

HOLD THE ROPE!



DAN INGRAM

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BY

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INTRODUCTION

Since the early 90's, part of my Home Mission Ministry has been to go to Adult and Teen Challenges and various other recovery centers for men and women. I throw out life preservers to them - nuggets of truth that they can easily grasp and hold onto. Over the years I have discerned and learned that the only way to lose is to quit. It is important to walk in faith with what you have learned.

So this book is about that revelation - to see men and women walk in and keep their victory, and enter into the destiny and freedom that God created for them. I want to see men and women have faith and **“HOLD THE ROPE”** until God blesses and comes through.

This is a message that God keeps refining in my heart. And when I share it I see men and women who are like the fisherman who the Lord told to launch out into the deep. As they followed the Lord, they hit the storm with wind and waves, and felt they were going under. But then they realized that they can **HOLD ONTO THE ROPE** by faith and God will have their back. He will come through, and enable them to keep on the journey! They don't have to be fearful because they are not alone.

I still remember the first time I preached this message. It was 2007 and I was ministering at Teen Challenge in Mulga, AL. It turned out to be an incredible time of blessing because it brought encouragement to the women there. At the end of the message I prayed for them and gave them a piece of rope to remind them that as they go through the Program and go through life, to always **HOLD THE ROPE** until the blessing comes.

There was a lady there that first night named Lynn Lizana, who was in the Program. She graduated after her year in the Program there and lived for the Lord for years afterward. She was full of life and passion for the Lord and was a blessing to many until her recent passing. She kept encouraging me to preach this message every year, and told me she actually slept with her rope during her time in the Program and for years afterwards until her passing.

What has been incredible over the years, when I have said, "I'm going to preach the **HOLD THE ROPE** sermon tonight while at the Teen Challenge Lady's Center," to my surprise one of the students will say, "I've got a piece of rope! So and So gave it to me, and So and So gave it to them." This has happened several times and it's really been amazing. The Lord has used this message in its various forms to encourage and equip the hearers to "**HOLD THE ROPE!**"

The Lord says,

“Hold on. . . I’m coming! HOLD THE ROPE!”

Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.” And they launched out. (Luke 8: 22 NKJV)

The disciples launched out at Jesus' word. “Let us cross over to the other side.” And the Lord is saying to you, **“Let us crossover. It is time to launch out into the blessing and destiny the Lord has for us!”**

And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” (Luke 8:22b-8:24 NKJV)

Jesus knew there would be a storm and the the boat would be in jeopardy. And the Lord knows that there will be storms in your life as you follow Him. Nothing takes the Lord by surprise.

Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they

*were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another,
“Who can this be? For He commands even the winds
and water, and they obey Him!” (Luke 8:25 NKJV)*

One of my mentors was Pastor John Loper, Senior Pastor of Garywood Assembly. Many times I heard him say, “**God will pull you through - if you can stand the pull!**”

So the question is . . . **How do you HOLD THE ROPE?**