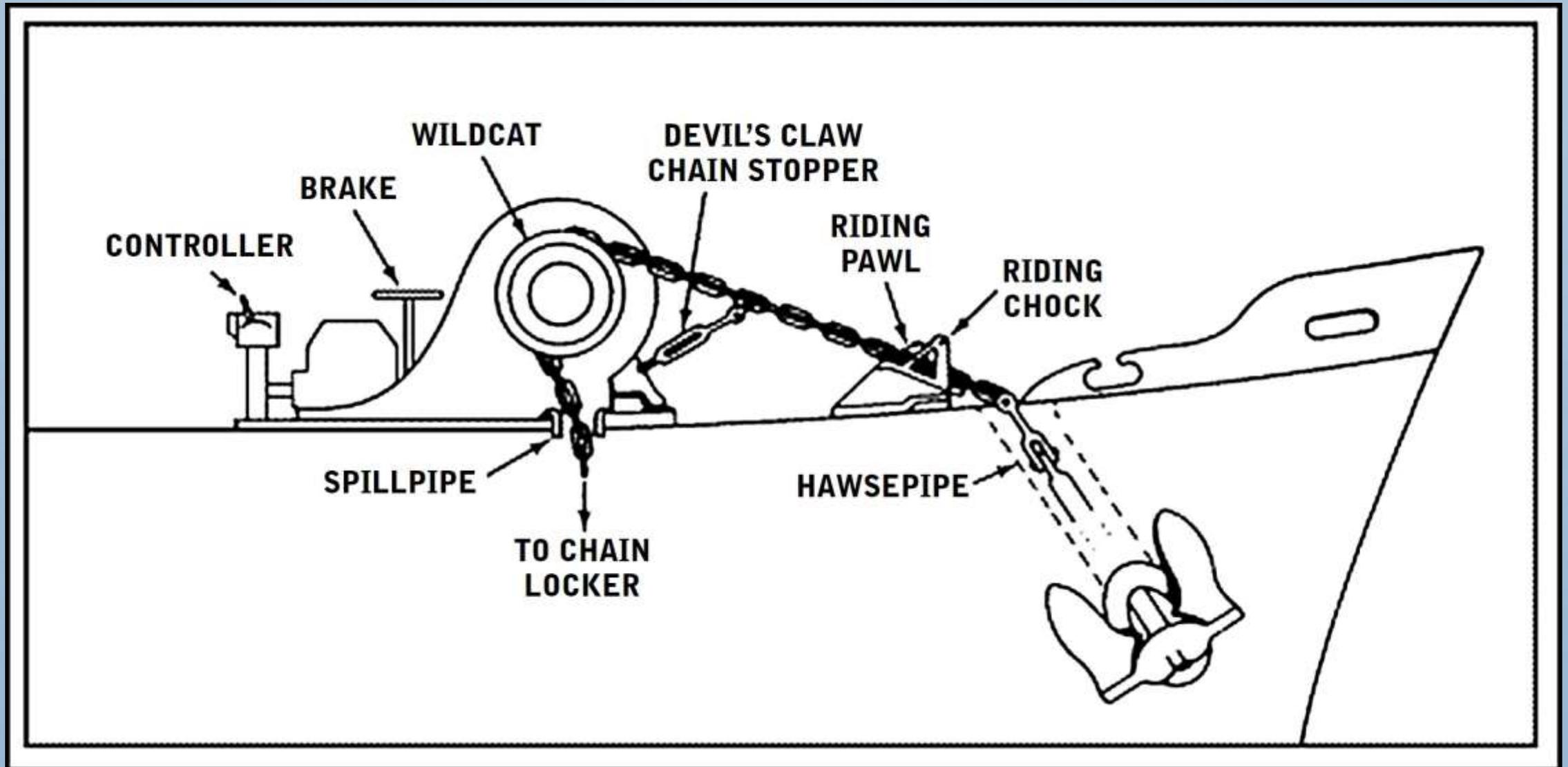


Truth Anchors



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Seek God First in Every Area of Our Lives - Matt. 6:33

- **Our Serving** - Putting Others First - Jesus said He came to serve, not be served - **Matt 20:28**
- **Our Giving** - Always give God the best first - **Prov. 3:9**
- **Our Confession** - Life and death are in the tongue, so make sure the first thing that comes out of it is always uplifting - **Prov. 10:19**

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Seek God First in Every Area of Our Lives - Matt. 6:33

- Our Choices - Make sure our choices are always based on what Jesus would do - John 5:19
- Our Daily Walk - To be a Christian means to be Christlike, so strive to live your life worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ - Phil 1:27

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Love Towards God and All Men - 1 John 4:7-12

This is what keeps us tethered and in constant contact with the Lord.

