

Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-9

Peter writes to Christians who were suffering persecution in Asia Minor who were experiencing the persecutions and negative pressures that came from living in secular and pagan societies. Sound familiar? We aren't the first group of believers to face this sort of trouble. Peter's words were meant to encourage them in their troubles. The Holy Spirit, who breathes life into us through all scripture, speaks through this passage to us, here, and now.

1. **The wheels have come off the bus** - We find ourselves now living at the end of the first and only country on the planet rooted in Christian principles. All throughout our lives we've enjoyed the fruits of this one-of-a-kind nation. Now, we're the first generation in history to experience the death of such a society.
 - **1 Peter 1:6**: "though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials."
 - If this country was our inheritance, then maybe we'd have no reason to hope. **BUT**, here's the reality: It's not our country, and we don't have our true inheritance now; **1 Peter 1:4** "...an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."
2. **What now? – Living In HOPE.** **1 Peter 1:3** says "He (God) has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you"
 - a. "living" = This suggests that this hope is ever-present, alive, lively, continual, enduring.
 - b. "hope" = Greek, "*elpis*", = "to anticipate, usually with pleasure, or confidence." It's desiring something good and expecting confidently to get it.
 - c. **Hebrews 6:11** says "*We desire each one of you to show the same earnestness in realizing the full assurance of hope to the end.*"
3. **The Command: Peter tells us we have a LIVING hope.** But it's more that something that simply exists, we have to live in it. Paul commands us to **live in it through rejoicing.**
 - a. **Romans 12:12** says: *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*
 - We must *consciously decide* to obey the Lord's Commands. We won't just slip and fall into obedience by accident, **and we won't stumble into living hope by accident.**
 - When we don't believe what God says is true, we have no reason to hope.
 - b. **Ps. 62:5-7**; In the Psalms, King **David tells himself what to do.** "For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, *for my hope is from him.* He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God."
 - c. **Philippians 1:6-7**: "**do not be anxious** about anything, **but** in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, **will guard** your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
4. **Application: Live on that Rock. Abide in Christ where the future is promised and secure.**
 - a. **GET THE SHIELD UP: BE THANKFUL**
 - b. **DON'T COMPLAIN** - God forbids complaining not only because it demonstrated a lack of faith and trust, but because it drags ourselves and others down and is hard to uproot.
 - c. **SPEAK THE LIVING HOPE OUT LOUD** - Telling yourself the reasons for our living hope OUT LOUD will lock it in.
5. **Final encouragement: Prov 23:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17–18, John 16:33, Revelation 21:1-6, 1: Peter 1:13:**
"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."