

We are trying to answer four questions with regards to our Living Hope.

1. What is the **Basis** of your Living Hope?
2. What is the **Future Experience** of your Living Hope?
3. What is the **Present Experience** of your Living Hope?
4. **Who** are we and **Why** have we been given this Living Hope?

What the basis?

- Because of the Mercy of God
- We are able to be born again
- Through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2nd question

What is the future experience of your Living Hope?

The answer is given in verse 4 and then verse 7.

1 Peter 1:3-4 ³ 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 here it is ...

⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you ...

That is what is coming.

- That is what is waiting for you in the future as a follower of Jesus.
- If you have been born again.
- And inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.
- Kept in heaven for you.

So, here is **Our-Space** → Earth.

- Filled with sin, sinfulness, trouble, difficulty.
- Sickness, weakness ...

Then there is **God's Space**

- That can never perish, spoil or fade ...
- Kept in heaven for you.

- Thin **invincible curtain** between the two.

And to be born again through the resurrection because of God's mercy ...

- Is to have this inheritance SECURED for you in the future.

He gives three descriptions of this future inheritance.

- He says, it will never perish, spoil or fade.

All three these words say one thing.

- You hope in the future is STEAD-FAST!

Let's unpack those three words briefly.

It will Never Perish

- The Greek word there is **Imperishable**.
- Your Living Hope in the future is incorruptible & immortal.
- It cannot be destroyed, ruined, corrupted or spoiled.

He is saying ...

- Have no fear, your inheritance will never disappear.
- Although you cannot see it now, "completely."
- It is out there, it is waiting and it will not fail you.
- For it is imperishable and indestructible.

1 Corinthians 15:51–52 ⁵¹ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

It will Never Spoil

The Greek word there is **Undefiled**.

- There will be no sinfulness, depravity or irreverence in it.
- No defect, no aching pains ...
- There would be absolutely nothing that could jeopardize its greatness.

Revelation 21:3–5 ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. ^[The two worlds have merged.] **They will** be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

It will be UNDEFINED!!

- Free from every sin, stain, blemish, pollution or ruin.

And it is waiting for you if you are a disciple of Jesus.

I will Never Fade

- The Greek word there is **Unfading**.

It is as if he is saying ...

- Have no fear, your inheritance, the Living Hope of the Future ...
- Will never get LESS glorious.
- For it is and will always be unfading.

If anything, it will get brighter and brighter ...

- As our eyes are capable of seeing more and more.

So, it will never disappear, it will be without defect.

- And it will never get less glorious.

And not only will it be glorious, but Paul says that ...

Philippians 3:20–21 ²⁰ ... our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

So, not only will it be glorious, but we will be glorious.

- And all of this is KEPT in heaven for you.

Back to 1 Peter

1 Peter 1:6–7 ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice ...

"This" being everything that he has said so far ...

- That through God's Great Mercy ...
- You have been given New Birth ...
- Through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead ...
- Into a Living Hope

- And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

1 Peter 1:6–7⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Therefore, even though you are going through a time of trial and difficulty.

- You can still rejoice.

⁷ These have come [the trials and difficulty] 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.

These have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold ...

- May be proven genuine.

Suffering, challenges & difficulty.

- All test our faith to reveals who we really are.

It will show whether our faith is ...

1. Fake, shallow and flimsy.
2. OR genuine, deeply rooted and secure.

And when your faith is proven to be genuine, deeply rooted and secure

- It will result in [praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed](#).
- When these two worlds are merged.

Now, here is freaky question?

- Is that praise, glory and honour ...
- Your praise? Meaning, you will be praised ...
- You will be glorified and you will be honored?

Or will it be Jesus praise?

- He is being praised, his is being glorified and he is being honoured?

I have always viewed it as ...

- He will be praised, he will be glorified and he will be honoured.

Sh-oe, us being praised, glorified & honored sounds very man centered.

- It almost sounds blasphemous.

But, if we follow the train of thought, that seems to be what he is saying.

The context of these two verses is that a comparison is made ...

- Between gold and your faith.

How is gold refined? Through FIRE!

- How is our faith refined? Through FIRE!

What is the purpose of the Fire?

- Refinement. For a purer ^[or spotless] metal to come out on the others side.
- And you look at that metal and say, WOW!

So, in that context, if our faith is refined in the fire of trial

- And proved to be genuine.
- There will be a WOW!

There will be praise, glory and honour to you.

- Heaven will praise you, glorify and honour you.

