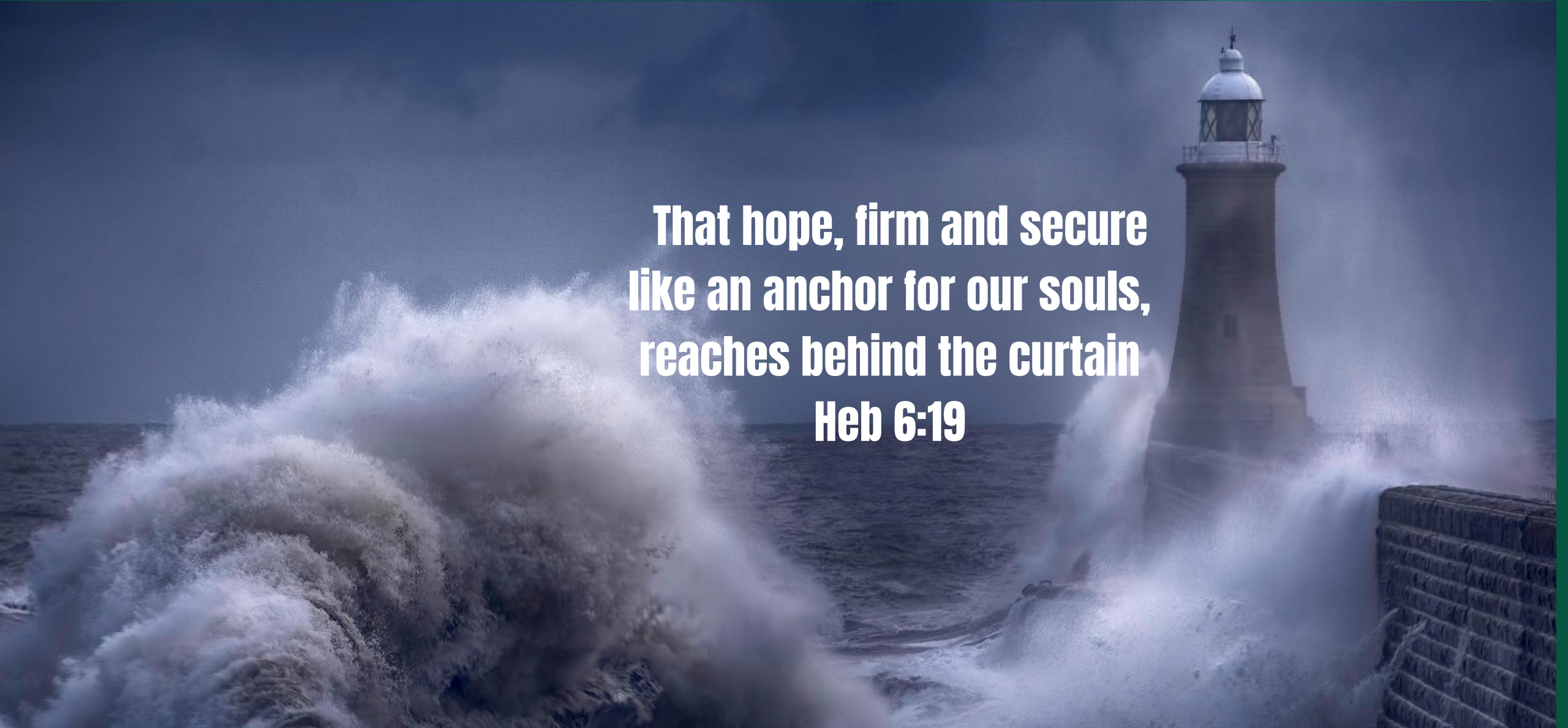




HOPE THAT ENDURES



**That hope, firm and secure
like an anchor for our souls,
reaches behind the curtain
Heb 6:19**



HOPE THAT ENDURES



What enduring hope is not

We are being sent into a world where there are many reasons to become anxious, weary or discouraged. Some of us return to responsibilities that have grown heavier. Some return to churches, families or communities where the needs seem greater than the resources. Some have prayed for change and are still waiting.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



Before we describe the hope we carry, we must recognise the kinds of hope that cannot sustain us through troubled times.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



1 It is not fanciful or escapist hope

Fanciful hope imagines a better tomorrow without facing the truth of today. Escapist hope uses the thought of a better future to avoid present responsibility. It says that everything will somehow work out, while refusing to confront what needs attention.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



Enduring hope gives us courage to face reality and act. Abraham's faith stood in the presence of real obstacles, yet remained persuaded that God could fulfil his promise in Romans 4 verses 19 to 21. Faith does not require us to pretend that the difficulty is imaginary. It calls us to trust God within it.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



2 It is not fragile hope

Fragile hope survives only while circumstances are favourable. It rises with applause and falls with criticism. It depends on a particular person, place or programme; when that support changes, its confidence collapses. The winds of change scatter this hope.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



3 It is not frustrated or agitated hope

Frustrated hope becomes resentful when the outcome does not arrive on its timetable. Agitated hope becomes restless and reactive, rushing from one answer to another or trying to force a result. It can turn waiting into accusation and disappointment into bitterness.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



4. Hope That Endures —
Hope that endures is not built on human character, competence or
commitment.

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Hope that Endures

Hope that endures is not built on human systems.

Systems of governance, economics, social regulation, justice and peace are undergoing massive shifts and turns. Institutions such as the United Nations—and society at large—cannot guarantee permanent security, stability or peace. Human systems have value, but they cannot provide an unchanging foundation for hope.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



Hope that endures is founded upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Anchor of the soul, the Rock of Ages and the Everlasting Father. He is unchanging across the past, present and future. When people disappoint and systems fail, Christ remains firm and secure.

