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writings by Beth Ann Phifer



Acute Anchor Awareness

Our Sure Hope

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God is our Anchor of Hope. When we are acutely aware of our Anchor, we live in abundance and rest. “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us...” Hebrews 6:19

Our Anchor is

1. Our Reality
2. Our New Birth
3. Our Definer

In this study, the watercolor circles illustrate our relationship with our Father God, our Anchor; the purple represents God, and the green represents us, full of life in Him.

1. Our Anchor – Our Reality

I’ve heard people talk about “getting closer to God” as if they are trudging up a hill to get closer to that place where God is. Scripture teaches – we are not *getting closer*, we are *there*. That union of God and us that comes about when we are born again is a present, *now* reality.

When we receive Yeshua (Jesus) Messiah, God creates a new nature in us where the Holy Spirit resides.



If we are *getting closer* to anything, it is to an increased awareness of our Anchor. It takes time for us to realize and embrace the reality of our Anchor.

How do we increase in this awareness? By belief. Our unbelief does not change His presence in us, but it does block our awareness of this reality, stealing our joy. We need to believe and trust Him throughout the day. We can do this by giving Him credit – credit for placing beautiful thoughts in our minds; credit for the cool breeze; credit for those soft, redirecting thoughts that come to us in the morning.

Our hearts do not get *full* and *less-full* of God at different times. When I *feel full*, it is because I am aware of His presence. When He came in, *all* of Him came, not just a little bit at a time. To *be filled* with the Spirit is to live in the reality of His presence and walk in His ways. This does not mean we have no problems; it means we look to Him in the midst of them.

In Dan Stone’s book, *The Rest of the Gospel - when the partial Gospel has worn you out* (Chapter 6), he gives the illustration of a swing. In my own words, he says that all of our *stuff* – moods, happiness, sadness, depression, anxiety, hormonal shifts, grief, frailty, failure, temptation, thoughts we like, and thoughts we don’t like – this *stuff* he calls *noise*. The noise of our lives is the swing. We try to stop the swing, but it keeps swinging. The anchor that holds the swing never moves. This Anchor is God, and we are in union with Him through Jesus Christ at our new birth.

The author says, "I wish I could get the noise to be quiet. Don't you? But we can't because we're not meant to. We're meant to live *in the midst* of the noise. But we live *from* – we draw our lives from – that place of perfect stillness and quietness, where all simply *is*... When God has revealed to us true spirit union, we make our decisions from Him, and they are based on an inner knowing."

We are not getting closer to the Anchor; we possess Him *now*! This still place is our point of reference, not the swing. Consider these phrases from two well-known hymns:

There is a place of quiet rest near to the heart of God; a place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God. (by Cleland Boyd McAfee) and

When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. (by William B. Bradbury)

2. Our Anchor – Our New Birth

Yeshua said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again." (John 3:7)

The Apostle John wrote of Jesus, "... to as many as received Him to them He gave the right to be called children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:11-13). At our new birth, God gives us a new heart where the Holy Spirit comes to reside. A new nature is created. It is a perfect place.

About our *old* nature, Paul says in Romans 6 that "we have been buried with Him through baptism into death in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life and our old self was crucified with Jesus and consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Agree with God that your old sin nature is dead.

Do you sometimes sin? Yes, and you have an Advocate (1 John 2:1-2); but you no longer want to sin or practice sin. It is no longer *you*. Just like a snake sheds its skin and leaves the crusty dead film behind, so we have done with our old nature. Our reference point is the new creation brought about with the same power that raised Christ from the dead. No power can assail it, poke through its exterior, pollute it or kill it. It is like the sun that always shines even though the clouds of our weakness, sin, emotions, thoughts, and circumstances may hide its reality.

We are in Him. He surrounds us. **He is in us.** Paul said, "Of this church I was made a minister..., so I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery... now manifested to His saints...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:25-27)



Answers to Questions about the New Birth

How do I get born again?

By receiving Yeshua (Jesus). The Spirit of the Living God comes into your spirit when you say yes to His entrance. The moment He comes in is often a mystery, but it is real, tangible and life-changing.

How can I be sure I am born again?

If we doubt, it is good to seek Him. The prophet Jeremiah said, "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13) And Paul exhorts, "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!" (2 Corinthians 13:5) Paul wants us to be sure. So, is there a test to know if we are born again? Here are a few of many possessions that come with our new birth:

- *A deep knowing that you belong to God*
Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper that He may be with you forever, that is the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, **but you know Him** because He abides with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17; see also 1 John 2:20)

- *A knowing of your own helplessness apart from God's Spirit*
 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you formerly walked... But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love... made us alive together with Christ..." (Ephesians 2:1-9)
- *A knowing that Jesus is the only way to the Father*
 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe in Him has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light." (John 3:16-19a; see also John 10:7,9; 14:6; 1 John 4:3)
- *A hunger for God's Word*
 "I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word." (Psalm 119:16)
 Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8:31)
- *New sight, new desires, rest and joy*
 "Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away." (1 Corinthians 3:16)
 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 "These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be full." (John 15:11)

3. Our Anchor – Our Definer

God is my Anchor through Yeshua the Messiah. He defines who I am. Regardless of what is happening on the swing (see Part 1), Ephesians 1:1-14 tells me who I am in Him. I am:

Blessed with every spiritual blessing
Chosen before the foundation of the world
Holy and Blameless before Him
Adopted because of His kindness
A Reflector of the glory of His grace
Beloved
Redeemed through His blood
Forgiven of my trespasses
Rich in lavished grace and inheritance
Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise
Assured through His pledge
Called in hope
Empowered with the strength of His might



Let's Pray

If you are unsure:

Lord, I want to be born again. I want You to be on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit so I can walk in Your ways. Give me a new heart. Please help me in my weakness and let me know that I am Yours. I will praise you all my days!

If you are sure:

Lord, thank you for causing me to be born again into your family by the power that raised Christ from the dead. Father, take the prayers of Your Spirit and release them through the clear exterior of my belief to love, heal and bring life. I praise You! Amen!