

# LIVING IN HOPE

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**TEXT: 1 PETER 1:3-9 NIV**

## INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered if you were doing all you could or should do as a Christian? Most have at some point. Many wonder, “How active in the church should I be?” or “How vocal in my witnessing is appropriate?” The questions are numerous for those trying to follow the Lord with all their hearts. However, many times these questions come out of our anxiety and lack of feeling settled.

In our text, Peter helps us get started in the right direction by emphasizing that we must not neglect the discipline of being at peace and confident in the work Christ has already done in us. It is much like what is called the “Know. Be. Do.” Principle. We must *know* before Him, then we can *be* who He called us to be, and then we can *do* what He has called us to do.

In the following verses, note the **actions** we can take to reap all the blessings of our salvation experience today and all these actions will bring to us.

## **I. PRAISE HIM FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE IN YOU (vv.3-5).**

**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.

**A. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW BIRTH—WE DIDN’T HAVE TO EARN IT.**

**B. WE HAVE HOPE IN THIS LIFE AND BEYOND THE GRAVE.**

**C. WE HAVE AN INHERITANCE THAT IS CERTAIN.**

**D. OUR FAITH PROVIDES US WITH A SHIELD OF SAFETY.**

## **II. REJOICE IN YOUR PRESENT STATE—WHATEVER IT IS (vv.6-7).**

**6** In all this 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.

**A. OUR REJOICING IS IN THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME—NOT THE PRESENT TRIAL (vv.6-7).**

**B. THE PROCESS OF THE TRIAL PRODUCES FAITH THAT BRINGS GLORY TO CHRIST (v.7.)**

## **III. ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE FILLED WITH HIS JOY (vv.8-9).**

**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.

**A. LOVE FOR CHRIST INSPIRES FAITH IN HIM, THAT, IN TURN, PRODUCES GREAT JOY IN US (v.8).**

**B. THE OUTCOME OF FAITH IS SALVATION WITH JOY (v.9).**

## **CONCLUSION**

Real faith is not stagnant or meaningless or without joy, because an active faith is filled with acts of faith. It is these *actions* we choose to take that give expression to what is in our hearts. This is living in hope.