



Live in Hope April 19, 2020

(1 Peter 1:3-9)

³Praise 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though 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, ⁹for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1. Some people say these are the most comforting words in the whole Bible. What words have you found comforting lately?
2. Peter says God gave us a “new birth” when he put faith in our lives. What are some similarities between a new birth and the beginning of someone's faith-life?
3. What are a few different ways people use the word “hope”? What does it mean in the context of 1 Peter 1?

4. Agree or disagree: A Christian's hope is all about the future.
5. What things can you think of that “never perish” (v. 4)? How could you use that as a way to explain our inheritance?
6. Sin spoils good things. What would it be like to live with you if all of your personal characteristics were unspoiled by sin?
7. There is no shortage of danger and evil in the world. What examples can you think of where God is shielding his people?
8. This verse compares your faith to gold. Complete the analogy: Just as gold (fill in the blank) so also my faith (fill in the blank) .
9. All of this new birth comes to us “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” Pick one of the reasons for rejoicing, and say how Jesus' resurrection guarantees it.
10. If somebody asked you this afternoon, “what is your hope?” what would you say?