

## Soul Anchor

### I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 Sat 11/1 there's a **Free Event**, an **Orphan Awareness Conf**, at the **Hot Spngs Conf Cnter**. *Even if your not looking to **adopt/foster** you can support someone that does **or** is ready to.*
- B. Slide#3-10 WRAP - **Purpose**: To increase awareness of its quick, destructive harm it causes.
1. **Access** - It's never been easier to access explicit material. It's at our fingertips 24/7.
  2. **Speed** - Sexual addiction can occur *within a week* and easily within 3 months for many people.
  3. **Imprint** - Inappropriate images can't be erased from the mind and they influence actions. We must be responsible for what goes on/into in our minds.
  4. **Entry** - into pornography addiction can start w/a glance of a swimsuit or lingerie image.
- C. Studies show strong evidence that **sex** affects *the rewards systems* in the brain *in the same way* that **drugs** or **food** can as well.
1. **Addiction** to pornography can impair the development of **emotional intimacy**.
  2. Many who have struggled with *multiple addictions*, report that it was *the hardest addiction* for them to **overcome**.
  3. **Pornography addiction can start at any age**.
- D. When you touch a hot stove, your brain says, *"Ouch, that burns. No more of that!"* But unlike the hot stove, **porn** is exciting.
1. In a simple scenario, the brains says, *"I saw porn. I pleased myself. It felt good. In the future, let's do it again. Really, I need this again. I'm not sure I'm getting what I need. How about a little more?"* Mix in the anxiety and excitement of **using the forbidden**, the **fear of being caught**, and even **secrecy**, and the brain learns **even faster** during these intense emotional bursts. With each repetition the brain receives powerful cocktails of **signals** and **hormones** that **ensure** future **cravings**.
- E. **Addiction?** "The classic question posed is, **Can you stop looking at porn for 30 days?** If you are truly addicted, your brain will go on a **5-alarm fire** in about **7-14 days**." Dr. Mark Laaser, author and sex addiction therapist.
- F. **And what hurts my heart the most, is all the people it destroys**. Starting with **marriages**, but also with *whoever's daughter* is being used to make up those images.
1. Porn users **do not and cannot** distinguish between **trafficked women, prostitutes, and porn stars**. The availability of "live" porn has risen as **trafficked children and women are forced** to perform "on-demand" sex acts in front of web cameras as porn users watch.
  2. **Porn is slavery. It's abuse. It's rape for money**.
- G. We've placed the best informative document I could find on the home page. [cm.com](http://cm.com) [47 pages pdf]

1. The Porn Circuit, *understand your brain and break porn habits in 90 days.*

## II. Slide#11 Intro:

- A. In the movie *Mary Poppins*, the two children, Jane and Michael Banks, jumped into bed after their incredible first day with the amazing Mary Poppins. Jane asked, “Mary Poppins, you won’t ever leave us, will you?” Michael, full of excitement, looked at his new nanny and added, “Will you stay if we promise to be good?” Mary looked at the two and as she tucked them in replied, “Look, that’s a *pie-crust promise. Easily made, easily broken.*”
  1. **God’s promises** are **not pie crust promises**. He will never break a single promise He has made.
- B. Slide#12 Title: *Soul Anchor*
- C. Outline: No Pie Crust Promises; Find a New Hope; Anchored for Progress; Carrying the Anchor Forward

