

EASTER SUN DAY

The text 'EASTER SUN DAY' is rendered in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are filled with a vibrant sunrise scene, showing a bright sun low on the horizon over a landscape. A small black cross is visible in the sky behind the letter 'N' in 'SUN'.

A Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-9

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
But do this with gentleness and respect.

— 1 Peter 3:15

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again.

—1 Thess 4:13-14

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in **this** hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

—Romans 8:22-25

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, 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.

— 1 Peter 1:3-5

6 In all this (i.e. living hope) you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come 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. 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.

— 1 Peter 1:6-9

1. Suffering pulls our focus out of the present and onto a better future.

*“6 In all this (living hope) you greatly **rejoice**, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer **grief** in all kinds of trials.”*

2. Suffering refines our faith.

7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire

3. Suffering allows us to treasure and value Christ's true worth now.

“ . . . your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes. . . . 8 and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy”

4. Suffering allows God to receive glory.

7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith. . . may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

5. Suffering produces salvation.

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.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,
whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you
know that the testing of your faith produces
perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that
you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

—James 1:2-4

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. . . . God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

— Hebrews 12:7, 10-11

1 Peter 1:3-9

vs 3-5: Living Hope: God's future informs and shapes our present.

vs 6-9: This "Living Hope": gives present suffering a meaning and a purpose.

Suffering focuses eyes in eternity.

Suffering refines us.

Suffering allows us to treasure Christ.

Suffering provides a platform for God to be glorified.

Suffering produces salvation within us.

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, 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.

— 1 Peter 1:3-5

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

— John 3:16-17