says, “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. . . . When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up. . . .” (Isaiah 43:1-2, NLT).

## *Conclusion*

I can tell you from personal experience that this gift of peace will sustain your heart and mind in deep waters, rivers of difficulty, and the fires of oppression! This peace is the promise of His presence! You cannot buy that kind of peace. It doesn't come in perfect circumstances. It's not the result of strong-willed determination. You can't get it in a bottle, a pill, or by any other means. It comes by trusting in the one who is the "anchor for our souls" (Hebrews 6:19, NLT).

You can smile at life and be at peace with the yet unresolved issues and questions. You can start seeing through the lenses of eternity rather than the limited view of the here and now. When you are anchored in the "Prince of Peace" you start basing your peace on the credibility of God no matter what level of storm you are in!



notes 

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



# key scriptures



John 14:27

Romans 5:1

Colossians 1:21-22

Isaiah 43:1-2

John 16:33

Hebrews 6:19

## Quotes

You will keep him in perfect peace,  
Whose mind is stayed on You,  
Because he trusts in You.

—Isaiah 26:3, NKJV

“Until you have peace with God, you will never experience true peace in this life. This is the most fundamental principle in the Scripture.” —Charles Stanley

## Take Aways

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# *Anchored in Joy*



By Amanda Rodriguez



Amanda is a Senior at Messenger College alongside her husband, Robert Rodriguez. They graduate Spring 2017, when Amanda will have a BA in Christian Ministries with a minor in Pastoral Ministry. She has a passion for youth and young adults and has a heart for outreaches and community connection and looks forward to ministry with her husband.

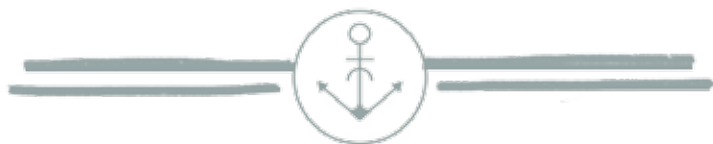
## *Introduction*

Growing up in the millennial generation, it's easy to believe joy comes with Facebook friends, Instagram followers, or Snapchat views. While having a large following isn't bad, the problem with this ideology is what happens when you lose them or fail to gain them at all. There's an inadequacy that begins to sneak into our minds and steal our joy. It's the same inadequacy that we experience when we seek joy in anything other than the Lord.

## *Journey to Joy*

Being anchored in true joy is something that is relatively new to me. I struggled in high school with my identity, and it wasn't until the Fall before I came to Messenger College that I finally had an encounter with God that showed me who God was while finding out who I am in Him. From that moment on, I realized the things I had once found joy in, no longer brought me joy. When I started my college journey, my first semester wasn't at all what I thought it would be. Driving to Dallas from Houston, I was creating all of these ideas of what it was going to be like, and when I got there, I quickly realized that my ideas were just wishful thinking.

I thought that because I was at a Bible college, I wouldn't have to deal with insecurities, struggles, or conflict, and the night before my first class, all three hit me like a ton of bricks. I began to feel inadequate, and all of these new fears began to settle in. I found myself being stretched by God while simultaneously dealing with spiritual warfare for the first time. Being a senior now, I look back and see how far God has brought me, but getting to where I am today was a process. The Holy Spirit had to rewire my mind and undo my ways of thinking that were not of Him. In this process is where we become anchored in the joy of the Lord. The times I failed God and tried to find joy in the things my old self found joy in, He would always bring me back and show me that He is the only source of joy, and everything that would bring me joy in the physical would just be a branch off of Him. In our own failures, we tend to reach for things that may have brought us happiness in the past, things that we try to find a counterfeit joy in. But sometimes we get true joy confused with conditional happiness. Renewal of the mind will give us this joy.



## *Newlyweds*

I met my husband in my sophomore year of college. At this time in my life, I had grown so much with God and finally had a grasp on who I was in Him and where my joy came from, and then I met Robert. Isn't it just like God to give us a new adventure right when we get comfortable with the last one? The joy and confidence God had given me was all of a sudden replaced with old feelings of inadequacy. I haven't been exposed to many successful relationships, so the idea of my trying to have one with this amazing man is something I wasn't sure I was capable of.

