

1st Quarter 2023

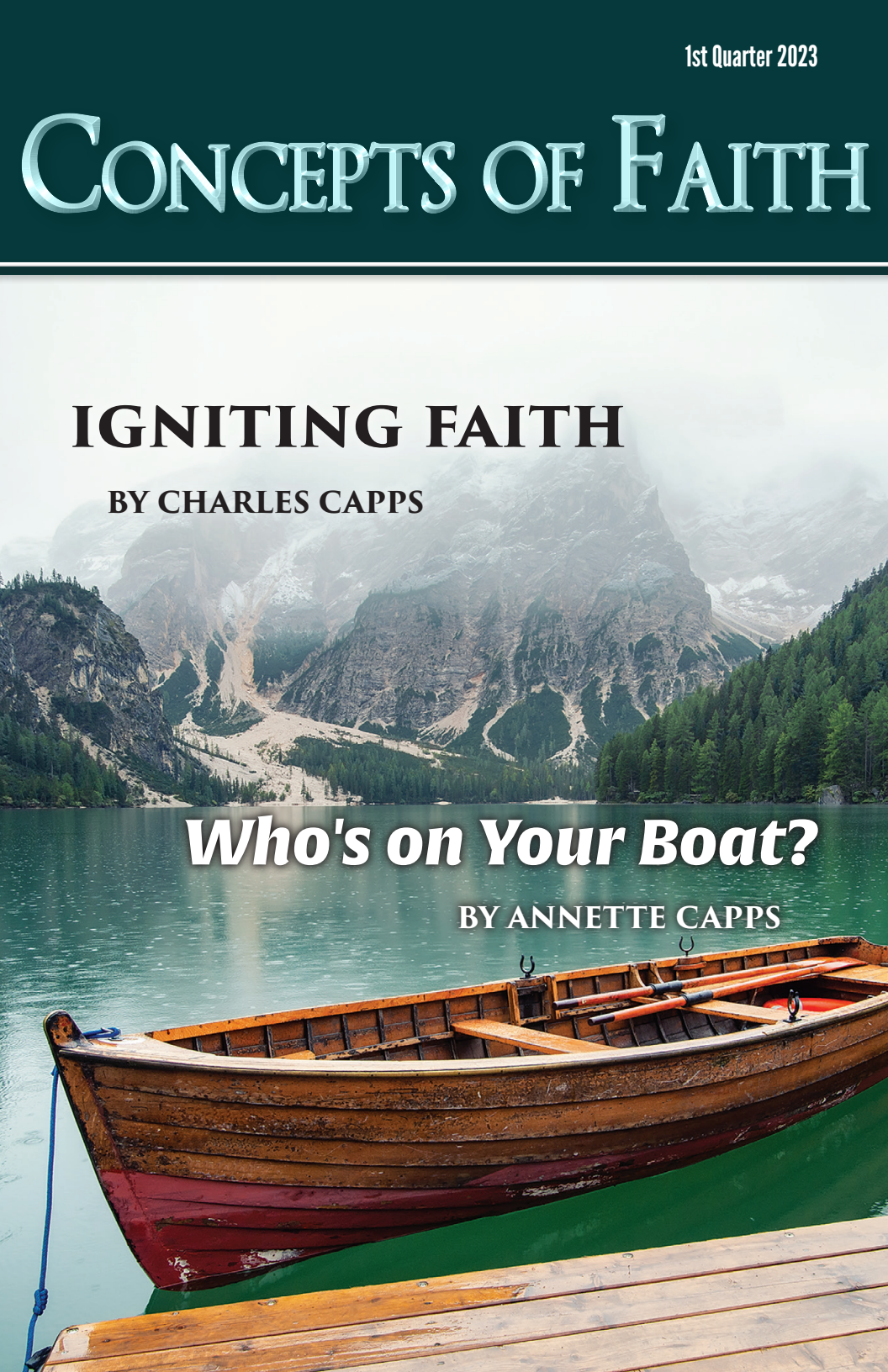
CONCEPTS OF FAITH

IGNITING FAITH

BY CHARLES CAPPS

Who's on Your Boat?

