

Four Anchors in The Storm

I would like to share with you a message that I have I have preached to myself many times, one that has sustained my faith in the most turbulent of times - those seasons when the enemy comes do destabilize and shake your confidence.

Text: Acts 27:20-26,29

... *“they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for day to come”*

Verse 29

This is the story of a violent storm. It happened to Paul and 275 other people in a ship that was heading towards Rome. The storm came both to the believer and to the unbelievers alike: it looks like storms are just a part of life and they come to all people.

In order to make sure that the boat stayed stable in the storm, they dropped 4 anchors from the stern. In this message today, I will point out the fact that what kept that ship from sinking immediately were not the physical anchors they used but rather 4 statements that Paul made. Those statements were the real anchors behind their deliverance.

I believe that anyone who has these same ‘anchors’ and that can make these same statements has what it takes to stay stable and overcome any storm.

1. I belong to God

V.23... *“the God Whom I belong”*

1 John 4:4 - *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world*

When you belong to God, the Greater One lives inside of you. It doesn't matter what happens *around* you when you know Who is *inside* you!

John 10:27-29 - *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.*

Isaiah 43:1-2 - *But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name. You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.*

Isaiah 44:5 - *One will say, ‘I am the Lord's’; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; another will write with his hand, ‘The Lord's’, and name himself by the name of Israel.*

Song of Solomon 6:3 - *I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine. He feeds his*

flock among the lilies.

2. I serve God

V.23 - ... *“and Whom I serve”*

a) Chose this day whom you want to *serve*

Joshua 24:15 - *And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

b) Benefits of serving the Lord

Exodus 23:25-27 - *So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days. “I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.*

4 Promises:

- A. Provision (*I will bless your bread and your water*)
- B. Healing (*I will take sickness away from the midst of you*)
- C. Life (*the number of your days I will fulfill*)
- D. Victory over the enemy (*I will make your enemies turn their backs to you*)

3. I believe the promises of God

V.25 – *“I believe God that it will be just as it was told me”*

He was standing on a promise. He declared it with boldness again in verse 34b ... *“not a hair will fall from the head of any of you”*.

Many times, all you have is a word from God. All Paul had was a word and nothing in the situation had changed - outwardly. In fact, it even looked like the storm was getting worse. Paul believed the promise, declared the promise, stood on the promise – while the wind was still blowing, and the waves were as fierce as ever. Nothing had yet changed.

Numbers 23:19 - *“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”*

Sometimes you have to stand

Ephesians 6:13-14 - *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

4. I believe that God will make a way out

V.26 – *“we must run aground on a certain island”*

In the storms of life, I remind myself that as in this passage, with every storm God will provide an ‘island’. God will provide a way out.

According to 1 Corinthians 10:13 God will never allow us to be tried beyond what we can take, and He will also provide an escape, a way out of it.

The invisible hand of God was guiding that ship to an island. There was a way out!

That island became a place of refuge, refreshment and rest. God will provide such a place.

To me, ‘my island’ is God’s presence. God’s presence is

- a) A place of joy: **Psalms 16:11** – *“You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*
- b) A place of rest: **Exodus 33:14** – *“And My presence will go with you and I will give you rest”*
- c) A refreshing place: **Acts 3:19** – *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,”*

Conclusion:

Storms come to all of us. Paul was not exempted from the storm: it came to him as well as well as to the other 275 people on the ship. However, he had a completely different posture in the storm. He was confident and his soul was anchored. Paul had 4 anchors:

- a) He knew that He belonged to God
- b) He knew God was His Master – he served God
- c) He believed the promise
- d) He knew that God was going to make a way out