

LIVING HOPE

...When You're Discouraged

JUNE 16 & 17, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

What is "hope"?

- Hope is the confident assurance that _____ is yet to come!
- Hope is essential for survival

Lasting hope is...

- Not _____
- Not _____
- Lasting hope is the result of a deeply held _____

4 elements of a hopeful worldview from First Peter 1

1. I have _____

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to God's **elect**, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of **Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia**, who have been **chosen** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood. Grace and peace be yours. *1 Peter 1:1–2 NV*

2. I have _____

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. *1 Peter 1:3 NV*

3. I have _____

God has reserved for his children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, **beyond the reach of change and decay**. *1 Peter 1:4 LB*

...an **inheritance** that can **never perish, spoil or fade**. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you. *1 Peter 1:4 NV*

4. I have _____

God the **Father** knew you and chose you long ago... *1 Peter 1:2 NLT*

Blessed be the God and **Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy **became our father again** to a living hope. *1 Peter 1:3 WEB*

God has reserved **for his children** the priceless gift of eternal life...
1 Peter 1:4a LB

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. *1 Peter 1:6 NIV (See verses 7-9)*

Your faith... is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold--though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. *1 Peter 1:7 NLT*

Daily Meditations

Monday

Look back over the outline and the verses from the weekend message. What one point stood out for you?

What truth that you learned will give you hope when you're discouraged?

Thank God today that in Him you can have hope when you're discouraged. Pray that you will bring that hope to those you encounter today.

Tuesday

Please read 1 Peter 1:1-3. How does knowing that God has chosen you to be part of His family help when you're discouraged?

What is God saying in these verses to you?

How will you live like a chosen child of God today?

How have you seen God's unconditional love in your life?

Thank God today for choosing and for His unconditional love for you. Ask Him to remind you of the truth of His love today.

Wednesday

Please read Psalm 63:7-8, Philippians 1:6 & 1 Peter 1:1-2 & 6-7. How do these verses reinforce the truth that God is working in your life?

How does knowing God is at work in your life help you face discouraging times?

What does 1 Peter 1:6-7 teach you about the purpose of hard times? How can you apply this to your life?

Thank God for His all-powerful and unfailing help. Give Him the problems you are facing and ask Him for strength to trust and endure.

Thursday

Please read Proverbs 23:17, Jeremiah 29:11 & 1 Peter 1:4-5. What promises about your future do you find in these verses?

How does this encourage you today?

In 1 Peter 1:4-5 God promises that He will keep your salvation secure. How does that help you face discouragement?

Thank God today for the eternal security he gives you. Commit your fears about the future to Him and rest in His care and control.

Friday

Please reread 1 Peter 1:1-12. Which of these verses has meant the most to you this week and why?

How will you face discouragement differently because of what you learned this week?

Who has God placed in your life that you can encourage with what you've learned?

Ask God for an opportunity to share the encouragement you've received from His Word with someone else. Thank God that He is with you each step of your life. Commit to handling discouragement differently because of what you've learned this week.

Saturday

Please read back over your notes again and ask the Lord to help you apply these principles to your life. Please be sure you have this week's verse memorized.

Please pray that God will continue to use this study in 1 Peter to grow and encourage you. Please pray for the service this weekend, that God will be honored and use our church to reach our community.



Memory Verse

"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 – kept in heaven for you."

1 Peter 1:3b-4