

in tough times, living hope transforms

Our living hope gives us reason to rejoice even in tough times because it is anchored in Jesus Christ, the Living Savior. It is this same living hope that empowers us to persevere and compels us to act and live transformed lives. In 1 Peter 1:13-26, the apostle Peter tells us how our LIVING HOPE transforms.

fix our hope completely by thinking clearly (1 Peter 1:13)

To fix our hope completely in God is to “prepare our minds” for the challenges we will face by clearing it of anything that goes against God’s commandments. We are to be “sober in spirit”. The Christian life requires us to think clearly. Proverbs 23:7 says, “as man thinks within himself, so he is”. Right thinking will produce the right kind of emotions leading to right actions. Right thinking enables us not to copy the values of the world and empowers us to pursue the things that glorify God.

be holy (1 Peter 1:14-16)

To be holy is to be set apart from the world (Romans 12:2). Being holy is a life that is completely devoted to the Lord. We obey and please Him out of love and reverence of who He is. God Himself gives us the power to live this way through the Holy Spirit. God has made us holy “positionally” (ex. 1 Corinthians 1:2) through the finished work of Christ which gave us the forgiveness of our sins. But the holiness pertained to in 1 Peter 1:16 has to do with “progressive” holiness (ex. Hebrews 12:14). It is practical holiness required of us in our daily lives – in our thoughts, words, actions, decisions, how we respond to circumstances and relate with others. To be holy is to be more and more like Christ.

acknowledge God as judge (1 Peter 1:14-16)

We will all stand before God’s judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, we live a transformed life not only because of hope and grace, but also because of the coming judgment of the Holy Judge. We know that whatever we do for Jesus will be rewarded. He is not unjust to forget the work we do for Him (Hebrews 6:10).

this week's memory verse

But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

1 PETER 2:19

**live
in
hope**

IN TOUGH TIMES,
LIVING HOPE
TRANSFORMS

live a life pleasing to Him **(1 Peter 1:18-21)**

We are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, so we are to live a life pleasing to Him! Since our salvation is all anchored in Jesus, established, and foreknown before the foundation of the world, our faith and hope are in God. Transformation is the work of God in our lives, but we must cooperate with Him. We must continue to study His Word to know His desires for us!

grow in love through His word **(1 Peter 1:22-26)**

We are to fervently love one another because of our living hope and the certainty of Jesus' coming. Fervent love means we think of others' needs and how we can help provide for those needs. The reason for this is because we have been born again to a solid relationship with Jesus! Our transformed nature ought to dictate our appetite and how we live. We progressively show changes in our lives because of the power of the enduring Word of God (Matthew 24:35).

Our living hope transforms. What does it look like in action? 1 Peter 2:1-3 says: we put away all "malice, deceit, hypocrisy, and envy" (sins of the heart and the tongue) and "long for the pure milk of the word" which helps us to grow "in respect to salvation". As children of God let us be transformed as we abide by God's Word and the LIVING WORD, Christ Jesus!

discussion questions

Why is right thinking important when it comes to the Christian life?

What does it mean to be holy?


What do you need to do or not to do in order to live a life that is pleasing to God?


Why is it important to know that God is also our judge?


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