

Our Reasons for Hope
1 Peter 1:3-9
(Learning to ‘Sing & Dance Fight’)

Hello and welcome to the “Passer Reggie show” (according to Katie Waldrop).

1 – Thank you for being the church

2 – In an effort to be good neighbors, we are going to livestream from the Scalf home through April.

3 – The Wednesday night Bible studies will continue on FB Live for that time also.

4 – Thanks to our CG leaders and deacons. There is a list in the bulletin that details when CGs are meeting. If you’re not in a CG but want to join one, consult that list.

5 – Thank you for giving:

- a) Tithely
- b) Text to tithe
- c) Mail
- d) Manor

A story about giving –

6 – This Sunday we are going to enjoy communion together. Get your bread and juice as you go to the store this week. If you can’t get to the store, call the church office and a deacon will gladly go for you.

And now, our text -

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

It is important to note that Peter identifies his readers as ‘exiles.’ We are presently exiled from one another and from the church building but, after Covid-19, we should maintain that ‘exile’ status even when we are back together. After all, ‘this world is not our home’ and for too long, we have acted like we are going to live here forever. But we are not, ‘there’s a land that is fairer than day’ being prepared for us and we are called to live like citizens of that country.

The first part of chapter one is devoted to “our great salvation” because this is the link that ties us to Jesus and to one another.

And the first point Peter draws out about salvation is the hope that is ours in Jesus.

- I. Introduction 1:1-2
- II. The identity of Christians 1:3—2:10
 - A. Our great salvation 1:3-12
 - 1. The hope of our salvation 1:3-5
 - The joy of our salvation 1:6-9
 - The witnesses of our salvation 1:10-12

Our behavior as Christians under duress is directly tied to

- our faith in God and
- God’s grace as our resource in a pandemic.

Peter wants us to “Stand firm in the true grace of God” (5:12).

- “God’s Righteousness At Christ’s Expense” - Salvation
- “God’s Riches As Christ Enables” – Sanctification

In this chapter, God’s grace is sufficient to give us hope and joy which validates our witness.

Where is God’s grace thus far in this book?

- In Peter’s transformation v 1
- In God’s foreknowledge 2
- In the Spirit’s sanctification 2
- In obedience to Jesus 2

We don’t need pep talks. We need grace. Pep talks are transitory and not transformative. Pep talks are external and not internal. If your neighbors or children are misbehaving during the quarantine, they need grace and we should pray that God will give it.

How do we obtain God’s grace?

- a) Be a Christian
- b) Read the Bible
- c) Memorize the Bible
- d) Ask the Holy Spirit to live the life of Jesus in you

ILL – The Bible is the track. The Holy Spirit is the engine.

- Some people know the Bible but don't have the Holy Spirit – legalism
- Some people have the Holy Spirit but don't know the Bible – anything-ism

The Scripture lays down the track on which the Holy Spirit moves you toward Christ-conformity.

You need the Bible and the Holy Spirit. You need the Holy Spirit and the Bible. That's how you experience God's grace.

The word comes alive in you by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- a) Be a Christian
- b) Read the Bible
- c) Memorize the Bible
- d) Ask the Holy Spirit to live Jesus's life in you

Galatians 2:20-21 - *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.*

How do you get Peter's hope?

- a) Be a Christian
- b) Read the Bible
- c) Memorize the Bible
- d) Ask the Holy Spirit to live the life of Jesus in you

And so now we return to the text under consideration wherein Peter is reminding these elect exiles who they are and how they are blessed in God. He immediately breaks out into song.

V 2

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

Blessed = eulogetos = (9t in NT) –

Mark 14:16 - But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

Eulogetos = praised

Immediately after addressing his readers and reminding them of God's care, he breaks out into praise.

All Christians are singers because God is a singer.

Zephaniah 3:17 - *The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

God is a singer. He loves singing. We are singers by *his* nature.

2 Chronicles 20:21-22 - *And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever." 22 And when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.*

It may have looked like Israel was surrounded by Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, but they were actually surrounded by God.

I know of another time this happened in the Bible –

2 Kings 6:15-17 – *When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

Gehazi, Elisha's servant, thought he and Elisha were surrounded by the Syrian army. What he didn't see, didn't know, was that God had surrounded the Syrian army.

What was Israel singing in 2 Chron 20? And what did Gehazi sing? I know! –

ILL – Michael W. Smith, "Surrounded – Fight our Battles" .16

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBl84oZxnJ4>

Sometimes friends, you just need to stand up and engage in a good ole' 'sing and dance' fight with your fears, your foes and the devil!!!! That's what happened to Peter and what he hopes for his readers; that his doxology will fill their hearts with singing and dancing faith.

ILL – My grandmother – *“A dancing foot and a praying knee don't go on the same leg.”*

Sometimes you just have to go to church like a Kenyan. (Teana's Kenyan friend, Jane, asked when she visited America, *“What? You don't dance in church?”* No, Jane, we're Baptist and God has not given us anything to dance about.

Don't let go unsung these good songs filled with good things about our good God.

Let's be interactive for a moment on FBLive -

What's your favorite hymn? What's your favorite modern song?

What is it that makes Peter break out in song? What makes him “Bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- a) He's an elect exile 1
- b) By the foreknowledge of God 2
- c) Whom the Holy Spirit is sanctifying 2
- d) As he learns obedience 2
- e) And shares the gospel with others 2
- f) Great mercy 3
- g) Born again 3
- h) Living Hope 3
- i) Jesus is alive 3
- j) A gifted, imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept, inheritance 4
- k) God's power is guarding him 5
- l) A last-time salvation 5

If you had to make a list of why you “bless” God, what would be on your list?

All of this enables him to

- a) Rejoice in grievous trials 6
- b) Possess genuine faith 7
- c) Love him who is unseeable 8
- d) Believe in him 8
- e) Rejoice in inexpressible joy 8
- f) Be filled with glory 8
- g) Obtaining the salvation of his soul 9

No wonder Peter sings. This Easter, we won't be together in the church building. Don't you dare let your flesh or the devil steal your song. Don't you dare. Resurrection Sunday is not about a gathered church but a resurrected Jesus. If you believe, it sing like it this Sunday!

Now, we have to go back and discuss each and every one of those but, it may take a year or two because every word and each phrase is God's Spirit-breathed word.

Conclusion:

Sometimes you have to fight for joy. But it is worth fighting for. Fight this week. Fight for and until joy is yours. And then fight to keep it.

(Don't waste your quarantine. Get this book and read it - <https://www.desiringgod.org/books/when-i-dont-desire-god>

I hope your week is filled with song and dance fights for Jesus!

Lets "sing & dance fight" our way out with this – 1:07

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awkO61T6i0k>