## III. Slide#13 NO PIE CRUST PROMISES (13-15)

- A. God’s promise & God’s oath assure us that we are His, and God’s character backs up His words.
- B. Abraham The Role Model
- C. Who should we *imitate*? (12)...well here’s one example...*Abraham*.
  1. **But** before we talk about him, understand there are **many others** who could be our example also. **Matter of fact we’ll meet many of them in ch.11.**
    - a) Slide#14 For now be reminded, “**You are not the 1st down any of life’s roads.**”
    - b) Others braved the **dangers & endured the tribulations** before you & they won. [i.e. *Martyrs*]
  2. **So go forward saint...the trail has been blazed.**
- D. (13,14) Context is **Gen.22:16,17** when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac.
  1. This (vs.14) was **1st promised** to Abram back in **Gen.12:2,3** (in Haran). **Then again** in **12:6,7**(in Shechem). **And then renewed** in **22:16,17** right after God stopped Abraham from almost sacrificing his son Isaac.
- E. **Swore by Himself** – indicates that He binds Himself to His Word by His eternal person. (*and it doesn’t get better than that*)
  1. Courts make us swear an oath to tell the truth. **For one reason...because** we are **untrustworthy & promise breakers**.
- F. (15) **Patiently endured** – When the 1st promise came Abraham was 75. When it came true he was 100...**Q: How long was he patient?**
  1. **How many times has he made you wait 25 years?**
  2. We are normally impatient to wait **25 days...or, 25 minutes...or, 25 seconds.**
  3. **Or, this could have been Abraham waiting for Jacob to be born** (the father of the 12 tribes) [**Isaac/Rebekah had Esau/Jacob when Abraham was still alive**]

- G. Abraham's faith flourished because it fastened upon **2 facets** of God's dealings w/him: **God's promise & God's oath**.
1. The ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy, **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, came in **Jesus**.
  2. **Jesus said to the Pharisees**, *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, & he saw it & was glad*.
- H. **Slide#15 Trials** turn into **triumphs** if we patiently **endure** them.
1. There was once a **mission station** in **Japan**, which took the stones that were thrown at the Christians who had witnessed there in years gone by, later in more peaceful times, picked up these rocks and bricks and used them in the foundation of a **new church**.
    - a) So with **our trials**, if we're patient, they bring **blessing** and lay the foundation for **future reward**. Here the example of Abraham is regarded as such faithful endurance.

#### IV. Slide#16 **FIND A NEW HOPE (16-19)**

- A. **Slide#17** The English poet **Alexander Pope** wrote (An Essay on Man), *"Hope springs eternal in the human breast: Man never is, but always to be blest."* But where does man turn when **hope** dries up?
1. **The director** of a medical clinic told of a terminally ill young man who came in for his usual treatment. **A new doctor** who was on duty said to him casually and cruelly, *"You know, don't you, that you won't live out the year?"* As the young man left, he stopped by **the director's** desk and wept. *"That man took away my hope,"* he blurted out. **Slide#18** *"I guess he did,"* replied the director. *"Maybe it's time to find a new one."*
  2. Commenting on this incident, Lewis Smedes wrote, *"Is there a hope when hope is taken away? Is there hope when the situation is hopeless?"*
  3. That question leads us to **Christian hope**, for in the Bible, **hope** is no longer a passion for the **possible**. It becomes a passion for the **promise**.<sup>1</sup>
- B. **Slide#19** Most of us have been put under oath. Maybe in a courtroom, or before a notary public.
1. Any attempt at lying after the oath has been taken, will result in **punishment**.
- C. (16) God, eager to convey to men & women of faith the total trustworthiness of His Word, **condescended** to the human practice of adding a solemn oath to the promise he had given.
1. **God never had to do this**. His promises are **Yes & Amen**.
  2. **Impossible to lie** – because His whole nature is truthful.
- D. (17) **Determining** – to purpose, or to will.

<sup>1</sup> Our Daily Bread, December 19, 1996

1. What a great statement of security. – Gods **promise** & God's **oath** assure us that we are His, & God's Character backs up His Words.
2. **Immutable** – unchangeable. This word belongs to the **legal terminology** of the time, & signifies a ruling or contract which is incapable of being set aside or annulled.
  - a) Here it indicates the **irrevocability** of God's purpose, as expressed in the promise, & confirmed by the oath.

