

Living Hope

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (I Peter 1:3-9)

First Lesson: It is Jesus' resurrection from the dead that gives us hope.

- A. God the Father and the Son Jesus had mercy on us
- B. Our living hope is not just forgiveness but new life

Second Lesson: Our hope also brings a heavenly inheritance

- A. It is imperishable
- B. It is already in heaven

Third Lesson: Faith is our way to receive hope

- A. God gives us His power to sustain us
- B. Salvation is both now and some day

Fourth Lesson: It is this hope that helps us go through bad times

- A. Rejoicing can happen in the middle of trials
- B. Rejoicing doesn't take away grief

Fifth Lesson: Trials help us

- A. They prove our faith
- B. They help us worship God
- C. They are not wasted

Sixth Lesson: Hope means loving and trusting God even though He is not seen

- A. Love and belief are essential and relational
- B. Love and belief are elements of faith
- C. This is what it means to be saved