

His Grace...My Anchor

*By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?*

Vs. 5 *By Grace, I'm Saved* LSB #566 Public Domain

And fearing that we might run on the rocks, they let down four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come. Acts 27:29

Paul was a captive on a ship, headed to Rome to stand trial, not an ideal situation at any time! To make matters worse, winter was coming, and the sailors had not listened to Paul when he advised them to stay in Crete until spring, so now they were in the middle of the sea, battered by a northeaster and losing hope. Paul, however, had not lost hope; he once again gave them some advice. He said that God had sent an angel to tell him that they would survive so that Paul could face Caesar. For a change, they listened, let down the anchors, and prayed!

How often am I like the sailors, so sure that I am okay on my own, that I can take care of things by myself, only to find out that I should have asked for His help and then listened to the answer? When I face the fact that I need to cling to the anchor of God's grace and turn to him as the storms of life batter me, like Paul and the sailors I find a safe peaceful island at the end of the storm. Even if my life appears to have been destroyed, as Paul's ship ultimately was, I know that I can rest secure in the knowledge that the grace of God, and the assurance of eternal life bought with the blood of His Son, will be my anchor through fear and pain.

We Pray:

Father, thank you for Your grace and mercy which are forever present in my life. Please forgive me for not coming to you first. Help me to remember that Your grace will always be my anchor through life's storms. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Take a few moments to think about your favorite hymns. Which ones do you turn to in times of trouble to remind you of our Father's grace?

Our God, Our Anchor

*God has spoken by His prophets, Spoken His unchanging Word;
Each from age to age proclaiming God, the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil, One firm anchor holds us fast;
God is king, His throne eternal; God the first and God the last*
Verse 1, *God Has Spoken by His Prophets*, LSB 583 Public Domain

**For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne. Psalm 47:7-8**

**Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16**

This world is full of trials, temptations, sin, and as the hymn says, "despair and turmoil". We know these things. We hear about them. We witness them. We feel them. But we also have the opportunity and freedom to stop each time we are troubled to remember that our God is King. He is in control and that His throne, is a throne of grace and mercy.

There are many verses we can find that show that we serve the unchanging and merciful God. Cling to the Word! Cling to our Anchor! He is the first and last, our all in all! Use the space below to write a verse that you can cling to when you are facing something that feels unbearable.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, Forgive us when we try to handle things on our own. Help us to remember that you alone are our Anchor in life. As we face troubles and trials let us constantly turn to your Word for guidance and to you in prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Peace in the Midst of Chaos

LSB 717 “**Eternal Father, Strong to Save**”

Verse 1

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bids 't the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.*

Verse 4

*O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Our people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.*

Psalm 3: 1-5 *Oh Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, “There is no salvation for him in God.” But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the Lord, and He answered me from His holy hill. I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.*

The boss was grumpy today. The presentation didn't go as planned. The birthday present you ordered weeks ago finally arrived - damaged. Laundry has piled up. The dishwasher is on the fritz. The kids are complaining about being hungry and the power just went out. It seems there is no peace to be found.

The disciples hear Jesus command a storm, “Peace, be still.” David acknowledges God's protection. Even when enemies surround him, David “lay down and slept”. That peace is our peace, too. It is a fruit of the Spirit for all who believe (Galatians 5:22).

Take a moment to pray and write the Aaronic blessing from Numbers 6: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.” Thank God for his gifts of protection and peace.

WE HAVE AN ANCHOR THAT KEEPS THE SOUL

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

Refrain:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.

It is safely moored, 'twill the storm withstand,
For 'tis well secured by the Savior's hand;
And the cables, passed from His heart to mine,
Can defy that blast, through strength divine.

Refrain:

Words : Priscilla J. Owens, 1882. Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882. Public Domain

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

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

Proverbs 3:25-26 *Do not be afraid of sudden fear Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; For the LORD will be your confidence And will keep your foot from being caught.*

Scripture is filled with truths and promises that we can place our confidence and hope in. It should be in Jesus Christ and the love of God. HE is your Anchor in all the storms of this worldly life. HE is your Anchor when you have reached the end of your rope, when requests and responsibilities have created the storm that leaves you breathless. Even when you forget the little things in life that He has blessed you with (that crumpled flower a child proudly hands you or that sunset that clearly shows you His Blessings), HE is your Anchor. God loves to give His children the gift of "the full assurance of faith". It is a precious thing, a source of deep peace and consolation, and HE wants us to have it.

Take a few moments to let go of that doubt that you will be blown away and this world will cover you. Write down a short prayer that HE will be your Anchor even in the straits of fear. He will always keep your soul anchored to HIS ROCK. Our assurance comes from a growing confidence in Christ's saving work that purchased the fulfillment of all His great promises to us and His power to keep them.

Prayer: *Lord, help me to remain securely fastened to Your Rock with all the assurances that You have given us in Your Word. Help me to stop realize the precious things you have given us. Thank you for getting my attention when I am ready to let go of Your Anchor. I know that you are the one that keeps us steadfast and sure in our faith and that we can come to you at any time. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