I hadn't been exposed to many relationships, so I wasn't sure I was capable of having one with him. I then remembered what God says in John 15:10-11, and that is as long as I keep His commands, I will remain in His love and His joy will be in me and my joy will be complete. I realized once again, that even in my marriage my joy isn't anchored in Robert or myself, but in God. Sometimes, we have to make a conscious effort to be anchored in joy in every part of our lives. We like to tell ourselves we aren't good enough for certain things, and this is simply because we look to ourselves as our source of joy. Being fickle and changing beings, obviously we just aren't going to cut it as a provider of true joy, therefore we must look to the Father.

## *Conclusion*

My joy is anchored in God because He is never changing, He is always faithful, and is everything we need Him to be. Whether we are dealing with struggles in school, marriage, or just in life, our joy comes from God, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to help us not settle for counterfeit joy, but to truly be anchored in the joy of the Lord. As women, there are many diverse situations that aim to steal our joy, situations that may seem outside of our control. What circumstances in your life have challenged your joy? Thankfully, we do not serve a God whose sovereignty is dependent on circumstance. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and because of that we have access to a joy that is unwavering, certain, and secure. Happiness is affected by circumstance, but true joy has a root that, even when the winds blow and the seasons change, remains firm and planted.

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. —John 15:10-11





# key scripture



John 15:10-11

*Take Aways*

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# *Anchored in Prayer*



By Hillary Queiroz

Hillary, alongside her husband, Aldair, is a missionary for the Pentecostal Church of God in the nation of Brazil. Their two children, Addysan (age 9) and Liam (age 4), keep Hillary on her toes with their fun antics as well as deep spiritual questions. Hillary has a deep desire to teach, train, and send out a generation who truly know Him, know who they are in Christ, and have their eyes focused on Him and the path He has set before them.

## *Introduction*

"Where there is much prayer, there will be much of the Spirit; where there is much of the Spirit, there will be ever-increasing prayer." —Andrew Murray

Hillary is a graduate of Evangel University and the Roberts Wesleyan College masters' program. She has been working in Brazil for the last 10 years and, with her husband, also planted PCG in the nation of Chile. They currently pastor Passion and Compassion Ministries in the city of Manaus in the Amazon. Through this ministry they have a mission base in a village on the Amazon — the Hosea Project which reaches out to prostitutes on the streets of Manaus—and a before-and-after-school program for at-risk children called Casa dos Filhos (House of the Sons and Daughters). They also began a nine-month Missions and Revival School in 2015 and graduated their first class of students in June 2016.

## *Introduction: The Foundation*

To be “anchored in prayer” is to first build a foundation based on prayer. Perhaps a good place to start: the bride and bridegroom. The desire of the bridegroom is that the bride would know Him. The bridegroom is not preparing to return for a religious bride who knows a lot about Him; he is returning for a bride who knows Him. After all, intimacy comes through prayer and time spent with the Lord.

## *Intimacy Worship*

Intimacy comes from hearing and not just speaking. The bride must learn to quiet herself and listen. Prayer meetings and time in the secret place should not be just a time of nonstop verbal petitions, but a time of quietly sitting and listening to what He would say to us. Intimacy comes from soaking in His presence. According to John 10:27, KJV: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” So how will you recognize His voice if you do not spend time in His presence listening?

Remember that worship is intimate. Make worship part of your prayer time. Take time to worship Him as well as to just sit in His presence. The Word is also intimate. For the most enrichment:

- a) Read a passage of Scripture.
- b) Meditate on the Scripture.
- c) Pray the Scripture.
- d) Sing the Scripture.
- e) Stop and listen to His revelation of His Word.

## *A House of Prayer for All Nations*

“It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers’” (Matthew 21:13, NIV). In Scripture the Lord makes it clear to us that His house is called a “house of prayer.” Notice He did not say a house of worship or a house of the Word, but a house of prayer. When we understand prayer as a conversation between the Creator and the one He created, we begin to understand the deep desire the Lord has for relationship. Prayer must be the foundation of who we are and all that we do.

## *Ministry to the Father—Prayer*

Luke 10:41-42 (The Passion Translation) tells the story of Martha and Mary.

The Lord answered her, “Martha, my beloved Martha. Why are you upset and troubled, pulled away by all these distractions? Are they really that important? Mary has discovered the one thing most important by choosing the most beautiful place of sitting at my feet. She is undistracted, and I won’t take this privilege from her.”

