

## ANCHORS & STORMS

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**What are some of the storms we face as we walk this pilgrimage of faith?**

Storms that may not be caused directly by our sin	Storms that can be caused directly by our sin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death of someone close to us</li> <li>• A spouse walks in or sins grievously against us</li> <li>• Betrayal from a close friend or family member</li> <li>• Anxiety/depression</li> <li>• Fearful situations or circumstances</li> <li>• Parental grief due to a child's sin</li> <li>• Job loss or furlough due to recession</li> <li>• Global pandemic</li> <li>• Cancer or other physical ailments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divorce or separation due to committing adultery</li> <li>• Job loss due to inappropriate behavior</li> <li>• Parental grief due to sinning against children</li> <li>• Illness or injury due to reckless living</li> <li>• Anxiety/Depression due to lack of faith in Christ</li> <li>• Bankruptcy or financial troubles caused by a gambling addiction</li> <li>• Loss of close friendships because of pride</li> </ul>

**Small Group Discussion:** *Why is it important to distinguish between storms caused by the effects of sin in the world and storms caused by the sins we have directly committed?*



→ **We Need Gospel Anchors in the Storms of Life**

## USING GOD'S CHARACTER AS AN ANCHOR

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**The Gospel anchors us by reminding us who God is.** - Knowing God, and the truths He has revealed in Scripture about Himself, anchors us when our storms threaten our security or sense of God's presence and goodness. In those moments, we can battle unbelief or misconceptions about God by reading, meditating, and praying through these truths about our three-in-one God and Savior.

*Circle some of the attributes of God that you've used as a Gospel anchor in your past. Put an asterisk next to attributes that you'd like to explore more deeply in order to use them as Gospel anchors.*

God the Father	God the Son	God the Holy Spirit
Sovereign Just Gracious Merciful Patient Loving	Shepherd Prophet Priest King Advocate Sacrifice	Ever-present Helper Comforter Intercessor Advocate Spirit of Truth

**Small Group Discussion:** *In your small groups, discuss some practical ways you can use God's attributes as an anchor to help you get through a current storm in your life.*

## USING OUR NEW GOSPEL IDENTITY AS AN ANCHOR

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**The Gospel anchors us by reminding us who we are in Christ** - One of the most common references to believers in Scripture is the phrase "in Christ". Most of its 89 uses in the NT are referring to believers.

### GOSPEL IDENTITY ANCHORS:

- **One with Christ** (Rom. 8:1, 2 Cor 5:19, Eph. 1:20, Col. 1:27)
- **Adopted** children (Rom. 8:15, 23; Gal. 4:5, Eph. 1:5)
- **Sheep** (Psa. 23, 28:9, 78:71, Isa. 40:11, Eze. 34, John 10)
- **Christ's bride** (Eph. 5:22-33, Rev. 19:6-10)
- **Friends of God** (2 Chr. 20:7, Jas. 2:23, Ex. 33:11, John 15:14-15, Psa. 119:63)
- **Brothers and sisters of Christ** (Heb. 2:11-13, Mark 3:33-35)
- **Coheirs with Christ** (Rom. 8:17, Eph. 3:6, 1 Pet. 3:7)

Put an asterisk next to some of these anchors that you've used during the storms in your life. What would you add to this list? **Write them down** for later and **search** for passages that teach about these aspects of your identity in Christ.

**Small Group Discussion:** In your small groups, discuss some practical ways you can use your identity in Christ as an anchor to help you get through a current storm in your life.

## USING THE PROMISES OF GOD AS AN ANCHOR

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**The Gospel anchors us by reminding us what God has promised in the Gospel.**

When you bring a man's promise to his mind, he must either confess himself to be unfaithful and changeable, or if he holds... to being true to his word, you have him, and you have won your will of him. Oh brethren, let us learn thus to plead the precepts, the promises, and whatever else may serve our turn; but let us always have something to plead. Do not reckon you have prayed unless you have pleaded, for pleading is the very marrow of prayer. He who pleads well knows the secret of prevailing with God, especially if he pleads the blood of Jesus, for that unlocks the treasury of heaven. Many keys fit many locks, but the master key is the blood and the name of Him that died but rose again, and ever lives in heaven to save unto the uttermost. - **C.H. Spurgeon**

What did this quote remind us about the promises of God? What does it say about the God of the promises?

### GOSPEL PROMISE ANCHORS:

- **God promises eternal to those who are in Christ.** "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." (John 10:28)
- **God's love for His people is unending.** "Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: Because of you we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:35-39).
- **God is always good in His actions.** "You are good, and you do what is good; teach me your statutes." (Psa. 119:68).
- **God will never leave us or abandon us.** "Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, I will never leave you or abandon you." (Heb. 13:5)
- **God will forgive those in Christ who confess their sins.** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
- **God will not break His covenant with His people.** "Know that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps his gracious covenant loyalty for a thousand generations with those who love him and keep his commands." (Deut 7:9)
- **God has a future home for those who trust in Christ.** "Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also." (John 14:1-3)

Which of these promises from God do you need to cling to in your current storm? What are some other promises of God that have carried you through tough times?

## WILL THE GOSPEL BE YOUR ANCHOR?

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Anchors are only useful if we use them. Though we have listed many, many anchors, this succinct list of Gospel anchors written by Maurice Wilson is a good place to start. Consider reading these every morning and evening over the next 7 days. Maybe commit them to memory and meditate on the throughout the day. Over time, develop your own list of quick-hitting Gospel anchors to carry you through the storms of life:

- 1) God is still **sovereign**.
- 2) Christ is still **reigning**.
- 3) The Spirit is still **interceding**.
- 4) The church is still **growing**.
- 5) Scripture is still **teaching**.
- 6) The Gospel is still **saving**.
- 7) Glory is still **coming**!

**PERSONAL APPLICATION:** Choose the best answer for each question.

**Q:** When I face a trial in life, I \_\_\_\_\_ use the Gospel as an anchor:  
 *Quickly*     *Eventually*     *Never*

**Q:** When I face a storm, my \_\_\_\_\_ is usually the first area of struggle.  
 *View of God*     *Identity*     *Faith in God's promises*     *A, B, or C depending on the circumstance*

**Q:** Write out **three** one-liner statements that could be used as a Gospel anchor on Monday morning when you wake up. Commit to using the anchors to preach the Gospel to yourself Monday morning.