E. (18) **Lay hold** of the hope set before us– *hold fast, seize, to cling to.*

## V. Slide#20,21 **ANCHORED FOR PROGRESS (19)**

A. Jesus is our **souls** anchor.

B. **Anchor** - We are **anchored** so we can make **progress**. How? Doesn't an anchor **secure us**?

1. **Yes, but in a positive way.** It **secures** us from **drifting** (2:1).
2. We are anchored **heavenward**, where Jesus ministers in the very presence of God, & that anchor **WILL NOT FAIL**.
3. The **Hope** is an anchor. **Faith** is the rope.
4. A ship is **held by the anchor** cast into the **unseen depth beneath**.

C. Slide#22 **Dr. Giles**, an expert on **Chinese history**, tells us that anchors date back as early as **2000 bc**, & was invented by **Emperor Yu**.

1. Anchors have been made from **bags of sand or stone**, also **stone anchors**, even **large lead trunks**.
2. Anchors in the **Gk. Hellenistic world** it was the picture for **hope**.
3. In the **Roman world** in symbolized **wealth & commerce**.
4. To the **early Christians** it symbolized **steadfastness, hope, & salvation**.
  - a) Slide#23a,b Many pictures of anchors have been found in the **catacombs** w/an inscription  
*Spes in Christo, Hope in Christ.*
5. The Lord has a **safe & secure harbor** in which our **soul** can **securely drop anchor**.
6. Jesus is an anchor that will hold "your life's boat" steady, **no matter** how much **tempest of trouble**, or **downpour of doubt** may **rage** in your life.
7. He can **sustain & steady** us when we are **battered & beaten** by life.
8. And He can do it **forever**, since He is **according to the order of Melchizedek**.

D. Slide#23c **Anchors Aweigh** - is used when the anchor is **raised off the bottom**.

1. Today, Jesus says, "**Anchors Aweigh**" to **every other weight** that is holding you down to this world.
2. He seeks to be **your only anchor** who will hold you **sure & steadfast** guaranteed.

## VI. Slide#24 **CARRYING THE ANCHOR FORWARD (20)** *Forerunner/pro-dromos*

- A. **Forerunner** – This was used in a few different ways.
1. It spoke of the men/troops which were sent to explore **before** the advance of an army.
    - a) In that sense, **Jesus was our forerunner, our trail blazer, our pioneer, our guide, our scout, our leader who opened up The Way.**
  2. **Slide#25** If he was still using **the harbor imagery**, maybe he recalls the role of some sailors, who would leave their large ships in a smaller craft in order to **carry the anchor forward** to a place where it can be firmly lodged.
- B. **Slide#26** Where the forerunner has entered **for us** - For us!
1. What Jesus did on the **cross** was...**FOR US**. *Christ died for us.* Rom.5:8
  2. What Jesus did at His **resurrection** was **FOR US**. *Because I live, you will live also* Jn14:19
  3. What Jesus did **after the res** was **FOR US**. *Who also makes intercession for us* Rom8:34
  4. What Jesus did by **tearing the veil** was to provide **access... FOR US**.
  5. What Jesus did as our **forerunner** was to **enter 1st... FOR US**.
- C. **MSG** - When God made his promise to Abraham, he backed it to the hilt, putting his own reputation on the line. He said, “I promise that I’ll bless you with everything I have - bless and bless and bless!” Abraham stuck it out and got everything that had been promised to him. When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority **above** them so that if there is any question that they’ll make good on the promise, **the authority** will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee his promises, he gave his word, a rock-solid guarantee - God can’t break his word. And because his word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. **We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go.** It’s an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has taken up his permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek.

### **Slide#27 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?

**[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 Saviour’s love.*

Will your anchor hold in the straits of **fear**, when the breakers roar and the reef is near?

While the surges rave, and the wild winds blow, shall the angry waves then your bark o'erflow?

Will your anchor hold in the floods of **death**, when the waters cold chill your latest breath?

On the rising tide you can never fail, while your anchor holds within the veil.

Will your **eyes behold** through the morning light - the city of gold and the harbour bright?

*Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore, when life's storms are 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 Saviour’s love.*