

LIVING HOPE IN CHRIST

*"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 Peter 1:3

REFLECTION

The apostle Peter was writing a letter to the early dispersed Jews that followed Jesus as well as Gentile converts who had heard and embraced the gospel message in Asia Minor. These early converts faced much persecution for their faith and were under great pressure to remain in the faith. Peter wanted to reinforce the message of the gift of salvation so that they would understand what it meant to be plucked from death to life. Peter's intent was to write a letter to encourage all believers to contend for the Gospel and to live life as people of God.

The early church converts encountered difficulties and faced struggles in keeping their faith, so much so that it drained their joy and confidence and deterred their hope in God.

But Peter has this to say in high praise: God the Father spared nothing, not even His precious Son the Lord Jesus Christ, by His great and matchless mercy to become a ransom for our sin. It is only by the undeserved mercies of God that we can go scot free from the wrath of sin and the ravages of hell.

God has gifted us with a new beginning; a rebirthing of a new way of life. We are born again to a living hope because the Son of God has conquered death on our behalf and this hope lives in us as an imperishable inheritance. What Peter is saying is that while circumstances around us are difficult to bear, we have inside of us God's deposit of living hope that will never spoil or fade away. Nothing in this world can be comparable to the power of the hope of God given to His people to overcome all difficulty through the power and resurrection of His Son.

PRAYER

Father God, thank You for Your matchless mercies that have plucked us from sin and death into the living hope of life reborn in You. Circumstances in life can deter and discourage us but we thank You that in You we can surmount all difficulty because You live and reign in us and give us strength to overcome. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Thanksgiving that we are kept by God's power, through faith. Thank God that as we abide in Him, God will keep us safe and secure in a continuing relationship of faith with Him.
- Pray for the faith of believers to be activated. Pray that believers will manifest the new life in union with God's Son, that they may be reborn into joy and confidence through the gift of unfading hope to surmount all difficulty in life.
- Pray for believers to be humbled by the gospel message of God sending His Son to be a sacrifice for our sins. Thank Him for His resurrection which conquered death and enabling us to live the victorious life.
- Pray that believers will tap into the living hope from heaven that has been given to them by God. Pray that believers born again into this new way of living will become a blessing to all around them that they may inspire others with joy, confidence and hope.

"No other attribute could have helped us had mercy been refused. As we are by nature, justice condemns us, holiness frowns upon us, power crushes us, truth confirms the threatening of the law, and wrath fulfils it. It is from the mercy of our God that all our hopes begin."

Charles Spurgeon

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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