BY ANNETTE CAPPS



IGNITING FAITH

BY CHARLES CAPPS

And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them,

They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

And there they preached the gospel.

And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. (Acts 14:5-10)

When your faith is passive and you have not acted on it, the boldness of another person's faith can ignite the faith that you have.

This passage of Scripture from Acts 14 is a classic example of this. Paul was preaching to a group of people, including a man, crippled from his mother's womb, who had never walked. The Holy Ghost revealed to Paul that the man had faith to be healed, but his faith had not yet been released. This proves that you could have faith to be healed and not be healed.

Paul said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. Notice Paul didn't pray for him; he didn't lay hands on him. You must realize that what happened had something to do with that man's faith.

It also had something to do with Paul's faith. Paul spoke with such boldness that it ignited this fellow's faith and caused him to act on the faith he already had.

In the ninth chapter of Acts, we find a similar incident.

And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he

came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord. (Acts 9:32-35)

Notice that Peter came to the believers who dwelt at Lydda, not to the unbelievers. Aeneas was one of these believers. He had been bedfast for eight years, sick of the palsy.

Did you notice that Peter didn't pray for him? He didn't lay hands on him. Evidently this saint had the Word of God in him. He had faith, but it had not brought healing.

Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ makes you whole. Arise and make your bed." And he arose immediately!

Now remember, this man had been bedridden for eight years. Everyone who came along probably said, "Bless your heart; it will be worth it all one of these days. In the sweet by-and-by when you get to heaven, you will be well." But Peter approached him differently.

Allow me to paraphrase it. Peter said, "Aeneas, don't you know Jesus

Christ maketh you whole? Get up! Make up your bed."

I can almost hear Aeneas saying, "Yeah, that's right. Jesus did make me whole, didn't He?" Then he just gathers up his bed and goes home.

What happened? The boldness of Peter's faith sparked the faith that was in Aeneas. In so many words, Peter said, "Hey, don't you know Jesus Christ has already done it all? Make up your bed!" Peter's boldness of faith ignited the faith in Aeneas, and he got up before he knew he couldn't.

The Church, the Body of Christ, doesn't have a problem with having faith in God, but they do have a problem having **faith in their faith**.

Have you noticed it in your life? There are times when you do something that you shouldn't or fail to spend as much time in the Word as you should. Then you begin to feel condemned.

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. (1 John 3:20-21)

If your heart condemns you, the devil will get on your case and ride you into the ground if you let him. Condemnation is a tool the devil will use against you.



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The Holy Spirit will convince or convict you. When He does, repent. But remember, Paul said:

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

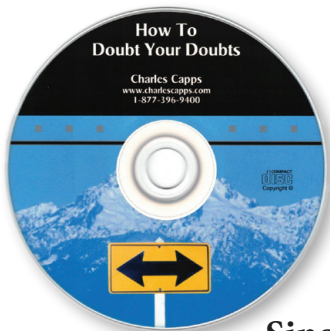
For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.
(Romans 8:1-3)

After the New Covenant is in effect, there is no condemnation. If you are born again and doing your best to please the Father in all that you do, don't let that condemnation come against you. It is a design of the devil to stop your faith. Acting on 1 John 1:9 will destroy all condemnation and bring the peace of God.

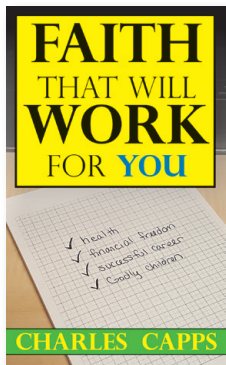
Make a decision to spend time fellowshiping with your heavenly Father daily. Develop a strong relationship with Him through prayer, and with your Savior, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost through the study and meditation of God's Word daily.

