

A LIVING HOPE

Introduction – Having hope is essential for everyone. The absence of hope is the presence of despair. False hope only postpones disappointment. We use the word “hope” interchangeably with “wish.” The Greek word translated “hope” comes from two words meaning “confident expectation.”

A. We need to praise God for giving us a living hope. 1 Peter 1:3-5

1. The hymns and prayers of the Jews began with “Blessed are you, O God.”
2. We experience God’s mercy by being reborn through the Word of God (James 1:18) and the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3).
3. Our hope is not only a written promise by God, but Jesus’ resurrection makes it a living hope.
4. God’s inheritance for Israel was the land of Canaan. 2 Peter 3:13
5. Most things people put their hope in will perish, spoil, or fade.
6. The Bible presents this world as a battleground between good and evil, not a paradise. Our only shield is our faith.
7. The Greek word for “salvation” is many faceted. It includes deliverance from our enemies, sickness, sin, and judgment.
8. We are saved now based on our faith, but the fullness of salvation is yet to be revealed to those who are faithful.

B. We rejoice even through suffering and trials because of Jesus. 1 Peter 1:6-9

1. We greatly rejoice in our living hope.
2. God does not promise to save us from suffering and trials, but to use them to refine our faith.
3. This suffering is for only a little increment of time, compared to our promised eternity with God.
4. Like gold we must be refined by fire so our faith will pass the tests, proving to be genuine.
5. When Jesus comes back our triumphal suffering will result in praise, honor, and glory for us.

6. Our faith results in us being filled with inexpressible and glorious joy.

Conclusion – We have the only real hope for humanity. We must not forget to praise Him for such a glorious living hope.

1 Peter 2:9-10