We get so caught up in the “doing” part of the ministry that we forget that the best part, the one thing, is spending time at His feet. Throughout history, we see men and women like Mary who understood the one thing, who chose the best part. Some wonderful examples:

- Men like Daniel and Ezra in the Old Testament who had set times of daily prayer.
- John the Baptist in the New Testament who withdrew into the desert and whose disciples were known for fasting and prayer.
- The modern example of Brother Lawrence who began a search for the ceaseless presence of God with an intense prayer life. After pushing through great battles, he developed a life of prayer and meditation, describing it as the continuous practice of the presence of God. He simply stated it was a “quiet, familiar conversation with Him.”

## *Ministry to Others through Prayer*

When you are anchored in prayer, love and compassion for others naturally spring forth. Your prayers are powerful and effective! In Matthew 21:21 (The Passion Translation), Jesus says,

Listen to the truth. If you have no doubt of God’s power and speak out of faith’s fullness, you can be the ones who speak to a tree and it will wither away. Even more than that, you could say to this mountain, “Be lifted up and be thrown into the sea” and it will be done. Everything you pray for with the fullness of faith you will receive!

Oh, the strength of faith-filled prayers! The deeper your life is anchored in prayer, the greater your faith will be, and you WILL see the mountains lifted up and thrown into the sea!

Of course, biblically based prayers are mighty as well. Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) tells us: For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Praying the Scriptures is a powerful weapon and brings discernment to “the thoughts and intents of the heart.” There exists no greater wisdom in all of the earth than His Word, so begin to pray His Word into existence.

## *Conclusion*

Anchored in prayer, we have a direct connection to the One who works signs, wonders, and miracles through our lives. There will be no fear to pray for the sick or cast out demons because we intimately know Him and His nature.

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover (Mark 16:17-18, ESV).



## Quotes

"It was very common to find Christians, whenever they met in any place, instead of engaging in conversation, to fall on their knees in prayer."

—Charles Finney

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."

—Oswald Chambers

"It is not enough to begin to pray, nor to pray aright; nor is it enough to continue for a time to pray; but we must patiently, believingly, continue in prayer until we obtain an answer; and further we have not only to continue in prayer unto the end, but we have also to believe that God does hear us, and will answer our prayers. Most frequently we fail in not continuing in prayer until the blessing is obtained, and in not expecting the blessing."