Then you will find that faith in your faith will grow exceedingly. ■

*This article was taken from the book *Faith That Will Work For You* (Previously titled, *Faith in Your Faith*)



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The Capps Family celebrated Peggy Capps' 89th birthday in September in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. We are grateful for the solid foundation that she and Charles established for our family and ministry!

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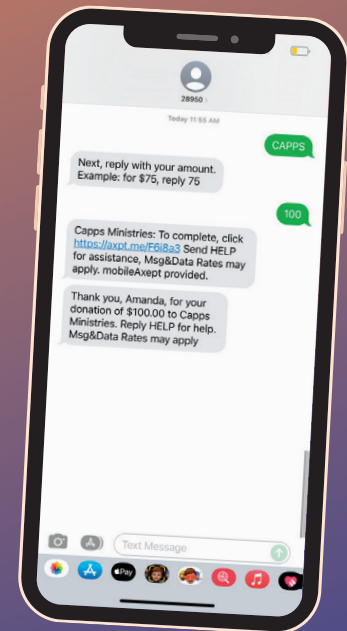
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Helping Women Change Lives

In 2022, Annette recorded four television programs with Michelle Steele. They discussed Michelle's book *Escaping Hell*, which describes how she was delivered from drug addiction and prostitution through the blood of Jesus. Michelle's testimony is an amazing revelation of the power of the blood to cleanse us from sin and also to cleanse our consciousness from sin and shame.



We sent 50 copies of *Escaping Hell*, my dad's book *God's Creative Power*®, and DVDs of the four life-changing TV programs to Chaplain Jill Sullivan, who is the founder/executive director of Gwens House in North Canton, Ohio.

Gwens House is a Christ-centered ministry established in 2018 to help women after and during incarceration. It is an acronym for Giving Women Encouragement

Nurturing Support Housing Opportunities Unconditional Love and Spiritual Empowerment.

Jill is a prison chaplain for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections, facilitating chapel services, Bible studies, and chaplain services across Ohio. Jill received Christ while incarcerated in 2001 and has dedicated her life to helping incarcerated women find freedom in Christ.

She says, "We are using the *God's Creative Power*® books you sent to help our ladies grow in wisdom concerning the power of their words according to the Bible. They love this Bible study! I feel that when I learned how to change my words, I was able to get out of an abusive relationship, stop using drugs and alcohol, and live the life God had planned for me. And now, I'm getting the opportunity to teach the ladies in prison the power of their words.

We are excited to receive the donation of books and DVDs on *Escaping Hell*. We will watch the TV programs and read the books in groups in the prison and at our housing locations with the women we help."

We are grateful to all of those who are distributing our materials to the men and women incarcerated.

Reaching Into Prisons

Patrick Houston was an entertainer in the rap music world who had acquired success, money, and recognition. But with fame came addiction to drugs, liquor, and women. By his own admission, the words he was rapping were only "fueling his own ego and pride." Becoming obsessed with money and greed for more, Patrick developed a deep-seated fear of being robbed. "Having this fear of being robbed made me buy guns—a lot of them."

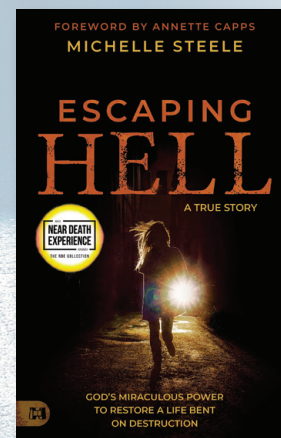


While riding on the north side of Memphis, Tennessee, Patrick was pulled over. The police found two guns in his car. Having had a previous felony charge when younger, he was arrested on state charges. Not aware of the power of confession, Patrick started saying, "This may go federal." It did and he was sent to the worst prison in the federal system for two years. Then he was sent to another federal prison in Illinois, where he heard a preacher on the radio named Charles Capps. Here are his words:

"I got shipped to FCI Greenville. While there, I would listen to the AM radio station, and I heard a preacher—a man of God by the name of Charles Capps. He was speaking on words—how out of the same mouth comes blessing and cursing and being snared by the words of your mouth.

