

1 Peter 1v3-6: We have a life filled with hope

³Praise 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, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

When facing trials in life we need encouragement to keep going. Peter's readers were, as v6 says, suffering grief in all kinds of trials. How do we keep 'hopeful' when life is so hard? Peter says we look to God and meditate upon all that he has done for us and in us, past, future and present.

First, v3, the past. Through Christ's death for our sins and resurrection from the dead he has given us, by his Spirit poured out on us, new birth into a living hope. This is the origin of our hope – it comes from God, and not ourselves. It is a gift. Praise the giver!

Second, v4, the future. An inheritance, a place in heaven with him, which unlike anything in this world cannot perish. Your 'home' in the new creation is secured, deposit paid by the blood of Christ. No-one can take it away. Fix your mind upon that glorious future and pray that God would make that more real to you than the struggles of this day.

Third, v5, the present. Our eternal salvation is secured by Christ, but we don't yet experience the full glory to come – that will be revealed when Christ returns. How can we be sure we will get there? God guarantees it. He shields us by his power. This is a military term. As we battle with sin and suffering in this world, eyes fixed on the glorious city we are headed for, we are not alone. God, by His Spirit, guards us, protects us from the assaults of the enemy. Our part is to continue to live by faith. Which means we go on trusting God and his work in Christ more than what our eyes can see and our emotions feel when life is difficult.

Prayer:

Lord God you are the one who has given me new birth through Christ. Thank you for the hope that gives me today. Help me to see the glorious inheritance that awaits me because of Christ and to live today with that future in mind. Let me trust you when you say you will guard me and get me there.

Amen