

Hold Fast and Let Go

Part of perseverance is letting go.

You can't hold fast to BOTH the sinking Titanic *and* the rope ladder of a saving helicopter. In order to hold fast to the rope ladder, you must let go of the ship - no matter how much you love what the ship represents.

Conversely, merely letting go, not holding fast to the ladder, does you no good. Modern philosophers say to let go of all worries and concerns - be free. But how? What will you hold to that will keep you safe? You will just sink with the Titanic.

We must reconcile these 2 verses

Rev 2:25 NKJV But hold fast what you have till I come.

And

Col 3:2-3 NLT Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.
3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

Acts 27:27-32

What is he telling them to let go of? Natural solutions that are bound to fail.

What is he telling them to hold fast to? Let's look at the previous verses.

Acts 27:18-26

He is holding fast to the promise of God and encouraging others to do so.

We must decide what has more weight: these light and momentary afflictions or the promises of God.

If the afflictions are weightier to you, you'll struggle to get on the lifeboat in the storm.

If the promises and glory of God are more important, you'll ride out the shipwreck with great hope.

A few vs earlier

Acts 27:10-11

What's interesting here is we see that the ship didn't have to go down. Originally.

This should be the church's job. Proclaiming the way to salvation! But when the world doesn't listen and our ships start to go down, do we then turn to fear?

NO! We hold fast! And we STILL proclaim God's way to salvation.

Maybe the world didn't listen and the ship has to go down but God always makes a way.

Paul, not belonging to the natural world and its ways, was more qualified to help the natural world.

You are actually far more qualified to help bring solutions to the problems of this temporal, physical world when you don't belong to it.

The people of this world are often bound by anger and fear.

They must fight for power and identity (whether it is political and on a global scale or relational and on a local scale). They will do whatever it takes to get their way - to see their ideals realized - they will put others down, they will lie, they will yell and scream and cry.

And if they ever get what they want, they just might fight bitterly to keep it and then seeth and rot and burn within if they lose it. This is common anyway.

BECAUSE it's all they have. There's nothing else.

And so their decision making is clouded by fear and anxiety and the need to act quickly.

But you who do not belong to this world *and recognize it* can make decisions and take actions with a sound mind and compassion.

You can hold fast even when it seems that all odds are against you - when it seems you are drowning in defeat.

You can hold fast because you know you're not losing anything.

2 Cor 5:1 ESV For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

King Herod and Mary are great examples of the contrast we are talking about: someone who holds fast to earth and someone who holds fast to faith.

Matt 2:1-3 Even though Herod is a fake King, it's all he has and he will do ANYTHING to keep it. He acts in fear and anger.

Mary was nobody. Under an oppressive government. But she recognized the eternal and immeasurable value of what she had. She had Jesus within. And though her corrupt government had stupid beaurocratic mandates such as: you must travel to your ancestral homelands for a census even if you're 9 months pregnant - and even though things did not always go in her favor - no room in the inn, having to give birth in an animal shed - having to escape to Egypt to avoid Herod - she knew better than to suppose these light and momentary afflictions could compare to the glory that was being produced in her.

Luke 1:30-33

Take away what she had to hold fast to and her situations seem horrible! But look at what she had to hold fast to and those afflictions were tiny in comparison.

And who do you supposed had the bigger impact on earth and eternity? Herod the king who fought tooth and nail to keep what was his or the nobody who held fast to the promises of God and brought Jesus to the world?

This is why secular psychology doesn't always work. Psychology says you've been hurt; you need to forgive.

Forgiveness is letting go. Good.

But by what merit are you forgiving? What if they're not sorry. What are you holding onto that will prevent you from sinking the next time you think about what they've done to you?

But God says forgive for I have forgiven you. And your sins are no lesser than than the person who hurt you. You are fully loved and fully forgiven and can hold fast to that.

Psalm 20:7-8

Isaiah 30:1-5

The solution to holding fast to the wrong things (the titanic) is not merely realizing you'll have better things when this world is gone. The solution is realizing the value of God's love. And what that means for the here and now and all of eternity.

That's why the psalmist says "Whom have I in heaven but You?"

Experiencing the love of God is the ultimate motivation and empowerment for selfless living. That's why Paul compares things in nature to God's love.

Rom 8:38-39

Trust EVERY promise of God (hold fast)

- **Promise of His love.** Hold fast to His love and let go of bitterness, identity, shame, loneliness,
- **Promise of future restoration.** Let go of greed and strife and worry.
- **Promise of His present intervention.** Let go of despair.

Very present

Psalm 46:1 kjv (speaking of end times)

Ends with 46:10-11

Paul trusted God in these 3 areas when he said to cut the ropes to the lifeboats.

Hold tight to this promise:2 Chronicles 7:14

Jacob and Esau. Esau put more weight on the here and now. Jacob put more weight on the promises of God that were passed down through his Father Abraham.

He would do ANYTHING to hold fast to those promises. To not let them go.

Gen 32:24-29 tells the story of Jacob not letting go till he had that supernatural blessing - the thing he valued above the natural.