"A light bulb came on in my spirit. I had spoken my own situation into existence. Mister Capps was saying that fear is the opposite of faith and that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. He also said that you must meditate on the Word, and *meditate* means 'to mutter, to speak.'

"Wow! I never heard a person break down how to build faith before.



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"He went on to talk about a person having what they are saying. Now the last thing he said was about hearing yourself on a tape recorder—how I don't sound like myself on a tape recorder. Well, me being in the music business, I could relate to that!

"At that point, he spoke about the inner and the outer ear and how, when we speak words, our inner ear catches it, and it goes in our spirit. I promise, it blew me away!



"It's like God shined light in my spirit, and I got on a real confession mission. I got a Bible, wrote a lot of scriptures, and just confessed over and over. I have started to subconsciously live out what I'm confessing.

"I repented of all my wrong and rededicated my life to God. Jesus is my personal Lord and savior. I'm saved and filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. And I'm now passing out Charles Capps' book, *The Tongue-A Creative Force*. And I'm living my life for God. My life is *so much* better. Words couldn't describe."

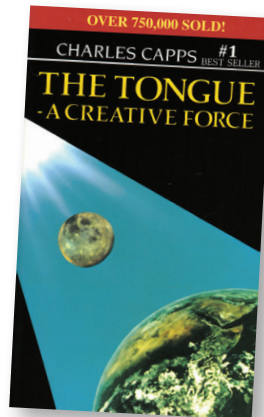
Annette's Note: We were first made aware of Patrick when the shipping department noticed that one man kept ordering large quantities of the book, *The Tongue-A Creative Force*. It was so unusual that we asked one of our staff members to

check with him and see what was happening with these books.

Now, we have to say WOW! What a testimony! Only eternity will reveal the lives that are being changed by Patrick distributing these books. In addition, his testimony has opened our eyes to the unseen effect of the radio ministry. Although we don't receive a lot of reports, it is obvious that people are listening in places we have never considered. It also encourages us that our mission of publishing and broadcasting the Word is working and yielding fruit whether we see it or not! Thank you, partners, for enabling us to continue this ministry.

To read Patrick's full testimony in his own words, visit our website at: cappsministries.com/pages/testimony

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WHO'S on Your Boat?

BY ANNETTE CAPPS

Have you ever felt like everything in your life was out of control... coming apart...at loose ends?

I am sure we have all experienced something like that, whether it was family and relationship issues, health problems, or financial distress. Regardless of our status in life or our standing with God, storms come into our worlds.

The Apostle Paul was in such a situation when he was taken prisoner. It was bad enough that everywhere he went to preach, he was either beaten by people who wanted to kill him or run him out of town! Now, taken prisoner, his life is *really* out of his control. Decisions were being made *for* him about every minute of his life.

Are you in a situation with no control? You can be encouraged by Paul's words in Hebrews 4:16, *"Let us therefore come boldly before the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

The word *help* in Greek is *boëtheia*.

It is a technical term in nautical language used to describe the help provided by ropes. When the waves crashed during a storm, sailors wrapped the hull of a boat with ropes to keep it from coming apart. The nautical term was "frapping" the boat. Paul had traveled extensively by ship and had already experienced shipwrecks, so he understood the strength that ropes added to the integrity of the hull.

"We have authority over our ship and those who are with us."

