

# HOPEFUL LIVING / Sunday School- May 5, 2013

## Unifying Topic: A LIVING HOPE

### Lesson Text

I. The Hope Of Living Again (1Peter 1:3-5)

II. The Trial Of Your Faith (1Peter 1:6-9)

III. Prophets Foretold Jesus' Suffering And The Glory What Would Follow (1Peter 1:10-12)

**The Main Thought:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1Peter 1:3, KJV).

**Unifying Principle:** Life's trials and tribulations cause us to experience hopelessness. Where can one go to find new hope and reassurance for a joyous future? Peter writes that a new birth into a living hope can be found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Lesson Aim:** To help students seek hope and assurance for living in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Life aim:** To challenge believers to bring hope to their lives and to the lives of others by experiencing a new birth and living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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- 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,  
1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.  
1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,  
1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.  
1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:  
1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:  
1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:  
1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.  
1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:  
1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.  
1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

### **HISTORY:**

**First Chapter of 1Peter**, may have been written for new Christians and for those planning to be baptized and needed Peter's encouraging words to help them face the trials. Persecution didn't quench the gospel, instead it introduced it to the whole empire. Thus the churches of Asia Minor to which Peter wrote probably included Gentile Christians as well. These letters challenged and strengthened believers to stand against persecution. The Christians needed to know what God has done for them.

**1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia**, — Simon Peter is the author and declares himself an apostle of Jesus Christ, meaning he is sent by the Lord with a mission. He is writing his first letters to the strangers scattered (Christians) throughout five Roman provinces (regions located in Asia Minor), where most of the believers had apparently tried to hide and find safety because they faced persecution from three sources: the Romans, the Jews, and their own families. They had been forced to flee for their lives.

**1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.** In his salutary address as apostle, Peter calls them "elect" who are the chosen of God. At one time, only the nation of Israel could claim to be God's elect or chosen people, but through Christ, all believers (Jews and Gentiles) belong to God. He gives a

crystal clear reflection of who they are from God's vantage point. The elected; chosen are those who obey God, and are those who experience grace and peace. They are elected; chosen by the **foreknowledge** of God the Father, **sanctified** by the Holy Spirit (*Sanctification*), and **sprinkled**, cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Notice the reference to the work of the Trinity working as one to bring about our Salvation. It takes all Three!

1. **Chosen by the Father**— God the Father chose us before we chose Him. He made the first move (Eph.1:4; 1Pt.1:1-2a).
2. **Sanctified by the Holy Spirit**—The Holy Spirit's continued work; to set man's life apart from sin and the world to God; making him holy; transforming man into Christ's image. He gives the desire; grants the understanding; convicts of sin; and brings us to Jesus. Man must respond to the Holy Spirit's conviction of his need of forgiveness and acceptance to God to bring Salvation. And this is the process of sanctification to develop Christ-like behavior (Eph.1:13; 1Pt.1:2b).
3. **Cleansed by the blood of the Son**—The Son, Jesus shed His blood cleansing us from an evil conscious when we repent. The Holy Spirit sprinkles our souls with the blood of Christ for the atonement of our sins. <sup>1</sup>Faith in the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross not only activates God's promise to give the believer perfect atonement for sin, but also brings the believer into the covenant by one's promise of obedience to the Lord and His Word (Exo.24:1-11; 1Pt.1:2c).

And "*Grace*" (God's free undeserved gift) is spoken over them to bless them; and "*Peace*" (God's gift of a quiet heart) to be multiplied in their lives in Peter's greeting. No one can have true peace without grace.

<sup>2</sup>He foreknew, from the foundation of the earth, what decision you and I would make pertaining to salvation. And because God chooses the very best way for those who believe and trust in Him, He works all things out for the good of them that love Him and are the called according to His purpose.

#### NOTE:

The whole plan to elect the church to salvation was part of God's plan "*from the foundation of the world*" as Ephesians 1:4 points out. Our salvation through Christ was not an afterthought or an emergency plan according to New Testament writers. It was part of God's foreknowledge.

The only way a person can turn and be acceptable to God is by the working of the Holy Spirit. The person must respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit when the Holy Spirit draws and convicts them: he must be sanctified, set apart unto God to live a holy, righteous, and pure life (*the process of Sanctification*).

Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for us. He has stepped forth and offered His life as a substitute and sacrifice for us. He has borne the judgment and condemnation of our transgression because He is the Son of God and He lived a perfect and sinless life when He was upon earth. His blood, shed, was the perfect and ideal sacrifice for transgressions. The blood symbolizes cleansing from sin, obedience to God, and the setting apart of the believer unto God.

#### LESSON:

### 1Peter 1:3-5 The Hope Of Living Again

**1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,** — The word "*blessed*" (Gr eulogēios) is the word from which we get "*eulogy*", and means "*to be well spoken of*" or "*to be praised*." Peter is expressing that God should be praised by all believers everywhere; if for no other reason they should praise Him, praise Him for being born again; praise Him for being their living hope; praise Him for being raised from the dead. Because of the new birth we have "*a lively hope*" which should probably be understood as our hope in the resurrection. Because Christ was raised from the dead, it is our confident expectation also! Peter brings to their remembrance of the living hope they have of Eternal Life because they have been born again; born into a different family because it was...

1. by the mercy of God.
2. by the new birth.
3. by the resurrection of Christ.

By talking about who God is and what He has done for them he places God first! And when God comes first, His people instinctively praise His name. <sup>3</sup>Here's another way to look at it:

**Theme**—Blessed be God who has done great things for us! v.3     **Source**—God's Mercy v.3     **Means**—New Birth v.3

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bible-studys.org/Bible%20Books/1%20Peter/1%20Peter%20Chapter%201.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/1peter/01.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2004-08-08-God-Guarantees-Our-Salvation/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

**Evidence**—Living Hope v.3      **Guarantee**—Resurrection of Christ v.3      **Goal**—Inheritance in Heaven v.4  
**Assurance**—Kept by God's Power v.5      **Result**—Salvation Ready to be Revealed v.5      **Praise God!**

**1:4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, —**<sup>4</sup>An inheritance is what becomes yours by law after the death of the present owner. In the Old Testament, the inheritance often refers to the country of Canaan. In the New Testament, inheritance means all that people receive from God as His children, because of what Jesus has done for them. This includes Eternal Life now (Jh.5:24) and a new body when Jesus comes again (1Cor.15:35-44). It is an inheritance of the hope that is incorruptible (*cannot perish*), undefiled (*cannot be diluted*), does not fade away (*lasts forever*), and is reserved in heaven. The assurances of this hope, again, Eternal Life; kept by God's power (the Holy Spirit) and guarded by our faith (assurance) in the Lord Jesus Christ which is continuous and constant.

**1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.** "*Who are kept*" refers to those whom the inheritance is reserved in heaven. It is clear that everything for our salvation has been done by God and that we are the beneficiaries. While our full and final salvation has already been prepared for us by God, it will not be revealed until "*the last time.*" How, then, do we get from point A to point B? How do we make it from past experience of new birth to future possession of full inheritance? Is it all up to God? Or does it all depend on us? Or is it a cooperative effort between God and us? Peter answers this question at the beginning of v 5, declaring that it is "*by the power of God [that we are] being kept through faith unto salvation.*" <sup>5</sup>If it were left to the will of man; to the strength of his own resolutions; to his power to meet temptations, and to any probability that he would of himself continue to walk in the path of life, there would be no certainty that anyone would be saved. We must have faith to receive this great inheritance that God has for us in heaven. As long as we have faith in God, and in His promises, we are safe. When that fails, we are weak.

## **1Peter 1:6-9 The Trial Of Your Faith**

**1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: —**<sup>6</sup>We know that joy and happiness are two different things. Happiness depends on circumstances, and comes and goes depending on the emotions of the moment. But joy is deeper and more profound because it comes from God. When we are satisfied with God, we will have joy even in the hardest moments of life. Joy is the ability to face reality—the good and bad, the happy and the sad, the positive and the negative, the best and the worst—because we are satisfied with God. Life is full of trials and temptations.

1. Troubles do not last; only for a season (a little while).
2. Trouble serve a purpose (if need be).
3. Trouble comes in various forms (bringing heaviness).
4. Trouble should not diminish the Christian joy (greatly rejoice).

**1:7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:—** Peter mentions trials several times in this letter. These trials come from the response of an unbelieving world to people of faith. There are two reasons why the believer's faith is tried and tempted.

1. The believer's faith must be tried to strengthen and show that their faith is genuine. Just as gold goes through the fire when it is subjected to the flame, the impurities and dross in the gold comes to the top. The result is for purer gold than that which was present before. *Job 23:10 " . . . when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."* We are much more precious than gold. Gold perishes when the earth is destroyed, but not believers. Believers are to live forever. Therefore, if gold has to be put to the fire to be made clean and pure, how much more do we—going through trial? There are no accidents for the children of God. Everything happens for a reason.
2. The believer's faith is tried in order to show forth the praise, honor, and glory of Jesus Christ and of the believer. In that glorious day when Christ returns, the world of (all) unbelievers will see once for all that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God and that their faith in Him is real. Christ and His followers will be vindicated. Christ and all believers shall be exalted in honor and glory of all the worlds and of all the dimensions of beings. And all unbelievers shall witness this glorious event.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/1peter-lbw.htm>

<sup>5</sup> [http://bible.cc/1\\_peter/1-5.htm](http://bible.cc/1_peter/1-5.htm)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2004-08-15-God-Must-Be-Praised-in-Fiery-Trials/>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

God watches over us very carefully, like a divine goldsmith; allowing the fires of suffering to refine us until He can see the character of Jesus Christ more and more clearly reflected in our lives. Those who suffered so much in this life, those who endured ridicule, hatred and martyrdom are revealed and rewarded for their faithfulness. And those who suffered illness with joy, who lost their possessions but not their faith, who walked a hard road on the earth but never gave up, are recognized and honored by the Lord. When Jesus finally appears, we will find out what our trials have accomplished. Thus because of our faithfulness to Him during our trials God brings triumph that result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

**1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:—** <sup>7</sup>It is evident that they had not personally seen the Lord Jesus. Yet they had heard of His character, His preaching, His sacrifice for sin, and His resurrection and ascension, and they had learned to love Him: He is now in heaven and to mortal eyes now invisible, like His Father. Because they believe upon Him whom they have not seen, they are filled with the unspeakable joy of a glorious hope. This joy will stir them and us to stand against temptations and trials; will help to focus upon Christ and His glorious power.

**1:9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.** This is the end, the very goal toward which we are moving, the salvation of our souls. As in any work or task we must keep our eyes upon the goal. *"The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls"* NLT.

## **1Peter 1:10-12 Prophets Foretold Jesus' Suffering And The Glory That Would Follow**

**1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:—** Peter refers to the Old Testament Prophets to show that Salvation required special men; special prophets to share the message. They knew a great deal about the coming Salvation and the coming Savior. These things were supernaturally revealed to them and some aspects they did not understand all that God was telling them to proclaim. The prophets had two primary jobs: 1) They proclaimed God's Word, and 2) They predicted future events.

- They suffered greatly due to their calling, and provided us with an example of perseverance in persecution. Peter seems to be reminding us that we must also suffer like the prophets for the sake of Christ and His kingdom.
- They were inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ.
- They were speaking (prophesying) of a future day.
- They prophesied of the Grace (favor of God) that should come to people that would ignore Him, rebel against Him, reject Him, fail to love Him, and more.
- These prophecies have now been openly proclaimed and fulfilled to the church in the preaching of the apostles in the power of the Holy Spirit. Even the angels desired to know.

<sup>8</sup>Here are a few of those predictions the prophets made about Jesus:

1. That He would be born of a virgin—Isaiah 7:14
2. That He would be born in Bethlehem—Micah 5:2
3. That He would be born into the tribe of Judah—Genesis 49:10
4. That His ministry would begin in Galilee—Isaiah 9:1
5. That He would work miracles—Isaiah 35:5, 6
6. That He would teach in parables—Psalm 78:2
7. That He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey—Zechariah 9:9
8. That He would be betrayed by a friend—Psalm 41:9
9. That He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver—Zechariah 11:12
10. That He would be accused by false witnesses—Psalm 35:11
11. That He would be wounded and bruised—Isaiah 53:5
12. That His hands and feet would be pierced—Psalm 22:16
13. That He would be crucified with thieves—Isaiah 53:12
14. That His garments would be torn apart and lots cast for them—Psalm 22:18
15. That His bones would not be broken—Psalm 34:20
16. That His side would be pierced—Zechariah 12:10
17. That He would be buried in a rich man's tomb—Isaiah 53:9

<sup>7</sup> [http://bible.cc/1\\_peter/1-8.htm](http://bible.cc/1_peter/1-8.htm)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2004-08-29-What-Angels-Wish-They-Knew/>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

18. That He would rise from the dead—Psalm 16:10

**1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.** The Spirit of Christ was resident in the prophets signifying; making known or plain for them to write down the events to come. <sup>9</sup>They tried to understand two things. 1) They earnestly studied their own prophecies to try and understand the time and circumstances when they would be fulfilled. 2) And they wanted to know the when and the how. They spoke of the suffering and glory of Christ. That is, they uttered prophecies in both categories—predictions of coming suffering (Isaiah 53) and of His coming glory (Isaiah 32:1). The order is crucial. Christ must suffer first and then enter into His glory. Jesus said exactly that when He spoke to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on Easter Sunday (Lk.24:25-26). Though, none of the prophets had all the details, they knew He was coming and had to suffer and that there would be glory, which would follow when Christ rose from death.

**1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.** The Old Testament prophets who wrote of the coming of salvation (vv.10, 11) knew it was a future Savior who would come, and thus they were really writing for those who are on this side of the cross. The New Testament apostles and preachers of the gospel had the privilege of proclaiming that the prophecies written by the Old Testament prophets had come to pass (2Cor.6:1, 2). They preached in the power of the Holy Spirit. Even angels do not understand everything about God's plans. They are eager to learn more.

1. The prophets predicted the coming of Christ (vv.10-11).
2. The apostles and the early church preached Christ to everyone (v.12).
3. The angels long to understand the salvation Christ brings (v.12).
4. We now know what the prophets never knew, and we experience what the angels wish they knew (vv.11-12).

#### **SUMMARY:**

Peter <sup>10</sup>praises God for their living hope, incorruptible inheritance, and glorious salvation to be revealed at the coming of Christ. Despite grievous trials, the power of God and their genuine faith protects them and gives them inexpressible joy (vv.3-5).

The trials <sup>11</sup>are diverse; all kinds - "manifold temptations" - They prepare us for spiritual growth or help to prevent us from sinning. They are not easy - They produce "heaviness" or pain. We must accept the fact that there will be difficult experiences in life. And they are controlled by God - "for a season." The trial of our <sup>12</sup>faith in God is far more valuable than even gold and our genuine faith will bring praise and glory and honour to Jesus when He comes again. Peter had been in the company of Jesus for three years. But Peter is writing to people who have never seen Jesus. They loved Jesus without seeing Him and understanding that the purpose of their faith in Jesus is the reward of receiving the salvation for their souls in the end. Just because they trusted and believed on Him, they were able to rejoice with unspeakable and glorious joy; too great for words (vv.6-9).

Their salvation to come was foretold by the prophets. The prophets searched diligently and the Spirit of Christ in them signified and made plain beforehand Christ's suffering and His glory to come. The prophets ministered these things not to themselves but to others who would preach the gospel in the power of the Holy Ghost to be sent down from heaven. And the things revealed to the prophets weren't revealed to the angels although they desired to know (vv.10-12).

#### **APPLICATION:**

We haven't seen the Lord, but the Holy Spirit has made Him real in our hearts. The knowledge of this causes rejoicing, even when there is sorrow and suffering along the way, which proves that our faith in God is genuine. There is no crown before the cross, no resurrection before crucifixion, and no glory before shame. Our living hope has passed the tests and has arisen that causes us to be raised with Him. In the end there is salvation for the soul. Our living hope awaits us!

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/2004-08-29-What-Angels-Wish-They-Knew/>

<sup>10</sup> [http://executableoutlines.com/1pet/1pet\\_01.htm](http://executableoutlines.com/1pet/1pet_01.htm)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/i-peter-11/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/1peter-lbw.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>