

Living Hope

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to **a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (1 Peter 1:3)

“Now may **the God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, **so that you will abound in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as also **you were called in one hope of your calling;**⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6)

I) What is “hope” and “living hope”?

A) Definition of “hope”:

- “a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.”

B) Biblical understanding of “living hope”:

- Life giving hope, a sure future hope that impacts our present life, a hope that is present and future grace.
- Present encouragement, comfort, and strength prompted by some future expectation, desire and fulfillment.
- “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and **given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace,** ¹⁷ comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.” (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17) “Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for,** the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

II) “Living Hope” according to 1 Peter 1:3-16?

- A) “according to His great mercy”! (1 Peter 1:3)
- B) “born again to a living hope”! (1 Peter 1:3)
- C) “through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3)
- D) “to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away” (1 Peter 1:4)
- E) “protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:5)

III) “Living hope” is a life giving Joy!

A) Joy of eternal life and salvation!

- “And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son...” (1 John 5:11-12)

B) Joy of resurrection “on that day!”

- “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:39-40)

C) Joy of being held in the hands of the Father and the Son!

- “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand...” (John 10:27-29)

D) Joy of election!

- “just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons *and daughters* through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.” (Ephesians 1:4-5) Ref: Adoption (Rom. 8:15)

E) Joy of the Holy Spirit affirming our salvation!

- “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.” (Romans 8:16-17)

F) Joy of being in Christ and having the hope of glory!

- “to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27)

G) Joy of always setting the Lord before me!

- “I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken..” (Psalm 16:8), Ref: Acts 2:25

IV) Through “Living hope,” we can persevere!

“In this **you greatly rejoice**, even though now for a little while, if necessary, **you have been distressed by various trials,** ⁷ so that **the proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, **even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;** ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, **you love Him**, and though you do not see Him now, but **believe in Him**, **you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,** ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:6-9)