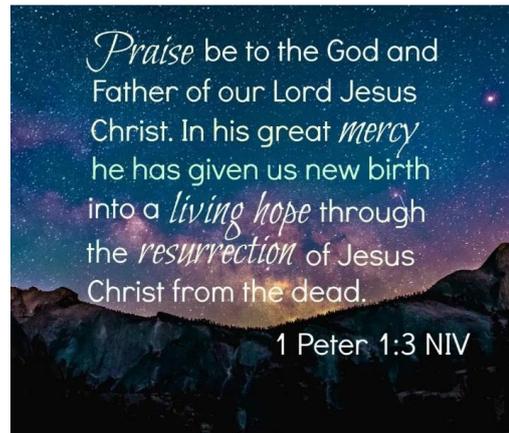


## Living Hope

### Reading- 1 Peter 1: 3-12

#### Focus In



We're beginning a new series called Living Hope in the letter of 1 Peter. Written by the Apostle Peter, likely from Rome, to a wide audience of Christians all over Asia Minor. Scattered by persecution they are called 'strangers in the World'. Their real home is in Heaven.

The verses begin in praise for a living hope. It's based not on wishful thinking but on the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. By faith in him we have an eternal inheritance that is strong and sure. By God's power we are shielded for our eternal home.

Those to whom he was writing were undergoing persecution. He encourages them to see it as passing compared to their hope. He also invites them to see it as a testing of their faith. That their faith might be made more precious than gold through the fire.

Though they had not seen him for themselves, as Peter had, they believe and can be filled with joy. The Prophets had foretold it, Angels had longed for it, but they had received it by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is the living hope that we also can have by faith in Jesus Christ today.

### Discussion Starters

.Do you ever get the sense of being like a stranger in the World? Do you think that we should feel it more?

.Look again at what it says about this living hope. Can you put it in your own words? What is the message to you about it?

.Do you feel that difficult things that you go through are like a test of your faith? What happens to it?

.Given the pandemic many people have had to face their mortality more than before. What do you think that the message of this teaching is for them and us all?

### Praying together

Please pray for one another but also especially for those facing testing and trying times. May faith become more precious than gold.