

1 PETER 1:1-12 | A LIVING HOPE

A living hope through Christ's resurrection (vv 1-3). This new birth is the gift given to *God's chosen* who are *exiles* in the world (vv 1-2). Just as the inheritance of v 4 is imperishable, so too is the blood of Christ which delivered new birth for you (1:18-19). Like the readers, Christ too was chosen, yet before the creation of the world, and then revealed, so that they could be chosen (1:20).

A living hope leading to an imperishable inheritance (vv 4-5). The inheritance is being delivered at the return of Christ (vv 5 & 7 cf 1 Peter 5:4). We don't know when that day will be, for it will come like a thief in the night. We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells and only the imperishable will last (2 Peter 3:10-13).

A living hope testifies to the authenticity of our faith (vv 6-9). The various trials come because as foreigners and exiles (1:1-2) sinful desires wage war against the soul (2:11). As such the trials are as much internal as well as external and have a greater purpose (2:12). Negotiating life in a godly way as exiles means suffering is a reality. Peter speaks of us not only following the example of Christ, but participating in his sufferings, with the result that we will be overjoyed at his return (v 7 cf 4:13). Until then our faith and obedience to him continues, for this is the path of salvation which will lead to the final outcome of deliverance (vv 8-9). Our faith is not a path of merit, but of mercy, hence our joy because of the promised inheritance and the present enabling until that time (1:2).

A living hope revealed in the lasting word (vv 10-12). Peter unreservedly speaks of the Word of God as the source of our salvation (1:23). Coming to us through the testimony of the prophets (v 10, the OT authors) Peter sums up the common purpose and plan of Scripture: to point to "the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow." (v 11). The readers know what the Old Testament writers longed to know, yet God's purpose was that their work was for future generations. The inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17) concerning Christ becomes the foundation for the preaching of the gospel, a blessing even angels pursue (v 12).

1 PETER SERIES

OCTOBER 18

1 PETER 1:1-12 A LIVING HOPE

OCTOBER 25

1 PETER 1:13-2:3 A LIVING HOLINESS

NOVEMBER 1

1 PETER 2:4-10 A LIVING STONE

NOVEMBER 8

1 PETER 2:11-3:7 A LIVING EXAMPLE

NOVEMBER 15

1 PETER 3:8-22 A LIVING BLESSING

NOVEMBER 22

1 PETER 4:1-19 A LIVING SERVANT

BONUS STUDY

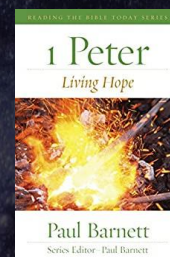
1 PETER 5:1-11 A LIVING SHEPHERD

RESOURCE

1 PETER: LIVING HOPE

DR PAUL BARNETT

(READING THE BIBLE
TODAY SERIES)



GETTING STARTED

1. Identify three important moments in your life where you have needed to stand firm.
2. Looking back, do you consider the reasons were worth it, and why/why not?

INTO THE TEXT

Read vv 1-9

3. In v 1, what does it mean to be elect and an exile?
4. What is the assurance that a person is one of the chosen in v 2, and what is God's new purpose for their life?
5. How has new birth into a living hope been made possible (see also 1:18-19)?
6. From vv 4-5, how is this living hope described?
7. From vv 6-9, how is this living hope experienced?
8. What is the purpose of our trials?

Read vv 10-12

9. How does salvation come the readers of 1 Peter?
10. What is the goal of this salvation in v 11?
11. What was the purpose of the prophets writing Scripture?

TAKEAWAY

12. "Christianity is not just 'pie in the sky when you die'. It is 'steak on your plate while you wait'. Is this an accurate reflection of the Christian walk?
13. When was the last time you felt the "inexpressible and glorious joy" of v 8?