**Edward Christian Church *“Hope -The Anchor of Your Soul”* -pt 5**

What an **Anchor** is to a **Ship**, **Hope** is to the **Soul**. They both **Stabilize** - **Hold Steady** amidst the **Storms** in life. **Every** Christian has been given a **Secure Anchor** in the **Person of Christ**...

*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."* -**Heb 6:19**

**What Is the Downward Spiral of Despair?**

* Does your **life** seem to be **spiraling downward?** If you are **caught** in a **life-threatening storm**, you feel a foreboding **sense** of **doom**—a frightening **sense** of **despair**.
* If you've ever felt **hopeless**, you've become a leaf caught in a whirlpool **spiraling downward**

*"You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me."* -**Jonah 2:3**

**Do You Have...**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **• *Disappointment?***..................................... | **Downcast** with sadness over **unfulfilled expectations** |
| **• *Doubt?***........................................................ | **Distrust** in **yourself** to do what is right |
| **• *Discouragement?***.................................... | **Disheartened** with **no courage** to risk again |
| **• *Disillusionment?***...................................... | **Disenchanted** with life because of **broken promises** |
| **• *Depression?***............................................... | **Despondent** with a heavy **heart** |
| **• *Disdain?***..................................................... | **Disgusted** over too many wrong **choices** |
| **• *Disunity?***.................................................... | **Divided** and **confused** within yourself |
| **• *Disharmony?***............................................ | **Discord** and continual **disagreements** with others |
| **• *Despair?***..................................................... | **Devastated** with overwhelming **helplessness** |

**Question 1:** *"So many significant people have let me down. How can I live my life with any hope at all?"*

**Question 2:** *"I see no future for my life. How can I go on?"*

**What Is the Upward Spiral of Hope?**

**Unlike** the **anchorless** person, if you have an **anchored life***,* you will **never** drown in despair. An **anchored life** is **not** at the **mercy** of **chance or circumstance**. **Swirling** currents and **pounding** waves offer **no cause** for **alarm** when you **abide** in the One who is **master** over both the **storms** and the **seas**.

**When** you have **Christ** as your **anchor**, **rather** than **drowning** in *despair,* you are **held secure** with **His** *hope.*

* **When** you have **Christ,** you have...
* ***Contentment***................Being **patient** because of God's **hope for you***"If we* ***hope*** *for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."-***Rom 8:25**
* ***Courage***.......................Being **bold** because of God's **hope within you***"Since we have such a* ***hope,*** *we are very bold." -***2 Cor 3:12**
* ***Confidence***...................Being **assured** because of God's **hope** **within you***"You have been my* ***hope,*** *O Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth." -***Psalm 71:5**
* ***Cheerfulness***................Being **joyful** because of God's **hope for you**  
  *"Be joyful in* ***hope,*** *patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." -***Romans 12:12**
* ***Comfort***.........................Being **encouraged** because of God's **unfailing love** **for you***"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our* ***hope*** *in you." -***Psalm 33:22**
* ***Conviction***.....................Being **anchored** in hope because of God's **Word within you***"May those who fear you rejoice..they see me, for I have put my* ***hope*** *in your word."-***Psa 119:74**
* ***Christlikeness***................Being **conformed** to the **character** of Christ because of **God's** hope for you  
  *"I eagerly expect and* ***hope*** *that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death." -***Phil 1:20**