Peter is using similar terms to Matthew 25

- In the parable of the talents, where the master said ...
- To the servant who has proven himself to be faithful.

Matthew 25:23 ²³ 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Paul said the same thing in 1 Corinthians 4:5 when he said that on the day of Judgment " ... each will receive their praise from God." 1 Corinthians 4:5

So, what is it that you have to hope for?

- Well, there is an inheritance, that is imperishable
- Undefined and unfading ...

And as you enter it ... This sounds crazy ...

- Heaven is going to praise you, glorify you and honour you

What is the Present Experience of your Living Hope?

New Birth into a Living Hope

- Jesus **opened a door** into this world. **(no steeds invisible curtain)**

Firstly – **We are being Kept ...**

1 Peter 1:3–5³ ... In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,⁵ 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.

Your inheritance is being kept for you and you are being kept for it.

v.3-4 says, You are given a new birth into a living hope ...

- And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.
- Kept in heaven for you.

And then verse 5 says that you are kept for it.

I love how God is saying ...

- I am going to keep your inheritance for you.
- It will never perish, spoil or fade.
- And I am keeping you for it.
- So that your hope will be absolutely unshakeable.

How? How does his keep us? Through faith in his power?

- What Power?
- The power of the spirit.
- The power of his word.
- The power of his people.

I have been a Christian for 25 years ...

- And one of the things that I am most grateful for is that he has kept me.

Two – ...

⁸ Though you have not seen him, **you love him ...**

You cannot love someone you have not seen or do not know.

- There is a seeing (from the heart) that makes love possible.

Total ignorance (seeing with eyes) of a person, make love meaningless.

- If you say, I love Fred, and they say, tell me about Fred.
- And you say, I don't know Fred.
- How then can you love Fred?

Love is a response to what you know.

There is a knowing that takes place now.

- Where through the Holy Spirit you are able to see ...
- His infinite beauty and value now!

That is what it means to love him even though you have not seen him.

- That is what it means to enter the living hope now.
- Jesus has become your supreme treasure.
- You now see him as more than money, sex, career, more than fame ...
- That is what happened when your eyes opened ...
- Jesus became precious and now you love him.

Three –

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, **you believe in him ...**

We are believing, we are trusting we are resting in Christ, now.

- He himself has become our peace. (Ephesians 2:14)

Four – Joy & salvation of your souls.

⁸ 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**, ⁹ **FOR you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

For are “receiving”, not will receive, but “receiving” – present tense.

- For you are receiving the end result of your faith ...

- The salvation of your souls.

What does the rescue of our soul mean?

- You are rescued from sin here and now.
- ...

We are able to taste the life of the age to come now.

- We are able to taste the presence of God, now.
- ...

And more and more of this is coming into being ...

- As we are being transformed into his image ...
- From one degree of glory to another.

Brothers and sisters, you have a living hope ...

- Because God is great in mercy ...
- Because Jesus is raised from the dead.
- Because you have been born again ...
- Into this Living Hope ...
- An inheritance that will never fail you.
- That will never be defective in any way
- And will continue to grow in its glory as your eyes ...
- Continue to open to see.

And now in this present time you believe him, you love him ...

- You rejoice in him.
- And maybe best of all, he is keeping you.

Who are we and why have we been given this Living Hope?

1 Peter 1:1-2 ¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² 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 ...

So, who are we and why have we been given this Living Hope?

We are people who, by the mercy of God ...

- Have been chosen for a particular purpose.

Peter addresses his audience as exiles or foreigners scattered throughout ...

- The provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

Not because they have emigrated to where they now live ...

- But because they now have a **dual citizenship**.
- They are, simultaneously, inhabitants of this or that actual country ...
- And citizens of God's new world which is waiting to be unveiled.

And what is their purpose?

- They have been chosen through the sanctifying work of the Spirit ...
- To be obedient to Jesus Christ.

That is God's purpose in giving us the Living Hope.

- To set us apart from other purposes.
- So that we can be signposts to his new reality, his new world.
- That has already come into being through the life ...
- Death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.

God has set us apart to be **living signals** of this new world.

- To reflect God's desire for mankind.

And as **more and more people** move into the overlap.

- God's kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven.

Till one day on the final day, the between our world and God's world ...

- Will be drawn back.
- And God's reality will be merged with our reality.
- Transforming it and soaking it through ...
- With his presence, love and mercy.

As the prophet Habakkuk said looking into the future ...

Habakkuk 2:14 ¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.