—George Muller

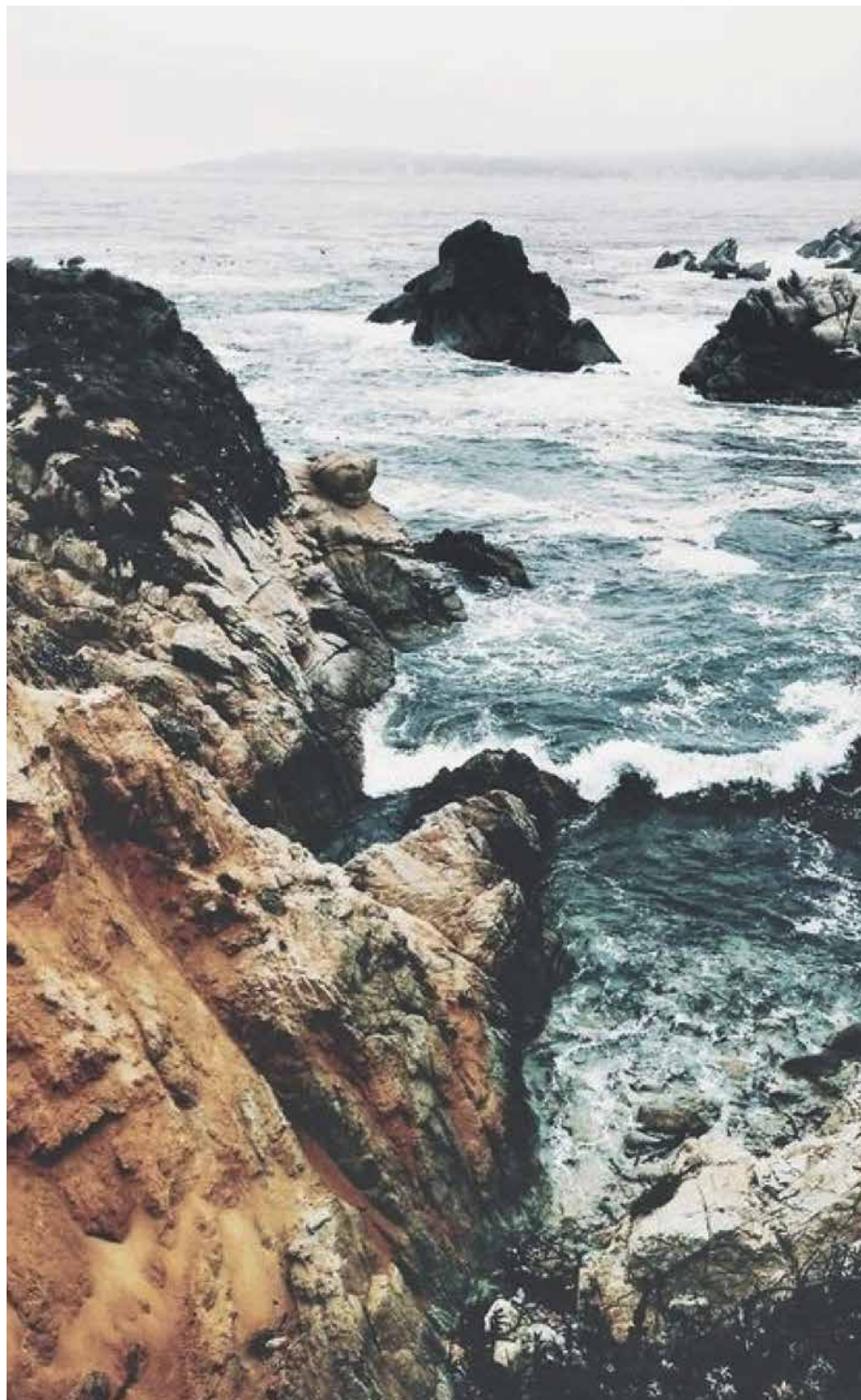
### Recommended Books

The Happy Intercessor by Beni Johnson

Intercessory Prayer by Dutch Sheets

The Lost Art of Intercession by James Goll

Praying the Bible by Wesley and Stacey Campbell



# *Anchored Throughout Life*



By Annette Talley



Annette has been married to her best friend, and the love of her life, Richard Talley, for 39 years. She is the mother of one daughter, and one son, the mother-in-law to one son-in-law, and one daughter-in-law. One of her greatest joys in life is being the granny to two wonderful grandsons, and two beautiful granddaughters. Prior to moving to Oklahoma the Talley's served as Northern California District Youth Directors, where Annette also served as the district Junior Director. For the past twenty years Annette has lived in Oklahoma City, where she served alongside her husband as the Pastors of Hillcrest Family Worship Center until

March of 2015. It was at that time that her husband was elected to serve as the Oklahoma District Bishop. Annette truly loves the Lord and does her best to serve alongside her husband wherever the Lord leads. She enjoys working with children and with those less fortunate than she. She loves bringing true hope to others by introducing them to Christ, and encouraging them through the word, prayer, and Christian mentoring.

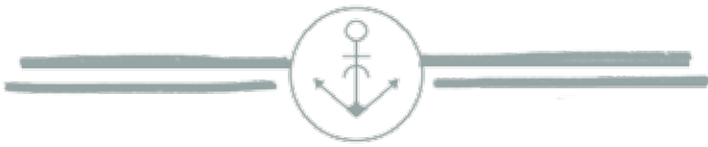
## *Introduction*

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul; firm and secure. . ." —Hebrews 6:19  
I am so thankful that the anchor we have can keep us secure and firm throughout all of the many waves that crash upon us in life. During the times that we feel unanchored and as though we are just sort of floating aimlessly without any direction or purpose, we can still know that the God of our salvation is keeping us secure. The anchor holds!

According to Webster's Dictionary the meaning of the word anchor is: a heavy device that is attached to a boat or ship by a rope or chain and that is thrown into the water to hold the boat or ship in place; a person or thing that provides strength and support.

My husband and I love to cruise. We have been blessed to have enjoyed several cruises in recent years. One thing I noticed right away was the noise and the feeling that you felt when the ship would drop its anchor. The ship would slow and eventually stop as





as the anchor would drag the bottom of the ocean. The anchor would hold the ship secure in its designated location as it did the job it was designed to do.

I) The Anchor during A Cruise

A) Smooth Sailing

We are just traveling along enjoying the beauty around us. Friends, food, and fun on all sides, everything is good. We could shout it from the top deck, "All is well."

