

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION – A LIVING HOPE – STUDY OF I PETER
Week 9 – Doctrine of Living Hope

I Pet 1.3 - 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,¹

Central Bible Truth: Suffering is Tangible – so is hope

Purpose: Peter wants to encourage us by telling us about how to have hope when everything seems hopeless

1 Peter 5:12 (NIV)

¹² *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.*¹

1 Peter 1:3-6 (NIV)

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—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 this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.*¹

1. What Is Hope

- **Ἐλπίς** – << *elpis* >> - Comes from the Greek elpo – which means to anticipate with pleasure – future certainty rather than some vague expectation of some desirable future occurrence –

Holman Illustrated Pocket Bible Dictionary puts it this way- “trustful expectation particularly with reference to the fulfillment of God’s promises. NT – biblical hope is the anticipation of a favorable outcome under God’s guidance – more specifically hope is the confidence that what God has done for us in the past guarantees our participation in what He will do in the future”

Look at Acts 23.6

Two key components

- What God has done in Christ – especially the resurrection in which Christ defeated sin and death
- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- NT Concept of Hope – 3 concurrent elements – **Titus 1.2, 2.13 (NIV)**
 - ² *a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,*¹
 - ¹³ *while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,*¹
 - Expectation of God’s fulfillment – does not claim possession of God’s fulfillment but in the assurance that God will maintain what He has given
 - Trust in the sovereignty of God and a divinely given future – cannot count on controllable factors

2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*¹

¹ *The Holy Bible : New International Version.* Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984

- Patience – ultimate hope rests in the divine act of salvation accomplished in Christ – which is eschatological in nature – not completed yet – therefore Hope is an eschatological blessing – spiritual gift from and by the Holy Spirit

2. A Christian Perspective of Hope

- Centered on God – **1.21 (NIV), Psa 39.7**

²¹ *Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*¹

⁷ *“But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.”*¹

- Leads to great encouragement – **Heb 6.17-19 (NIV)**

¹⁷ *Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,*¹

- “Living” – **1.3 (NIV)**

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,*¹

- Refers to the Divine nature – tied to the “Living Water” – John 4.4-14, John 6.35
- To partake – experience – 2.1-3 – crave spiritual milk
- As faith grows – hope grows
- Leads to our being closer to God – sustains us

- Comes from God’s **gospel** and **grace** – **Col 1.23, 2 Thes 2.16-17 (NIV)**

²³ *if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*¹

¹⁶ *May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.*¹

- Based on our eternal reward that God has called us to - **Eph 1:17-19 (NIV)**

¹⁷ *I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,*¹

- Direct result of Godly joy and Godly peace – **Rom 15.13 (NIV)**

¹³ *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*¹

- Christian Hope is superior – **Heb 7.18-19 (NIV)**

¹⁸ *The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.*¹

- Leads to endurance – perseverance – ***I Thes 1.2-3 (NIV)***

² *We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.* ³ *We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*¹

3. How Do I Find Hope When Life Seems Hopeless

- Be sure of God's promise and live by faith – ***Heb 11.1-2 (NIV)***

¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.¹

- Focus on God's grace – ***1.13 (NIV)***

¹³ *Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed*¹

- Go to God's word – ***Rom 15.4 (NIV)***

⁴ *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*¹

- Stop wishing for the wrong thing – quit focusing on worldly solutions – ***I Tim 6.17 (NIV)***

¹⁷ *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*¹

- Look for opportunity to give testimony – ***3.15 (NIV)***

¹⁵ *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*¹

Conclusion:

- Hope is the trust in the certainty of God's promise and provision and comes from the work of God through Christ on the cross
- Centered on God and comes from God's grace
- Hope can be found by focusing on that grace, going to God's word and moving away from foolish wishes and worldly solutions