**Edward Christian Church *“Hope -The Anchor of Your Soul”* -pt 6**

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 Are Different Types of Anchors?**

**Typically**, ships at sea **cannot survive** the most **severe storms** without the **use** of **anchors**. And. **if you** are **anchorless** on the ***"sea of life,"*** you will **not** **survive**. However, as long as you have *an* ***anchored******life****,* though **battered** and **bruised**, you will **still** be held **secure**. As long as you have an **anchored** **life**, you will **weather** the **storms** of **life**. Since there are *many* **types** of **anchors**, let's look at the following **five**.

**Five Anchors for Any Condition**

**#1- The** Mushroom **Anchor**— is used for **smaller** watercraft, Jesus **stabilizes** us as we **move** through the **"smaller,"** more **minor** problems of everyday living. He helps us **stay** **steady** with people who **gossip** and **gripe**, who **lie** and are **lazy**, who **pout** and are **petty**, who **annoy** and are **nosey**. Jesus **anchors** us when we have **frustrating friends, problems with pets, worry at work**... and the list goes on.

* **Biblical example:** **Luke 5:4-5**-.***Jesus proves Himself to be our personal anchor*** for **everyday** trials

**#2- The** Fluke **Anchor (for example, the "Danforth Anchor")** **Lightweight**, but with **high** holding power.

Like the fluke anchor, Jesus **stabilizes** us with a **powerful** **hold**... and a **sense** of **peace**. He is **strong** / **steady**, and His **presence** brings us **peace**—a ***"lightness"*** even in the **heaviest** of **circumstances**... the **death** of a **loved** **one**... a devastating **diagnosis**. When we are **struggling** w- **ourselves**/ **questioning** our **decisions**... when we have **unforeseen** challenges and changes... when we are **doubting** who **we are** / doubting who **He is,** Jesus **anchors**

us with His **power** and **peace**.

* **Biblical example:** **Matthew 14:28-32**

**#3- The** Plow **Anchor**—Usually **massive** / **heavy**, often able to swivel **Jesus stabilizes** us when **all** we can **see** all around us are **problems**. With its swivel capabilities, comes an **agility** and **ability** to anchor us through a variety of **situations**—**poor choices... money problems... prodigal loved ones... painful losses**. When our **problems** are **perplexing**... and **what we see doesn't make sense**, Jesus **never fails** to be our **anchor**.  
**Biblical example:** **Mark 6:47-52**

**#4- The** Claw **Anchor**—Originally designed for **offshore gas / oil rigs** -Jesus **stabilizes** us when we are

**victimized**—when **vehement verbal abuse, violence, or sexual abuse** claws the **heart** / **body**—leaving us **emotionally / spiritually scarred**. For the times when we **feel powerless**, Jesus is our **powerful anchor**—

**holding** us **strong / secure.**

* **Biblical example:** **Luke 8:22-25**

**#5- The** Sea **Anchor**—Made of **sturdy cloth** like either a **giant sail** or a **parachute** lowered into the water to create a **drag** and **slow** the vessel down, especially when the **water depth is too great** for **other anchors** to **grab hold** of the **bottom** -Like the **sea anchor**, Jesus **stabilizes** us when we **feel like a ship flailing** in the water... **tossed** from **side to side** because of a **compulsive addiction or besetting sin**. In the **depth** of our **souls**, **He slows us down**, helping us to see how our **continual wrong choices** will **wreck** our **relationships** and **shatter our dreams**. Jesus **anchors** us when the **powerful waves** of **personal disappointment** leave us in **despair**—a **hopeless state** in which the **only recourse** seems to be **death**... **anything to end the pain**. Even in the most

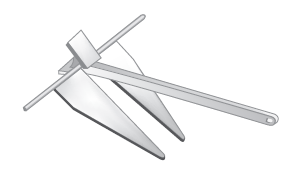
**turbulent** times, Jesus is **there**—He's our **Anchor**... in the **deep**.

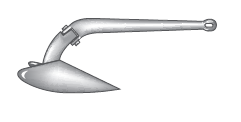
* **Biblical example:** **Acts 27:14-15, 17, 20**

When **Jesus** is your **anchor,** He can **hold** you **secure** in ***any* storm** because He has ***power over every storm***.

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Mushroom

Fluke

 Plow

Claw

Sea Anchor

**Five Anchors for Any Condition**

**#1 The Mushroom Anchor**—Mostly used for smaller vessels such as rowboats and canoes

* Least efficient as an anchor because it has no arms
  + **—*Jesus is our anchor.*** As the mushroom anchor is used for smaller watercraft, Jesus stabilizes us as we move through the "smaller," more minor problems of everyday living. He helps us stay steady with people who gossip and gripe, who lie and are lazy, who pout and are petty, who annoy and are nosey. Jesus anchors us when we have frustrating friends, problems with pets, worry at work... and the list goes on.  
    **Biblical example:** Some of the disciples of Jesus who were fishermen by trade experience the *frustration* of working all night, yet ended up empty-handed. Knowing this, Jesus tells them, "'*Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets'"* ([Luke 5:4-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+5%3A4-5)). Jesus then honors their obedience by filling their nets with more fish than they could possibly hold.
  + —***Jesus proves Himself to be our personal anchor*** for the everyday trials of life.

