

# live in hope with joy

Many are experiencing discouragement, despair, and depression today. Thankfully, the Bible is full of hope! In the book of 1 Peter we learn that the reason why we can have hope is because of our resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ. This biblical HOPE is a certainty and not wishful thinking. In tough times, it is possible to live in hope with joy. Let's find out in the letter written by Peter to a people facing persecution, hopelessness, and calamities despite their faith in the Lord.

## who were the recipients of this letter? (1 Peter 1:1-3)

Peter wrote the letter to **believers** whom he described as “**aliens**” - scattered in a land that was not theirs. They were dispersed out of their own land either by necessity or by brute force of persecution, but they brought with them the news of Christ's work on the cross to provide salvation for people. Peter also called them “**chosen**” which means “of high importance — valued and considered precious”. Believers are set apart by the Triune God: God the Father, whose foreknowledge has determined His choosing of us despite our flaws and natural tendencies; the Holy Spirit who sanctifies, purifies, and prompts us to respond to the love of God; and Jesus Christ, in whom, having been sprinkled with His blood, we now show reverence and obedience to. Peter also describes the believers as “**born again to a living hope**”. It is not a religion but a foundational definition of being renewed and redeemed by God. We are born again — reintroduced and given new nature to a living hope!

## what is living hope? (1 Peter 1:4-5)

Through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we who believe are given a promise of an eternal, living hope. The inheritance promised to us in being born again is “imperishable, undefiled”, and “will not fade away”. Many people put their hope on riches, material gains, temporal successes, but nothing is permanent in this world. If we place our hope on these temporal things, we will be disappointed. Our living hope and promise of great inheritance is “reserved”, “protected” and will be fully manifested when we meet Jesus again.

1 Corinthians 2:9 gives us a picture of what we hope for in Christ — no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and beyond our greatest imagination. That is why it is important to know God through His Word and discover His heart for us!

### this week's memory verse

but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

1 PETER 1:15-16



LIVE IN HOPE  
WITH JOY

## who were the recipients of this letter? (1 Peter 1:1-3)

After knowing this great promise of living hope, Peter gives believers encouragement to greatly rejoice in trials. Peter gives this us perspective: all the trials and testing are just “for a little while”! Trials are also purposeful. It is not given just for the sake of suffering. It is to test the authenticity of our faith. Like gold being refined by fire, our faith is made stronger in the various challenges we face. Every time we are distressed and have problems, we must make it a habit to greatly rejoice and recalibrate our mind with the truth of our living hope. JESUS is coming again and one day we will meet Him and experience the promised inheritance.

God wants us to believe by FAITH, and by believing abound in HOPE (Romans 15:13). Our hope is anchored on this amazing truth: CHRIST in us, the HOPE OF GLORY (Colossians 1:17). Having this perspective will enable us to see our current woes and challenges as mere, temporal struggles that are no match to the sustenance of joy and peace which can only be found in Christ. We therefore will live in hope with JOY because of these promises!

### discussion questions

What’s the difference between biblical hope and secular hope?


How do you develop living hope?


How should living hope impact your life?


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