

Defining Moments | Part 3 | Pastor Steve Wells | 03.22.2020
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Memory Verse: Jeremiah 17:7 (NLT)

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence."

Our memory verse this week is **Jeremiah 17:7 (NLT)** "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence." As Christians, our hope and confidence should be in God. Pastor Steve said "The key to understanding our fear and our faith is recognizing what our hope is anchored to." What is your hope anchored to?

- Is your hope anchored to things of this world?
 - Are you fearful?
 - If your hope is not anchored to things of this world...do you know someone who is? How are they feeling right now?
 - What can you do to help them?
- Is your hope anchored God?
 - Are you fearful?
 - How does your hope in God change the way you react right now compared to others?
 - How can you share your hope with others?

The Christian band Skillet has a song called "Anchor". Click the links below to listen. The first includes a verse : Hebrews 6:19 "This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast", the second is a lyric video.

[https://www.facebook.com/skillet/videos/204382127510842/?_tn=kCH-R&eid=ARCsy6QqjSF4QeziXTCqv0RDPMQXS-M9M5MvA1-dP8b9NcHDSexhgsXfbHQOtzgSaP_SU4LZcVrxxB4e&hc_ref=ARTB7F8yPBpmQv1qQONOrElc3R1a6_X2eiw85hqjgoOiiimuEMfhFxUWkcBznBOzXF8&fref=nf&xts__\[0\]=68.ARCXIQbcEcxBQmStwxql8PICg-IdERv6h6vTc9omQkZILIU6dgg5LOegPdOmnNi9uRtaCAz-UxqVMSI2eMuD-jOZXPtQZJLalsAcn15CduCXx_OMvRjJhONzQM2OXLOPcuQ0iD95T-UNFY9WZKSU9_aHrIVACBwx4xxdrooFDbPXx7UjoCBVv5TUa1Lcs7vX0NenkjuN8R4o2gQRbxd3dSGMKJc5fuFwy_NmayvZKoopMTaaUfsalj4hCFjalHbCtH6iZhQNiyLkyUDCvK08K2idGNE0FsH_ZCsehy4yb3HWZDJ9sagX3pYkzHVIB47qJXkaV7hL0sriKCBU9LOIDyw](https://www.facebook.com/skillet/videos/204382127510842/?_tn=kCH-R&eid=ARCsy6QqjSF4QeziXTCqv0RDPMQXS-M9M5MvA1-dP8b9NcHDSexhgsXfbHQOtzgSaP_SU4LZcVrxxB4e&hc_ref=ARTB7F8yPBpmQv1qQONOrElc3R1a6_X2eiw85hqjgoOiiimuEMfhFxUWkcBznBOzXF8&fref=nf&xts__[0]=68.ARCXIQbcEcxBQmStwxql8PICg-IdERv6h6vTc9omQkZILIU6dgg5LOegPdOmnNi9uRtaCAz-UxqVMSI2eMuD-jOZXPtQZJLalsAcn15CduCXx_OMvRjJhONzQM2OXLOPcuQ0iD95T-UNFY9WZKSU9_aHrIVACBwx4xxdrooFDbPXx7UjoCBVv5TUa1Lcs7vX0NenkjuN8R4o2gQRbxd3dSGMKJc5fuFwy_NmayvZKoopMTaaUfsalj4hCFjalHbCtH6iZhQNiyLkyUDCvK08K2idGNE0FsH_ZCsehy4yb3HWZDJ9sagX3pYkzHVIB47qJXkaV7hL0sriKCBU9LOIDyw)

Lyric Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TzB4FaPODc>

This morning Pastor Steve said "The fragility of this world presents NO obstacle and NO challenge to the sovereignty and power of our God", it is important for us to remember this and have confidence in it. Our actions and lives should reflect that we believe this statement.

Colossians 1:15-17 (NLT)

"15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. 17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."

Luke 21:10-11 (ESV)

"10 Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven."

In recent days and months we have seen fires overtaking countries, earthquakes almost daily, tornadoes ripping through towns, swarms of locusts spreading across Africa, wars, and a virus crippling the world we live in. As believers, we know one day Jesus will return and until then, things will continue to get worse. We are to watch for these signs while continuing to spread God's love and His message. We need to see the signs as an encouragement to our hearts and remember-- God is in control and He is faithful. We should choose Faithfulness over fearfulness, sharing His word with everyone and trusting in Him.

Pastor Steve reminded us that "What is fed, will grow". It is time to feed our faith and not our fear.

- Are you feeding your faith or fear?
- How are you using this time to get closer to God?
- What is taking you away from Him?
 - What causes you to fear?
- How can you continue to make disciples during times of quarantine and panic?

Just a few weeks ago, we were focusing on guarding our hearts. Keeping them full of Christ and not the world. Quickly, the world was overcome by the virus and our focus may have become blurred and set on the world and not on God and His faithfulness.

- What can you do now to guard your heart?
- What had you planned on doing that you stopped because of what is happening around you?

Colossians 3:15 (NLT)

“15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.”

Read Acts 27:13-44 (NLT)--Who are you like in this story?

- Are you like Paul? Full of faith from the start. Putting his hope and confidence in God.
- Are you like the passengers? Fearful.
- Are you like the Commanding Officer. Fearful and then captured by Paul's faith causing a shift in his own feelings to have faith in God.

We have a confident hope in God who is walking with us. Our faith knows that if and when bad things happen to us and those we love-God WILL take care of us.

- Do you believe no matter how bad things get that God WILL take care of you?

God promises us in **Matthew 16:18 (NLT)** “ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Psalm 42:11(NLT)

“11 Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!”

- Are you discouraged and fearful?
 - If so, pray about it and seek counsel/guidance from someone who has the hope and faith you crave. Seek God First.
Matthew 6:33 (NLT) “ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.”
- Do you know someone who is discouraged or fearful?
 - What can you do to help them understand the hope and love of God? Reach out to them.

This week spend some time reading Acts 26, 27 and 28.

Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)

“1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea”