

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*