



THRIVE

DATE: April 17, 2020 1 Peter 1:3-7 Living Hope

Introduction

What has been your go-to quarantine meal? Do you recommend it?

Head: *What is the passage saying?*

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.

1. Summary of last week from “new birth” (verse 3):

Describe what God is doing in verses 3-5, that Peter begins with words of praise?

What is the meaning of “new birth” in verse 3? (Here are some verses that help give us an understanding about new birth: John 3:3-8, John 1:12-13, 1 John 5:1, 1 Peter 1:23-25)

This week: how can “living hope” (verse 3) be seen in:

Creation, Fall, & Resurrection: (*“The resurrection is not a happy ending after a sad crucifixion, but as a bright beginning—the start of something new.”* - N.T. Wright)

2. What makes this “hope” different than when we often talk about “hope”? (For example, I hope everyone stays safe during the coronavirus.)

3. What is the connection of the signs of life between “new birth” and “living hope” and “resurrection”? How is hope different for “born again” and not “born again”?

4. Read Romans 8:22-25. How might these verses guide us for living in the meantime when things are not right, and the world is not as it should be?

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Heart: How does this passage influence my inner being?

The Bible reveals hardships will come: For example, JOB: *"Man is born for trouble as the sparks fly upward."* (Job 5:7) MOSES: *"The length of our days is 70 years or 80 if we have strength, yet their span is but trouble and sorrow."* (Ps. 90) JESUS: *"In this world you will have trouble."* (Jn. 16:33) PETER: *"Don't be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you."* (4:12)

1. How does this "living hope" affect you in times of sorrow and hardship? What about times of joy?
2. How does this "living hope" affect your longings and desires? How might you practically see "living hope" differently, through the eyes of the "resurrection" and "new creation"?

Hands: How do I practically live this out? Here are some practical ideas for this week. Or, you may have another idea that helps you practically live out what you are hearing from God. Share a practical, intentional step that can help you put into practice about what God is teaching you.

1. **Journal:** Perhaps you are in a situation of hardship, journal about your living hope. Be real about your circumstances, but also be open to hearing from God about the living hope revealed in this Bible passage.
2. **Help:** Take an action step to meet a practical need for someone this week. Live from the gratitude for all that God has done for you in Jesus, and lend a helping hand to meet a practical need.

Bible Study: Take some time this week to do a word study of "hope" in the New Testament. Begin with the [five times it appears in 1st Peter](#), and then expand your search (there's about 75 references!).

Pray for Others 1: Commit to praying for a specific person(s) who has not experienced "new birth" and "living hope" found in Jesus.

Pray for Others 2: Confident in your experience of "living hope", visit the [Elmbrook Prayer Wall](#) and pray for shared prayer requests. Or, call someone this week and pray for them.



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