"When they had done so, they caught such a large number offish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink." ([Luke 5:6-7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+5%3A6-7))

**#2 The Fluke Anchor (for example, the "Danforth Anchor")**—

* Lightweight, but with high holding power
* Buries into the water bottom, working best in sandy, muddy, or clay bottoms
  + —***Jesus is our anchor.*** Like the fluke anchor, Jesus stabilizes us with a powerful hold... and a sense of peace. He is strong and steady, and yet His presence brings us peace—a "lightness" even in the heaviest of circumstances... the death of a loved one... a devastating diagnosis. When we are struggling with ourselves and questioning our decisions... when we have unforeseen challenges and changes... when we are doubting who we are and doubting who He is, Jesus anchors us with His power and peace.  
    **Biblical example:** Jesus sends the disciples ahead of Him by boat to the other side of the lake so that He can take time alone to pray. In the middle of the night Jesus walks toward the boat—on the water. Astonished, Peter instantly wants to join Jesus on the water. Jesus said, *"Come"*—and he does! He steps out, begins to walk, but then his faith in the known is weakened by the fear of the unknown. As he takes his eyes off Jesus, Peter is consumed with fear, starts to sink, and cries out. Then Jesus *reaches* out and rescues him.
  + —***Jesus proves Himself to be our personal anchor*** when we look at life from our limited, finite point of view, rather than God's unlimited, infinite point of view... when doubt begins to dominate and faith begins to fail.

"'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith,' he said, 'why did you doubt?' And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down." ([Matthew 14:28-32](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+14%3A28-32))

**#3 The Plow Anchor**—

* Usually massive and heavy, often able to swivel
* Effective in rock, kelp, grass, weeds, sand, and mud (not in heavy grass)
  + —***Jesus is our anchor.*** Like the plow anchor, Jesus stabilizes us when all we can see all around us are problems. With its swivel capabilities, comes an agility and adeptness to anchor us through a variety of situations—poor choices... money problems... prodigal loved ones... painful losses. When our problems are perplexing... and what we see doesn't make sense, Jesus never fails to be our anchor.  
    **Biblical example:** Immediately after Jesus miraculously feeds 5,000 men (plus women and children), He goes off alone to pray and sends His disciples by boat to Bethsaida. He knows they do not understand the meaning of the miracle. By evening the disciples reach the middle of the lake, struggling to paddle against the wind. Jesus watches them from the shore. Then in the late night hours, Jesus walks out on the lake. They become terrified, thinking they are seeing a ghost. Jesus quickly reassures them, climbs into the boat, and immediately the winds cease.
  + **—*Jesus proves Himself to be our personal anchor* when we don't know how to think or what to do.**

"When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened." ([Mark 6:47-52](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mk+6%3A47-52))

**#4 The Claw Anchor**—

* Originally designed for offshore gas and oil rigs
* Most effective on rocky, gravel, and coral bottoms
  + **—*Jesus is our anchor.*** Like the claw anchor, Jesus stabilizes us when we are victimized—when vehement verbal abuse, violence, or sexual abuse claws the heart and body—leaving us emotionally and spiritually scarred. For the times when we feel powerless, Jesus is our powerful anchor—holding us strong and secure.  
    **Biblical example:** While inside a boat, Jesus tells His disciples that they will all go across to the other side of the lake. Once on the water, Jesus falls into a deep sleep and is not awakened by a storm that swamps the boat. The experienced crew believes they are sure to drown! In desperation they cry out to Jesus. With only a few words, He calms the storm... then questions their faith. After all, *hadn't He said* they were going across to the other side? *Didn't He imply* that they would indeed make it to the other side?
  + —***Jesus proves Himself to be our personal anchor* when the storms of life are so perilous that** the thought of death seems imminent and the memory of His promises seems to fade.

"One day Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's go over to the other side of the lake.' So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we 're going to drown!' He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 'Where is your faith?' he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, 'Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.'" ([Luke 8:22-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+8%3A22-25))

**#5 The Sea Anchor**—

* Made of sturdy cloth like either a giant sail or a parachute
* Lowered into the water to create a drag and slow the vessel down, especially when the water depth is too great for other anchors to grab hold of the bottom
  + —***Jesus is our anchor.*** Like the sea anchor, Jesus stabilizes us when we feel like a ship flailing in the water... tossed from side to side because of a compulsive addiction or besetting sin. In the depth of our souls, He slows us down, helping us to see how our continual wrong choices will wreck our relationships and shatter our dreams. Jesus anchors us when the powerful waves of personal disappointment leave us in despair—a hopeless state in which the only recourse seems to be death... anything to end the pain. Even in the most turbulent times, Jesus is there—He's our Anchor... in the deep.  
    **Biblical example:** Facing possible death, the prisoner Paul is being transported by ship to Rome to stand trial. In the midst of hurricane strength winds, the crew loses control of the ship. The tempestuous wind tosses the ship like a weightless cork toward the shore. In an attempt to diminish the speed, they let down the *sea anchor.* This is their only hope of not crashing into sandbars at a speed that would cause certain death.
  + —***Jesus proves Himself to be our personal anchor*** when life hangs in the balance and all hope seems lost.

"A wind of hurricane force, called the 'northeaster,' swept down from the island. The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along.... When the men had hoisted it aboard, they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Fearing that they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along.... When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved." ([Acts 27:14-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+27%3A14-15), [17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+27%3A17), [20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+27%3A20))

**When Jesus is your anchor, He can hold you secure in**

***any* storm because He has *power over every storm***.