

LIVING
HOPE

THE MESSAGE OF 1 PETER

WHY FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CAN PRAISE GOD:

1. because followers of Jesus have a living hope (1:3-5)
2. because followers of Jesus have a faith that is refined in trials (1:6-9)
3. because followers of Jesus see the revelation of salvation (1:10-12)

WHY WAS HOPE IMPORTANT TO THESE PEOPLE?

- **ISOLATION**: viewed with great suspicion
- **EXCLUSION**: lifestyle was different, wouldn't participate in idol worship
- **PERSECUTION**: blamed for problems in society

WHY DOES THIS LIVING HOPE BRING ENCOURAGEMENT?

The “inheritance” is described as something that:

- death can't destroy it (incorruptible) - ***CAN NEVER PERISH***
- evil cannot pollute it (undefiled) - ***CAN NEVER SPOIL***
- time can't diminish its value - ***CAN NEVER FADE***

“THIS INHERITANCE IS KEPT IN HEAVEN FOR YOU” 1 Peter 1:4

- The word translated “kept” is a military word that means “guarded, shielded”, used to describe the soldiers guarding a city.
- The tense of the verb reveals that we are *constantly being guarded* by God, assuring us that we shall safely arrive in heaven.
- Indicates something in progress, *a continuous process of protection*. Literally, who continue to be guarded.

SO WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Not yet a follower of Jesus?

Invite him into that God shaped hole in your life

*The word “grace” is used in every chapter of 1 Peter:
1:2, 10, 13; 2:19 3:7; 4:10; 5:5, 10, 12.*

Grace is God’s generous favour to those who don’t deserve it.

“Dear God, I'm sorry for the wrong things I have done I my life. Please forgive me, I now turn away from everything I know is wrong Thank you that Jesus is the Saviour of the world who died on the cross for me. I'm asking you to bring your forgiveness, your love, your power to transform me. Come into my life by your Holy Spirit to give me new life, new birth and to be with me forever. Help me to follow Jesus in all that I do. Thank you”

ALREADY A FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

Reaffirm your dependence on Gods grace:

“I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it”

(1 Peter 5:12, NIV).

TALK IT OUT:
QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION TUESDAY 14TH JULY 2020

1. As the book was written to numerous churches scattered across a wide geographic area, what does Peter model for us about the importance of unity and love across all Bible- believing churches?
2. What does it mean practically to be citizens of the Kingdom of God while we are residents of a nation?
3. Peter brought the gospel to the people he writes to. Who brought the gospel to you?
4. How did God cause you to be born again?
5. How does the fire of trial purify the quality of our faith and inheritance like the smelter process does gold?
6. How does knowing that our life only improves after this life ends change our view of struggles, suffering, and sadness in this life?
7. Describe a time when you have gone to Scripture for comfort in the middle of a trial and found peace in God?