

THIS LIVING HOPE

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His great mercy has caused us
to be born again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"*

1 Peter 1:3

The magnitude of those words can get lost on us if we're not careful. The transaction that took place on our behalf is jaw dropping, really. We were destitute, needy beyond our own abilities, but God did the work of giving us new life in His abundant mercy. Mercy is an *"outward manifestation of pity which assumes a need on the part of the one who receives it, and has adequate resources to meet that need."* - Dr. Troy Welch

Aren't you grateful that the mercy of God is big enough, and that He has all the resources needed to save us? Not only save us, but we, who have accepted Christ, have been born again to a living hope! We don't have to ever live in a hopeless state, because praise God, with Him there is always hope! And in Christ, we are born again to a living hope.

Turn to the book of 1 Peter and read 1 Peter 1:3-5

These verses begin with "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ". The Greek word here for blessed is, "eulogetos" - you may recognize it as the word we get eulogize from. This is a compound of two Greek words: *eu* - *well*, and, *logos* - *word*. It means *to speak well in praise of someone in a celebration*. The way it is written means that

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 4

"we should speak worthy words of praise and celebration to God, that is, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." - Dr. Troy Welch

Do you have any worthy words of celebration to speak of your God today? **Take a sweet second to write down a few:**

Does praising Him come easy? Or is it hard to praise Him? Sometimes our circumstances loom bigger than our knowledge of God, and finding things to praise Him about may seem hard since life is such a mess, but when we truly get to know Him, and learn to trust Him with our situations, praise becomes easier as we begin to recognize His hand on us in the situation.

There's also a difference between praising Him and being thankful, although we often mix the two as we talk to Him. The difference is the focus:

Praise speaks about who He is,

Thankfulness is about what He has done.

Often as we praise Him, thankfulness follows. When we are using "worthy words of celebration" it's usually associated with an experience we've had with Him, we recognize He has an attribute because of an interaction we've had, such as, we praise Him for being a God of love, and we thank Him for showing that love to us. Even in verse 3 we could end up doing both since it declares God to be merciful (speaks of His character), and, He "caused us to be born again to a living hope" (something He did for us), True living begins with recognizing who God is, and having a grateful heart. If you are lacking joy in your life,

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 4

start making a habit to praise Him for who He is, and thanking Him for what He's done, and see if life doesn't look different.

Let's talk about this "living hope." **Look up the following verses and write what you find out about hope:**

Psalm 39:5-7

Romans 5:1-5

Romans 15:13

Galatians 5:5

1 Thessalonians 5:8-10

The word "living" (zosan) is a present tense, meaning, it's a continuous action - we keep on living, being, in a state of HOPE.

The word for "hope" (elpida) is a place of confident expectation. Based on what God the Father, in His great mercy, did for us by sending His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have been born again, and in that process we were sealed in Christ by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, so, we can KNOW without a doubt that one day we will live in the full glory of His presence.

While the emphasis is on that future hope, we live today trusting in the day that is coming.

Have you noticed that when we trust God that there's an underlying peace and joy?

Share a way you have experienced that in a situation:

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 4

Our living should reflect the truth of one who knows that because she is in Christ, she will one day be standing in the presence of God, fully accepted and blameless, completely loved, able to experience His joy to the full, forever! Heaven is a real thing. You and God, for eternity. No more pain, no more suffering. That is what Peter wanted these believers to know. They may be enduring suffering for a time, but they can LIVE in the HOPE that is coming.

Think about a current situation in your life. Write how you think things would change if you were living in the hope of His coming?

Turn back to 1 Peter 1:4-5 and let's look at what that hope is based on.

The promises in these verses are just too good! When we place our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we are placed into Him, and instantly become fellow heirs. Heirs of eternal life, heirs to all the blessings of belonging to God.

Write what it says about our "inheritance" -

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 4

- This inheritance is one that is imperishable, it will never decay. Everything decays, right? Not the inheritance that is coming to us. It's not being diluted one bit by the time that is going by, or anything that you do, or don't do. It's imperishable.
- It's undefiled, meaning it's free from contamination. Yes, that means there is no sin that is part of it, It was based on the sinless sacrifice of Christ who removed every last one of yours, and there will be no sin in it, when you inherit it.
- This inheritance will not fade away. It's not like an earthly inheritance that may get spent before it's received. According to Dr. Welch, *"The word 'amaranton' is used of a flower that does not die or a fire that cannot be put out."* Your inheritance is not going anywhere, God won't let it.
- It's reserved in heaven for you, it's being guarded for you. Better than Fort Knox, everything in heaven is secure!
- You are protected by the power of God. That power, "dunamei" is the same power that rose Jesus from the grave. There's no higher or greater power than God's and He has set guard over your eternity with Him.
- Your salvation will be revealed in the last time. It's coming! One day you will stand before the God who created you and be saved from this earthly life of sin.

Thrilling isn't it? That is how we have the hope we have. It's a living, continuous hope because God is faithful to keep His promises. Through faith we receive an inheritance that is being reserved and guarded by God Himself! His power is unmatched. If He says our salvation is reserved for us, you can count on it being there at the end. We can have a confident expectation that God will keep His word. We have a hope, let's live in it!

1 Peter - Week 1, Day 4

Review:

- Text: 1 Peter 1:3-5
- Blessed - Worthy words of celebration and praise
- Praise & Thanksgiving - Who He is, and What He does
- Living Hope (1 Peter 1:3, Psalm 39:5-7; Romans 5:1-5, 15:13; Galatians 5:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10)
- Our Inheritance - Imperishable, undefiled, won't fade away, reserved, protected (1 Peter 1:4-5)