“On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.”

HOPE THAT ENDURES



Hope that endures has expectancy.

It anticipates the goodness of God because it trusts the character of God.

It is anchored in Jesus Christ, his promises and his power to fulfil them.

Our sending word is this: Go with an enduring hope because you go with a faithful Christ.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



Expectation can become attached to the way we think God must work.

Faith-filled expectancy remains attached to the God who works, even when his way or timing differs from ours.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



We can describe expectancy as a positive anticipation of positive intervention by God , Biblical expectancy is more than optimism.

~~It includes confidence in God's presence, grace, transforming work, resurrection and final victory.~~

HOPE THAT ENDURES



Biblical Expectancy is faith that depends on God's faithfulness regardless of present or changing circumstances

It does not promise that every immediate outcome will match our preferences.

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HOPE THAT ENDURES



Our deepest confidence is not that every plan will succeed but that God in Christ has a plan for everything

It is that Christ will remain faithful, that obedience to him has lasting value, and that his purpose is final and will ultimately prevail over all.

HOPE THAT ENDURES

Three truths hold our expectancy together.

His person is faithful. His faithfulness endures for ever

His promises are trustworthy. His word is settled - Heaven and earth will pass away but His Word endures forever.

His power is sufficient to fulfil what he has promised.

HOPE THAT ENDURES

Abraham and enduring faith

Romans 4 Verse 18 says, in the KJV, that Abraham believed against hope, in hope.

This was a spiritual hope pitted against a natural one. The ordinary reasons for anticipating a child had become weak.

Yet another reason remained: the promise of God , the faithfulness of God.

HOPE THAT ENDURES

Abraham Faith endured beyond the changing facts

Translations differ in how they express his consideration of those conditions, but the passage plainly names the obstacles.

The story does not pretend they were young or that the difficulty was imaginary. Enduring hope allows us to speak honestly about what is happening.

HOPE THAT ENDURES

A man in a dark suit and glasses is shown in profile, looking through a large magnifying glass. The magnifying glass shows a detailed view of a city street scene with buildings and a car. The background is a dimly lit room with bookshelves and a lamp.

**The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality ;
the second one is to inspire faith and vision to change
that reality.**

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HOPE THAT ENDURES

Thirdly Abraham trusted God's ability

Romans 4 verse 21 says that Abraham was fully persuaded that God could do what he had promised. His confidence rested in God's ability, rather than the strength of his own resources.

HOPE THAT ENDURES



**Leaders and believers, we are going back with anchored hope,
hope that transforms , hope that connects and hope that
endures ,**

**Your going with the enduring promises and presence of God
“Who said i will never leave you nor forsake you even to the
ends of the world. “**

Hope that Endures



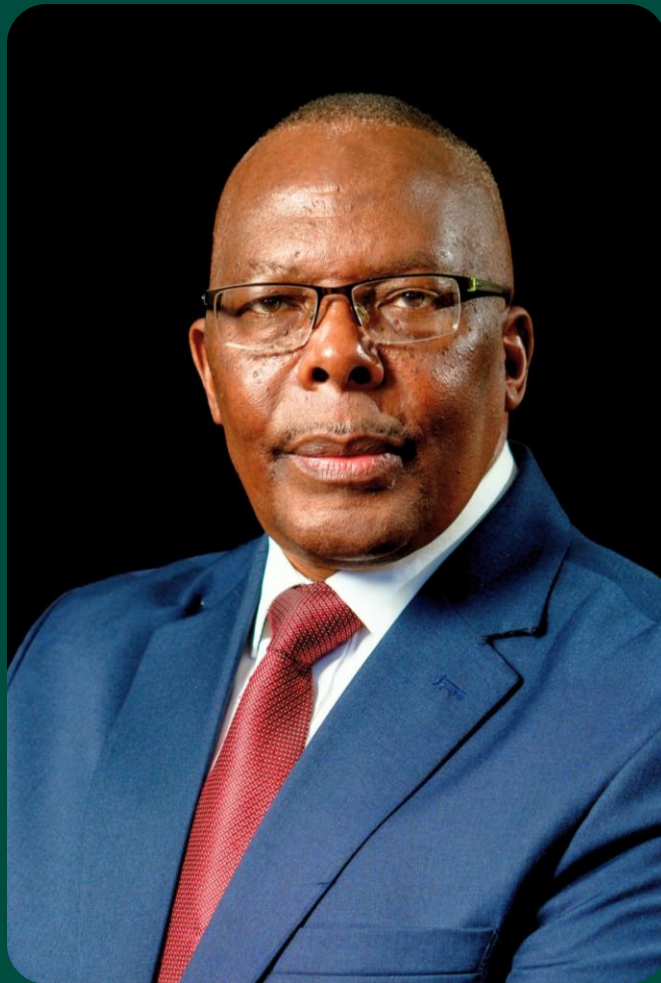
4. Hope That Endures

4.1. What anchors of hope are in place, or should be in place, to build an enduring hope network in your situation?

4.2. What enduring anchors are in place in your situation, and how will you develop or strengthen them for connection and transformation?

4.3. How can we make the Gospel future proof and shock proof in the face of volatility, uncertainty , complexity and ambiguity

“THANK YOU ”



GOODWILL SHANA

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Serving since 1990

Former President

Association of Evangelicals in Africa, two terms

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