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We Have An Anchor

*Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables
strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?*

*It is safely moored, 'twill the storm withstand,
For 'tis well secured by the Savior's hand;
And the cables, passed from His heart to mine,
Can defy the blast, thru strength divine.*

*When our eyes behold thru the gath'ring night
The city of gold, our harbor bright,
We shall anchor fast by the heav'nly shore,
With the storms all past for evermore.*

Refrain:

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love.*

WORDS: Priscilla J. Owens (w. 1874)

MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick (w 1882)



Owens, Priscilla Jane. (July 21, 1829--December 5, 1907). Of Scottish and Welsh ancestry, she spent her entire life in Baltimore. She was a public school teacher there for 49 years. She was a member of the Union Square Methodist Church and took particular interest in its Sunday School.

Her literary efforts, both in prose and poetry, appeared in such religious periodicals as the *Methodist Protestant* and the *Christian Standard*.

--William J. Reynolds, [DNAH Archives](#)

via [Hymnary.org](#)



DO UNTIL YOU DIE

What lasts? What is perseverance? Who in the Bible persevered? Chris McCurley of Texas spoke on steadfastness at Red River Family Encampment in 2022. He asked those questions, and his suggestions were:

1. Hang on. It takes time when going through troubled times. Stay the course.
2. Wait. Wait passively or expectantly, but wait for God. Action is not always best in the moment.
3. Be Jesus. Jesus was steadfast in His three-year journey to the cross. He knew what was coming, yet He did good to all. We don't always know what is coming, but we can be the shoulder someone leans on. We can encourage someone who is struggling.
4. Be like food service people – wait. Wait on people; wait for Jesus. For some of us, waiting is very difficult, especially when times are tough. That is when God teaches that I must patiently wait.
5. "Do it scared," said by a fireman who rescued a woman from a building that was on fire. When unexpected things happen, we just have to do what needs to be done, regardless of the fears we experience.
6. Keep going! Play hurt, to use a sports analogy. Pack light for the journey. Don't quit! Never quit, especially in your Christian walk. We must run the race to the end. *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*, 2 Timothy 4:7.
7. Be content, as was Paul, even though he went through many hardships. Americans have more than most people in the world, but few Americans are content.
8. Grow in grace and knowledge. It takes time and experience to grow in grace and knowledge. Take advantage of worship and sermons, Bible classes, and devotionals. Most importantly, read your Bible every day. Meditate on what the passage means as you walk with Jesus.

9. Lift up the downtrodden along the way. Give a “cup of cold water” to one who is struggling. Do good to all, regardless of their ability to repay you.
10. Be perseverant so that it can be said of you, “‘She died climbing!’ One of our former preachers frequently said, ‘Keep on keepin’ on!’”

Paul was a rock where faith is concerned, and he exemplified steadfastness and perseverance. In 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, he recounted many hardships he endured while preaching the gospel: *“²⁴Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers, ²⁷in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.”*

Those who are spiritually strong and steadfast are those who stand firmly on the word of God. Several Bible characters were steadfast. Moses led the children of Israel in the desert. In the face of their constant complaining, he resolutely led them to the place where they could see into the promised land. David frequently fled from the hostility of King Saul, whose jealousy was out of control. David steadfastly refused to harm the man who repeatedly tried to kill him.

Sometimes circumstances shake our faith. One of my cousins had way too much tragedy and loss in her life. Her first husband died in a terrible car crash when he and she were very young. She was pregnant at the time with their first and only child. After a few years, she married again and had two more children. Her daughter was about nine years old when she died of Reyes Syndrome. Later, my cousin married for a third time. After a while, her husband abandoned her and took **all** her money with him. She persevered through all the heartbreak, sorrow, and loss until she died years later. Regardless of her losses and tragedies, she never lost her faith.

Admiral McRaven gives an excellent speech, “If You Want to Change the World,” at graduations. It is about things new Navy Seals must learn and practice so they can graduate from training. At the end of his speech, he summarizes what they must do. Some points he makes are: “Respect everyone, take risks, lift up the downtrodden, and most importantly, *never give up!*” (His

speech is available on You Tube, and it is worth your time to watch it).

Near the end of Paul’s life, he wrote, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing, ...”* 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

The race we are running is the most important thing we will ever do in life. Let us run the race with endurance and faith—*all the way to the finish line!* Do until we die!

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri

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Am I Really Steadfast?

Colossians 1:21-23 tells us, “And although you were previously alienated and hostile in attitude, engaged in evil deeds, ²²yet He has now reconciled you in His body of flesh through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— ²³if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.”

How long have you been a Christian? A few weeks, a few years, or many years? How difficult has it been to remain steadfast? It is often quite difficult for new converts because their friends are not Christians, and it is easy to be pulled into old habits.

Over time as we do what we know is right, it becomes easier to give up that Sunday night Super Bowl and attend worship services. We convince our former friends we no longer choose to party at all hours to the point of being too tired to get up on Sunday morning. As we implement those good habits, because we love God and His word, it becomes easier to be steadfast. We realize life truly is more pleasant when we follow God’s pattern. Unfortunately, that sometimes means giving up old

friendships. That is hard, but as we mature, we realize it is needful and right. Other times, we may be able to teach our friends and we grow together.

So, what happens when we “grow weary in well-doing?” Nobody told us always doing good can sometimes be not only hard, but very hard. What happens when we lose a child, or a much-needed job? Sometimes our well-meaning efforts are not appreciated. What happens when those former friends turn against us and tell vicious slander about us? What happens at those difficult times? What do we do to prepare for such hardships?

First, we pray. Prayer is our way to communicate our inner thoughts to God. Then we read our Bibles. That is God’s way of communicating with us. When we read, we hear Him say in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.” And then we read farther, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you,” Hebrews 13:5.

If we believe those things that God tells us in His word, we can rest assured that Romans 8:28 is true. “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” We may not be able to see how or when, but we can know this is true. That said, we do have a responsibility to do our part to work through our problems; but once that is done, remain steadfast and let God do His. You can know that He will.

By Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana



The Steadfast Love of the Lord

I love the song we sometimes sing entitled, “The Steadfast Love of the Lord.” The words are:

*“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is Thy faithfulness,
The Lord is my portion says my soul,
Therefore, I will hope in Him;
Therefore, I will hope in Him.”*

These words are found in Lamentations 3:22-24. The phrase “They are new every morning,” should give us great comfort. Think about that – every day we have a brand new start. God’s faithfulness, His mercies and His steadfastness are new to us every morning. What a blessing! As His children, we return steadfastness and

our faithfulness to Him by never wavering from His truth and never wavering in our love and service to Him.

In Psalm 51:10-11a, David prayed, “Create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence.” This was David’s prayer after committing adultery with Bathsheba, which led to the murder of Uriah, the Hittite, her husband. Maybe we should pray that same prayer daily. I want a clean heart and a steadfast spirit, don’t you?

David also says in Psalm 112:7, “He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.”

It seems all we have in the world today is bad news, but we should have no fear of what is going on around us. Trust in the Lord and keep your eyes on Jesus. He is our protector, our Lord, our Savior. He is in control of *all* things.

Psalm 119:5, “Oh that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees.” Isaiah 26:3 says, “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast because he trusts in You.”

I love the illustration of the tortoise and the hare that one of our elders gave in one of our Sunday morning classes. The tortoise won the race, not because he was faster but because he was steadfast. The hare was “off and on” in the race, and his pride cause him to lose the race.

Let us be steadfast in our own Christian race. Have no fear of the world.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri

