

A Living Hope 1 Peter 1:3-9

- I. Pray and read passage together (1 Peter 1:3-9)
- II. How does our culture tend to define “Hope”? What is your experience. . . did you agree or disagree with Pastor Carsten’s observation? What nuances would you add?
- III. In the New Testament Hope is tied to certainty and to the resurrection. Does that surprise you? What are your responses to this?
- IV. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.** Peter speaks about a “living” hope. What is significant about this adjective? How does that help us understand the Christian understanding of Hope?
- V. In these verses Peter says this hope will never perish, spoil or fade. This hope is kept in heaven for us, shielded by God’s power. How does that affect your understanding of Hope?
- VI. The certainty of the future resurrection should impact our choices, values, and behaviour today. How does the resurrection impact your life today?
- VII. **Read 1 Peter 1:6-9.** In vs 6, Peter contrasts our joy in the future with our grief in the present. How does suffering pull our focus away from present suffering and point us to future glory?
- VIII. In vs 7, Peter reminds us that because of our living hope, suffering in the present works to refine and purify us. Pastor Carsten described the refining process as bringing out deep impurities from within the metal. What deep things are being brought out in you through this crisis?
- IX. In vs 7+8, Peter reminds us that because of our living hope, suffering helps us to treasure Christ now. How does suffering help us to treasure/value Christ?
- X. We also read in vs 7, Peter reminds us that because of our living hope, suffering gives God a platform to be glorified. How can God be glorified in your life in the midst of our hardships and trials?
- XI. In vs 8, Peter reminds us that because of our living hope, suffering works salvation in us. Consider this truth in light of James 1:2-4 and Hebrews 12:7,10-11. How does suffering work salvation in us?
- XII. Peter has demonstrated how our “living hope” applies to suffering. Reflect together on how our “living hope” applies to other arenas (work, family, strife, sacrificial service, etc)?