B) The Winds Begin

Suddenly you can feel the change in the air, and you can see the effects of the wind as it begins to blow. It is no longer comfortable to stay outdoors as the wind picks up. Our hair is blown in our face, our skin is now cold, and the mist from the water can be felt as the wind blows it from the sea.

C) And Now the Waves

The ocean is no longer calm. The waves are now big, and they are becoming rougher. Now you cannot walk on the ship without holding onto something or someone; the waves have white foam caps as they crash onto the ship. The ship is being battered and tossed about a little. The anchor may need to be thrown into the water to help stabilize the ship.

D) The Course Changes

The captain may now need to make adjustments in the course that the ship will be taking according to all that is happening around us and in the atmosphere. He must keep the ship and the passengers safe. The captain has the knowledge and training to know what to do, he sees things that not all of the passengers are privy to. He has access to gauges and equipment that will help in decision making to keep everyone secure. He has accepted a huge responsibility to return the ship to shore whole. He may need to make full use of the anchors in order to succeed in the task before him.

II) The Anchor throughout Life

A) Smooth Sailing

There are times in life when everything is just going our way. We see God in everything and everywhere we look. We are blessed, and it is evident. Happy, Happy, Happy. We know our anchor is holding us steady.

B) The Winds Begin (Matthew 14:24)

Suddenly there is a change. Little things are not so good anymore. The car breaks down, our spouse just wants to argue, and we are just tired. The kids are married, empty nest has begun, the house is so quiet, and we are lonely. Where is God? Where is our anchor? We need some stability.



- C)      And Now the Waves (Psalms 27:5)  
Life is not so calm anymore. The doctor's report was not so good. They brought up the C word. Oh no, God, not cancer. We are now scared, terrified, and our faith is a little frail. We just made some big life changes, we are following the leading of the Holy Spirit, this cannot be. The waves are crashing in and we are searching for God, our anchor. Doesn't God know? Does He not see? Does He not care? Oh, and yes, the report was cancer. Is the anchor big enough? Will it hold? Will it be able to sustain us in this storm and keep us?
- D)      The Course Changes (Proverbs 3:6)  
Our planned out life has just taken some major turns. See, God doesn't do things the way we often think He should. His ways are much higher, and His plans are far greater than we could even imagine. Still, at that moment we do not see with the natural eye what God is doing; we just know that our plans are changing course. . . . But, He proves, that once again He is faithful and He is sure, and, yes, He does hold us steady. The anchor is as secure as ever. Throughout our lifetime, in good and in bad, the anchor does not change, is never shaken, is never movable, but is always steadfast. God, as our anchor, holds us steady, firm, and secure. We just have to trust in the anchor, and in our relationship with Him. The Anchor Holds!

## *Conclusion*

In every step, every direction, every way, if we follow God's will, He will never leave us nor forsake us, but His anchor will hold us firm and secure. No matter what waves may come, how hard or how high, The Anchor Holds!



*notes*



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## *Key Scriptures*

Hebrews 6:19

Matthew 14:24

Psalms 27:5

Proverbs 3:6

## *Take Aways*

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WHEN YOU  
GO THROUGH  
DEEP WATERS,  
I WILL BE WITH YOU.  
ISAIAH 43:2

hope  
anchors  
the  
soul





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## *Chinese Chicken Salad*

Recipe submitted by Mona:

2 large chicken breasts  
2 packages Top Ramen  
1 whole green cabbage  
Cashews  
Olive Oil, vinegar and sugar, to taste

Preparation Instructions

- 1). Cook chicken in frying pan with Ramen seasoning packages only. Cut into small pieces when cooked.
- 2). Chop cabbage, add cooked chicken & cashews. Mix with olive oil, vinegar, sugar mixture. Add salt & pepper to taste.
- 3). Break Ramen noodles into small pieces, and add to cabbage/chicken mix right before serving.

# Taco Soup

Recipe submitted by Joyce

Preparation Instructions

- 1 lb ground turkey
- 1 large onion chopped
- 1 (1 1/4 ounce) package hidden valley ranch dressing mix
- 1 (1 1/4 ounce) package taco seasoning mix
- 1 (15 oz.) can pinto beans
- 1 (15 ounce) can hot chili beans
- 1 (15 ounce) can whole kernel corn
- 2 (15 ounce) can stewed Mexi can flavor tomatoes

- 1). Brown the meat and onions and drain.
- 2). Mix ranch dressing and taco mix seasoning into the meat.
- 3). Without draining, add all other ingredients.
- 4). Simmer 1 hour.