- **V.7a** - Our love must come from within, God's Agape love for all mankind.
- **V.7b** - We can easily find out where we stand in our spiritual walk because if we cannot love everyone the same, then we are not truly born of God; we do not understand or know how God's kingdom works.

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Love Towards God and All Men - 1 John 4:7-12

- V.8 - If we cannot show love to everyone, then we really do not have a true relationship with God; it's more of an acquaintance or convenience relationship.
- V.9-11 - God showed us through His actions how much He loves us, so we must do the same because actions speak louder than words.
- V.12 - Our faith in God will increase as we love each other because none of us have seen God. As we love one another, God can abide in us and bring us to maturity in our walk of faith.
- V.13-The only way we can truly accomplish this is by being led by the Holy Spirit each day.

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Forgiveness - Matt. 6:14-15, Mark 11:25-26

This is what holds our lives securely in place and keeps our lives from being tossed around in the storms of life.

- If we want God to forgive us, we have to forgive everyone.
- If we want God to hear our prayers, we have to make sure we are not holding any unforgiveness towards anyone. If not, then we will never have our prayers answered.

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Mark 11:25-26

“And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any: that Your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will Your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

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The cornerstone of the Christian faith:

- Jesus Christ died for sins.
- Jesus Christ paid for sins.
- Jesus Christ forgives sins.
- If you do not understand forgiveness enough to forgive others, then your faith is so small that it is equivalent to unbelief. In that case, don't expect any prayers to be answered except prayers of confession.

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Matthew 6:12-15 (GWT)

*“This is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven let Your name be kept Holy. Let Your Kingdom come. Let Your will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Give us our daily bread today. **Forgive us as we forgive others. Don’t allow us to be tempted. Instead, rescue us from the evil one. If you forgive the failures of others, Your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you don’t forgive others, Your Father will not forgive your failures.**”*

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- How can you forgive someone who has wronged you and has not: apologized, repented, or repaired the damage?
- They deserve to be found guilty, they deserve to be judged, and they deserve to be punished.
- But instead, you are hurt, you are damaged, and you are suffering. They don't deserve to be forgiven.
- Why should you forgive them?
- How can you forgive them?

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The amazing 1-step way to forgive:

Use Your Mediator

1 Timothy 2:1-6

“I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone...”

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Are you grateful that Jesus Christ paid the penalty of your sins?

- Jesus Christ was found guilty of all *your* sins as though He actually did them.
- Jesus Christ was judged for all *your* sins as though He actually did them.
- Jesus Christ was punished for all *your* sins and paid the full penalty as though He actually did them.
- He didn't deserve any of that, but He accepted it for *your* sake because He loved you. That is the good news of the gospel!

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Colossians 3:12-14 (MSG)

“So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It’s your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.”

Truth Anchors

- Remember, when Jesus Christ died on the cross, He became guilty of ***the sin of the person who wronged you.***
- He didn't just forgive them, He was found guilty for **their** sin, He was judged for **their** sin, and He was punished for **their** sin.
- Then He rose from the grave because He atoned for **their** sin.
- He didn't deserve any of that, but He accepted it for **their** sake because He loved them.
- Now, He can apologize to you in **their** name.
- Can you accept a real genuine sincere apology from the Lord Jesus Christ?

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2 Corinthians 5:21

“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

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Forgive because Jesus Christ already paid the penalty

- He already paid a much worse penalty than you can imagine.
- He already paid more than you could ever demand.
- He was rejected by His Father, and He suffered and died the sinner's death.
- Therefore, just as God has accepted Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection on your behalf, you can accept Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection on the behalf of the one who wronged you.

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- Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice:
- **If you don't forgive, your pain can turn to malice, evil speaking, clamor, anger, wrath, and bitterness.** Carrying bitterness has been likened to carrying hot coals in your hands and hoping it hurts someone else. It doesn't work!

Ephesians 4:31-32

“And be you kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.”