Before becoming a prisoner, Paul could *choose* to sail or not to sail with the help of the Holy Spirit. In Acts chapter 27, he was held in the custody of a Roman centurion named Julius, and they were set to sail in a large Alexandrian ship filled with grain and cargo. The ship's captain, owner, and crew were making the final decisions. Paul's help could only come from the Lord. Psalm 121:2

"God can save you to the uttermost, entirely, completely, and in a timely manner."

must have been an encouragement, *"My help cometh from the Lord, which made the heaven and earth."*

Paul didn't have authority on the boat. Those in charge had their own agenda. The ship's owner was looking out for his economic interests—he had leased the vessel to transport prisoners, grain, and cargo. The captain and sailors wanted to be paid for their work. The Roman centurion was looking to advance his career or of possibly losing his head if he didn't get Paul to Rome.

Acts 27:9–12 (BSB)

"...Paul advised them, 'Men, I can see that our voyage will be filled with disaster and great loss, not only to ship and cargo, but to our own lives as well.' But contrary to Paul's advice, the centurion was persuaded by the pilot and by the owner of the ship. Since the harbor was unsuitable to winter in, the majority decided to sail on, if somehow they could reach Phoenix to winter there."

Outside of Paul's control and despite his perception of danger, those in charge decided to leave the harbor. They soon encountered a Nor'easter, or what we would call a hurricane. Everyone on-board was thrown from stem to stern, and the waves bashed at the wooden ship.

Acts 27:17 (CEV) says, *"The sailors wrapped ropes around the ship to hold it together."* The word "ropes" here is the same Greek word *boētheia*, meaning "help" found in Hebrews 4:16. The "help" or ropes were used to hold the ship together. Hebrews 4:16 says that we need mercy and grace to *help* when our lives seem to be coming apart. Wrap our ship in the favor of God.

What I'm seeing in my spirit is that we need to get our ropes—the *favor* and *help* from God—and shore things up. You've heard the phrase, "batten down the hatches." It means "to prepare for a difficulty or crisis."

Sometimes we encounter things we don't have any control over. And when we're hit with the enemy's attacks, we can wrap the Word around us, tie a knot, and swing in God until the storm is over.

The ship Paul was on was made of planks. "Planks" in our lives can include our money or the economics of life. Planks are also our health and our relationships, including our family. When a storm hits and our "ship" starts to rock and roll, the planks can start coming loose. If water starts coming in, the ship will sink.

Weaving Yourself Into God

"Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength" Isaiah 40:31 (BSB) In my study of this verse, I discovered the origin of the word *wait* in Hebrew is from the root word for *rope*.

A rope signifies strength. I can tie my horse up with a rope. If I want to move a large object, I can tie a rope

around it and pull it with a truck. I could use a rope to climb something or be let down by something.

The word *rope* came to signify "strength" because the strength of a rope is in the weaving. Some ropes have three strands that are woven together. And each strand has a bunch of little bitty strands intertwined into it. Individual strands are not that strong, but woven together, the rope is unbreakable.

Our strength comes when we weave ourselves into the Lord and wrap ourselves in Him. Let's look at Isaiah 40:31 again. *"Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength."* The word *renew* means "to change." When we weave ourselves into God, we are changing our weaknesses for His strength. Instead of one single strand of twine, we are wrapped in a strong rope of strength.

How do we weave ourselves into God? By putting the Word in us. By speaking the Word. By praying in the Spirit. When we weave ourselves into the Holy Spirit and God's Word, we've woven ourselves into a place of complete protection.

If you've been slack in your Bible reading or your confession of the Word, I encourage you to really get with it this year. Take the Word and wind it up in your heart. Pray in the Spirit. Prepare yourself to be strong in God because some intense winds are coming, and we have to prepare ourselves.

David said, *"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer. My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my*

shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Psalm 18:2 BSB) But this verse doesn't automatically happen. It happens when we weave ourselves into God every day.

Extending Your Faith to Others

The storm that Paul and his companions were in was so severe that all hope of being saved was lost.

Paul was on a ship where he had no say. At times we may feel as though we don't have any say-so in our situation. But that's a lie and a deception. We have authority over our ship *and* those who are with us.