Note: You can serve with Tortilla chips, green onions, sour cream and grated cheese.

I also like to make Corn Bread.

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# Crockpot Chile

Recipe submitted by Kelsey

Preparation Instructions

- 1 lb ground beef, browned
- 1 C. chopped onion
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 2-3 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 large (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 can kidney beans, drained
- 1 can pinto beans, drained
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 3 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. garlic salt

- 1). Combine all ingredients in crock pot thoroughly
- 2). Cook on low for 7-8 hours or on high for 4 hours.
- 3). Enjoy!

# Sloppy Does

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Recipe submitted by Dawn  
(from Pioneer Woman)

- 2 Tbs. Butter
- 2-1/2 pounds Ground Beef
- 1/2 whole Large Onion, Diced
- 1 whole Large Green Bell Pepper, Diced
- 5 cloves Garlic, Minced
- 1-1/2 C. Ketchup
- 1 C. Water
- 2 Tbs. Brown Sugar
- 2 tsp. Chili Powder (more To Taste)
- 1 tsp Dry Mustard
- 1/2 tsp. Red Pepper Flakes (more To Taste)
- Worcestershire Sauce, To Taste
- 2 Tbs. Tomato Paste (optional)
- Tabasco Sauce (optional; To Taste)
- Salt To Taste
- Freshly Ground Black Pepper, To Taste
- Kaiser Rolls
- Butter

## Preparation Instructions

- 1). Add butter to a large skillet or dutch oven over medium high heat. Add ground beef and cook until brown. Drain most of the fat and discard.
- 2). Add onions, green pepper, and garlic. Cook for a few minutes, or until vegetables begin to get soft.
- 3). Add ketchup, brown sugar, chili pepper, dry mustard, and water. Stir to combine and simmer for 15 minutes, adding salt and pepper to taste. Also add tomato paste, Worcestershire, and Tabasco if desired. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed.
- 4). Spread rolls with butter and brown on a griddle or skillet. Spoon meat mixture over the rolls, topping with a slice of cheese if it makes your skirt fly up. Serve hot with kettle cooked chips!



# Crockpot Chile

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Recipe submitted by Kelsey  
Crockpot Chile

- 1 lb ground beef, browned
- 1 C. chopped onion
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 2-3 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 large (28 oz) can crushed tomatoes
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 can kidney beans, drained
- 1 can pinto beans, drained
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 3 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. garlic salt

Preparation Instructions

- 1). Combine all ingredients in crock pot thoroughly
- 2). Cook on low for 7-8 hours or on high for 4 hours.
- 3). Enjoy!

# Hearty Stir Fry

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Recipe submitted by Hillary Queiroz

- 1/2 lb spaghetti, cooked
- 1 lb bulk pork sausage
- 4 cups thinly shredded cabbage
- 1 medium onion cut in wedges
- 1 apple, cut into wedges and halved
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper
- 1 1/2 cup Jack cheese, shredded
- 1 1/2 cup Cheddar, shredded

Preparation Instructions

Prepare spaghetti, drain.

In medium skillet cook sausage until no longer pink. Drain, reserving 2 tbs drippings.

Add cabbage, onion, Apple, and garlic. Stir fry just until tender. Stir in the salt and red pepper, add spaghetti. Cook, stirring until hot.

Remove from heat, add the cheeses and toss to mix.

# Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo

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Recipe submitted by Amanda  
Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo

- ½ lb. linguine pasta
- 1 C. frozen broccoli flowerets
- 2 Tbs. Butter
- 1 lb. Boneless skinless Chicken breasts
- 1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- ½ C. milk
- ½ C. grated parmesan cheese
- ¼ tsp. ground pepper
- ¼ tsp. salt

## Preparation Instructions

- 1). Cook linguine according to package directions. Add broccoli for last 4 minutes of cooking time. Drain.
- 2). Heat butter in skillet. Cook chicken until browned, stirring often.
- 3). Add soup, milk, cheese, black pepper and linguine mixture and heat through. Serve with additional Parmesan cheese.





