



Born to a Living Hope in Christ Jesus

By Ken Terry on September 1, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 1 Peter 1

Peter starts his letter by acknowledging the supernatural occurrence emanating in every follower of Jesus, the Christ, *"elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied"* (1 Peter 1:2 NKJV).

Please do not gloss over this because this is what salvation in Jesus Christ is all about. In this passage Peter highlights the saving work of each member of the triune God,

- The Christian recipients were chosen according to the foreknowledge of God, the Father
- By the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit of God
- To be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ

God came down from heaven in the form of flesh. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died. He did this for the purpose of paying our sin debt penalty so we could be justified and reconciled back to God. We could stop our message right here, but there is still a concept we need to give a little more thought--being born to a living hope. The living hope is the spiritual reward awaiting everyone who calls on the name of Jesus. You see, through His resurrection we, the followers of Jesus, are guaranteed an eternal future that is kept for us by the power of God, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"* (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Incorruptible and undefiled and does not fade away! This is truly a remarkable reward for us, the kingdom-minded individuals who love and serve Jesus. This can also be very difficult at times when we are undergoing the tests and trials of life. We all experience them. That is when we must lean more into Him, the Triune God. The Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. He holds the whole world in the palms of His hands. Peter encourages us to rejoice in the times of adversity! *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (1 Peter 1:6-7 NKJV).

The Holy Spirit of God strengthens our faith as it is being tested and purified like precious gold by fire. He sanctifies us and transforms us more into the likeness of Christ Jesus. Therefore, we should rejoice as we keep our eyes on the prize. Therefore, be holy, for He who has called you is holy. May His grace and peace be multiplied to each one of you.

PRAYER: Our Father in the heavens, we come before You in thanksgiving for Your plan of salvation. Thank You, Father, for loving me and saving me from my sin and its consequences of death. Father, I know through my relationship with Jesus, I am born again to a living hope. A hope that is more precious than any material here on this earth, but from the precious blood of Jesus. Thank you, Father, for Jesus, thank You for Your Holy Spirit and all You do for me. In Christ's precious name I pray. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Peter 2

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