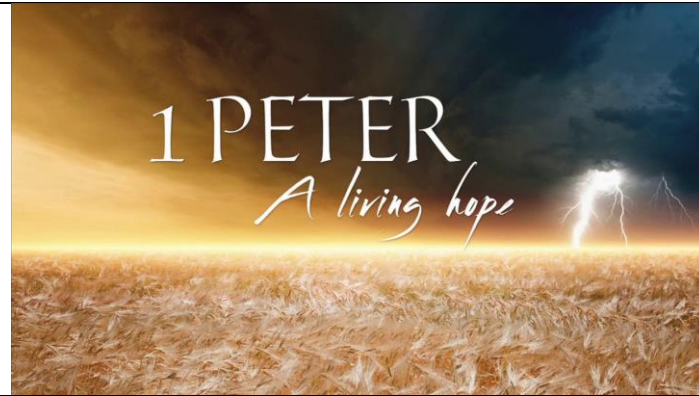


# 1 Peter

a living hope

25 April 2021

1 Peter 1:3-7



## Text

V	NLT	Good News	MSG	NIV
3	All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,	Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope,	What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for,	Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
4	and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.	and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away.	including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all—life healed and whole.	and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,
5	And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.	They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.		who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.
6	So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.	Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer.	I know how great this makes you feel, even though you have to put up with every kind of aggravation in the meantime. Pure gold put in the fire comes out of it	In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.
7	These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.	Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed.	proved pure; genuine faith put through this suffering comes out proved genuine. When Jesus wraps this all up, it's your faith, not your gold, that God will have on display as evidence of his victory.	These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

## Group Discussion

- What are some things that no person, government or time of persecution or difficulty can take away from you?
- When you read the word “inheritance” (v4) what do you think of?
  - How might this news have brought hope to Jesus followers who were scattered?
  - Read 1 Peter 3:8-12 for a further description of this inheritance.
  - In 3:10 Peter quotes Psalm 34, which says in effect, “*If you want to love your life and experience good days, don’t speak evil.*” What does this mean as you follow Jesus day by day?
  - Is the inheritance we have in Jesus totally future?
  - How do we hold together a great and glorious eternity with a present that may be marked by suffering and trouble?
  - How does the certainty of your heavenly inheritance help you through times of loss and struggle?
- In 1:6-9 Peter describes some of the fruit that is born in our lives through times of trial.
  - What grows in the life of a follower of Jesus through times of struggle, crisis, loss, trials?
  - Peter says that our trials bring “*praise, glory and honor*” to Jesus. How have you seen this?
- What is the connection between knowing the blessings of 1:3-5 and having joy in trials in 1:6-9?
- Pastor Mike used the painting **The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Sepulchre on the Morning of the Resurrection** by Eugène Burnand, to point us to the tension of approaching the empty tomb and the resurrected Jesus.
  - Describe how you see the picture?  
What do you feel?  
What emotions comes to your mind?
- This passage, indeed, all of 1 Peter, is about having a **living hope**.
  - What does this “hope” mean for you?
  - What & who is your hope in? Why?
  - Is it living? How is this shown?
- In a larger sense (and beyond the scope of this passage), believers in every generation have experienced different advantages/disadvantages to their place in God’s timetable.
  - For example, the Israelites during Moses time got to see the power of God pour out in the plagues and the parting of the Red Sea.
  - The disciples got to see Jesus feed the 5,000 and calm the raging sea.
  - Eventually one day, those living at the time of the return of Christ to the earth will get to see Jesus return from the perspective of those on the earth, a sight believers have longed to see since the ascension of Christ in Acts 1.
  - Think about all the blessings we have because we get to live today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, at this point in God’s timetable with humans.



## Praying For One Another

Pray that each one in your group and in your circle would know this living hope.

## This Week

- Read Psalm 34 and see the similar themes to 1 Peter.