## *Chocolate Chip Cookies*

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Recipe submitted by Elisa:

- ¾ C. Butter
- ½ C. Granulated Sugar
- 1 C. Brown Sugar
- 1 tsp. Vanilla.
- 3 Eggs
- 2 ½ C. Unbleached Flour
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 2 C. Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips

Preparation Instructions

- 1). Makes 2 dozen - Pre heat oven to 335
- 2). Form 2" balls and place on greased cookie sheet (if needed chill first)
- 3). Bake 10-12 minutes (Varies based on elevation)

# Swedish Apple Pie With Vanilla Sauce

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Recipe submitted by Jennifer

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4 C. firm baking apples, peeled, cored and chopped to 1/4" chunks (this was about 4 medium apples or 492 grams of chopped apples)

2 tsp. ground cinnamon

3/4 tsp. ground cardamom

1 tsp. raw sugar or granulated sugar

For the topping:

9 tablespoons (126 grams) coconut oil, melted

1/2 C. (100 grams) raw sugar or granulated sugar

1/4 C. (60 milliliters) maple syrup

1 1/2 Tbs. vanilla extract

1 1/4 C. (113 grams) rolled oats (use gluten-free oats, if necessary)

3/4 C + 1 1/2 Tbs. (78 grams) oat flour (use gluten-free oat flour, if necessary)

1/2 tsp. baking powder

1/4 tsp. salt

Vegan alternative for vanilla sauce:

1 1/2 C. (355 milliliters) milk of choice

3 Tbs. raw sugar or granulated sugar

1 Tbs. cornstarch

pinch of salt

1 large egg

1 vanilla bean or 1 Tbs. vanilla extract



# Double Crust Cherry Pie

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Recipe submitted by Donna

- 2 cans water packed cherries (drain & reserve the juice)
- 1/4 teaspoon Almond Extract
- 1/4 tsp Red food coloring
- 1 & 1/4 cups Sugar
- 2&1/2 Tablespoons Tapioca
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (of the reserved cherry juice)

Preparation Instructions

Mix together the above ingredients and pour into a 9" crust,

Top with top crust, press the edges down with a fork and make a slit in the crust for ventilation.

Sprinkle the top with sugar and bake at 350 for 45 minutes or until the just begins to boil over.

# Chocolate Gravy

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Recipe submitted by Annette

- 2 Heaping Tbsp. Cocoa
- 1 C. Canned Cream
- ¾ C. Sugar
- 2 C. Water
- 2 Tbs. Flour

Preparation Instructions

1). Mix cocoa, sugar, and flour in mixing pitcher or bowl. Add canned cream, and mix thoroughly.

2). Bring water to boil, add cocoa mixture. Stir and cook until thick.

Note: If gravy gets too thick, add a little milk and mix well. If it's too thin, mix corn starch and water – add to gravy slowly, while stirring until desired consistency is achieved.

# *Crème Brûlée Coffee Creamer*

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Recipe submitted by Olivia:  
Crème Brûlée Coffee Creamer

- 1 can (12oz) evaporated milk
- 1/2 C. light brown sugar, packed
- 1 1/2 C. milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

## Preparation Instructions

1). Heat evaporated milk and brown sugar in a small saucepan over medium-low heat and whisk until sugar is dissolved. This takes a couple minutes.

2). Remove from heat and add the milk and vanilla extract. Pour into a large (quart sized) mason jar and refrigerate until ready to use. ENJOY!

Note: To determine expiration date, use the date on your milk carton as your guide. This creamer will last in your refrigerator until the milk date.

# Banana Bread

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Recipe submitted by Margaret  
Banana Bread

- 2-3 very ripe bananas, peeled
- 1/3 C. melted butter
- 3/4 C. sugar (1/2 cup if you would like it less sweet, 1 cup if more sweet)
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 1 1/2 C. of all-purpose flour

Preheat the oven to 350°F (175°C), and butter a 4x8-inch loaf pan.

In a mixing bowl, mash the ripe banana as with a fork until completely smooth. Stir the melted butter into the mashed bananas.

Mix in the baking soda and salt. Stir in the sugar, beaten egg, and vanilla extract. Mix in the flour.

Pour the batter into your prepared loaf pan. Bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour at 350°F (175°C), or until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean.

Remove from oven and cool completely on a rack. Remove the banana bread from the pan. Slice and serve.



*empowered*  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES  
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

Anchored