The captain, owner, and centurion made decisions about the boat. So what did Paul do? He approached *"the throne of grace with confidence, so that [he would] receive mercy and find grace to help us in [his] time of need."* (Hebrews 4:16 BSB) Paul knew who His helper was—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

"Technically, only one person needed to survive the storm."

Acts 27: 22–24 (BSB)

"Men, you should have followed my advice not to sail from Crete. Then you would have averted this disaster and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because you will not experience any loss of life, but only of the ship. For just last night an angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve,

stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And look, God has granted you the lives of all who sail with you.'”

Paul had a destiny to fulfill, and he was not going down with the ship. The same is true for you, no matter what is happening around you.

Let this be your constant confession: ***"I have a plan and a purpose for my life that God has ordained, and I will fulfill it. My life will not be cut short. I will always have abundance. I will always have protection, healing, deliverance, and preservation. I have all I need and will not go down with the ship."***

God wanted Paul to stand before Caesar. Technically, only one person needed to survive the storm. But the angel said, ***"Look, God has granted you the lives of all who sail with you."*** (v. 24)

When we are in a storm, let's follow what Paul did and extend our faith and favor to those around us. I always declare that every person I'm associated with is blessed and has favor because of me.

When we've woven ourselves into the Lord, we won't go down with the ship. So never give up. Everyone on Paul's ship thought they were going to die, except Paul. But because he approached the throne of favor, everyone on that boat was saved.

God's Lifeboat

The storm in Acts 27 was probably the worst storm the sailors had been in. When the boat was coming near the shore, the sailors tried to escape.

Acts 27:30–32 (BSB)

"Meanwhile, the sailors attempted to escape from the ship. Pretending to lower anchors from the bow, they let the lifeboat down into the sea. But Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, 'Unless these men remain with the ship, you cannot be saved.' So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and set it adrift."

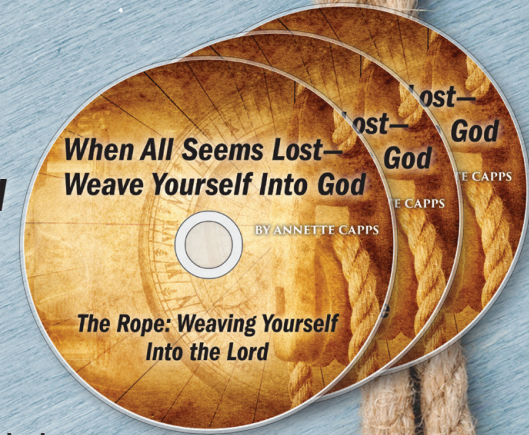
Sometimes when we're tossed about, the only thing left is the lifeboat. Our lifeboats are the things that make us think, "I can do this. I can do this in my own strength." Paul continually said, "I don't trust my strength. God's strength is fulfilled in my weakness." We need to cut our lifeboats loose and lay hold of God's strength and His rescue.

Paul's relationship with God and God's grace and favor saved everyone on that ship. The wealthy owner, the prisoners, the slaves...believers and unbelievers. Every one of them knew they had experienced a miracle. Their idols and pagan gods didn't save them. The Creator of heaven and earth, whom Paul worshipped and served, saved them all from death.

God can save you to the uttermost, entirely, completely, and in a timely manner. No matter the storm in your life, you're not going down with the ship if you've wrapped yourself in the promises of God. And His mercy, grace, and favor will extend to all who accompany you on your life's journey as you stand in faith. *Who's on your boat?* ■

When All Seems Lost— Weave Yourself Into God

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3 CD Series by Annette Capps includes:

- **The Rope: Weaving Yourself Into the Lord** — Weave yourself into God's strength.
- **Help! Throw Me a Rope** — Finding grace and favor for urgent needs.
- **Who's on Your Boat?** — Extend your grace and favor to everyone on your boat.

I was recently given these three messages for the body of Christ. In a time of troubling storms from every direction, it can look and feel like our world is coming apart. But God prepares us with His Word of promise, and it will be as *He* has declared!



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