

Sunday September 19, 2021

ANCHORED

As we journey through life, we have several positive experiences and at the same time we may encounter difficulties and challenges.

In everything, it is important for a believer to stay steadfast in the Lord.

Psalm 112:7b

His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Steadfast in Greek is kûn, which means to be erect, firm or fixed.

In various English translations, the word steadfast is replaced with words like fixed, firmly fixed, confident, steady, secure, strong, unshaken, settled.

The things that could sway a believer away are the flesh, the world and the devil. One might face adversity, temptation, accusation, opposition, loss, discouragement, disappointment, distraction, and the like. Yet, a believer can stand firm and victorious over everything because of the finished work of the Cross.

Romans 8:37

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

1 John 5:4

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

We can consider an **anchor** to understand remaining steadfast or secure.

An anchor is a device, normally made of metal, used to connect a vessel to the bed of a body of water to prevent the craft from drifting due to wind or current (Wikipedia).

Here are some keys that a believer must be anchored in, to always remain firm and steadfast in God.

1. Anchored in Intimacy

Knowing God personally and deeply is a place of great stability and strength.

Daniel 11:32

32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits.

Intimacy is staying connected to Christ to have His life flow to us and through us. As we remain in Him, we position ourselves for fruitfulness.

John 15:5

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Intimacy is the place that establishes us in the love of God.

Eph 3:17-19

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Intimacy equips us with the oil of readiness for the return of the bridegroom (Mathew 25:1-13). Under the New Covenant, every believer can intimately enjoy the presence and the work of the Holy Spirit in a very personal way.

Intimacy with God is personal and at the same time, the church is the bride preparing herself for the bridegroom God (2 Cor 11:2, Eph 5:25)

Intimacy of the Church with Christ determines our stability in the times that we live in.

2. Anchored in Purpose

God has a purpose for our lives. When we pursue God to understand the general purpose (to worship & glorify God) and the specific purpose (call over our lives), it helps us stay on the right track.

Phil 3:12

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

It will help us discover:

- ✓ vision for our lives
- ✓ our gifts
- ✓ God’s grace on our lives
- ✓ assignments that God has for us
- ✓ direction of life
- ✓ passion and energy in everything that we do

We must hold on to the vision and purpose to which God has called us. It might not be easy to navigate, yet, with God’s strength we can obey this command.

Acts 26:19

19 “Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision

Commitment to the purpose of God for our lives can prevent distractions, delays, detours and dissipation of energy.

Proverbs 29:18a

18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,

3. Anchored in Truth

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

God's Word is the truth that we must base our lives on.

We must be established in the truth about:

- a. God & the Gospel

Colossians 1:23

if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

1 Tim 3: 16

16 Beyond question, great is the mystery of godliness:

He who was revealed in the flesh,

Was vindicated in the Spirit,

Seen by angels,

Proclaimed among the nations,

Believed on in the world,

Taken up in glory.

As in the times of the apostles, there will be false teachings in our times as well. But, the Word of God encourages us to hold on to the truth of who God is and what the gospel is. We must be anchored to this and not let any other teaching replace the truth.

- b. Our identity in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

We can renew our mind with the truth of who we have become in Christ – saved, healed, delivered, redeemed, blessed, victorious, prosperous, triumphant! This will help us know that we are significant, secure and accepted in God. We can face God, satan and the world through our new identity in Christ.

We are overcomers!

c. Wisdom of God's Word – walk of faith, work-life, family-life, personal-life etc.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The truth of God's Word addresses everything that concerns us.

The church is called to be the upholder of the truth (1 Tim 3:15)

Encouragement from the Early Church –

Like what we are going through, the early church faced problems both internal and external. Amid these, they were anchored to intimacy with God, their purpose, and the truth of God's Word. Despite the uncertainties of their times, the gospel went far and wide and many came to believe through the powerful witness and ministry of the believers.

Acts 4:42, 47

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The apostles taught and encouraged them to continue strong in God. In the last days to especially give themselves to prayer and brotherly love (1 Peter 4:7-11).

Summary:

Let us remain steadfast, firm, and anchored in God, always.

1. Anchored in Intimacy
2. Anchored in Purpose
3. Anchored in Truth



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: Romans 8:37, Daniel 11:32, John 15:5, Ephesians 3:17-19, Phil 3:12, John 17:17, Acts 4:42,47

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) Each one can share practical ways in which they would like to be:

1, Anchored in Intimacy

2, Anchored in Purpose

3, Anchored in Truth

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning from the message and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey.

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another.

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened.

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>