Resurrecting Hope: Living Hope
1 Peter 1:1-9
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1 Peter 1:1-9: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, [2] who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. [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. [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. [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. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ into despair

_____ strength: A king is not saved by his great army and a giant is not saved by his great strength! The strongest horse is a deceptive lie.... Psalm 33:16-17a (JOT)

_____ the truth: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (TLB)

2. _____ a living hope

_____ the power of new birth: By God's wonderful mercy he is regenerating us through a living hope, the same power that resurrected Jesus from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3 (JOT)

_____ the focus: Grief, trials, and afflictions are the refining fire of a faith that is imperishable, invariable, and enduring. Through praising, worshipping, and honoring Jesus, you will discover Jesus being revealed to you and through you! 1 Peter 1:7 (JOT)

_____ joy: Love him even if you do not see him...by faith you can rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy even through suffering, this is the gold standard of faith.... 1 Peter 1:8-9a (JOT)

3. _____ with Christ

_____ to follow: Dear friends, God the Father chose you long ago and knew you would become his children. And the Holy Spirit has been at work in your hearts....May God bless you richly and grant you increasing freedom from all anxiety and fear. 1 Peter 1:2 (TLB)

Spiritual Action Step:

Do you need living hope? Are you sinking into the pit of despair and losing strength? Is the difficulty of life robbing you of joy? Jesus says: *"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." (John 3:3, NIV)* God has chosen you in Jesus to be your friend and to love you forever. By accepting Christ into your heart you can be born again through the power of the Holy Spirit. Confess that you need a Savior and that you cannot save yourself. This is a small step for your soul, but a seismic shift for your life because Christ will give you a living hope! This week, read 1 Peter 1 and John 3 to allow the Holy Spirit to give you a new birth into a living and enduring hope!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible