

The Present Power of Hope: 1 Peter 1:3-9

I. Why we need hope

Questions for Reflection:

1. Have you given some time in your life to really reflect on your hope? Think about your desires and wants. List some of them below.
2. Are some of the items on your list more important than God?
3. What happens if the items on your list never come about or are taken away? What happens to your heart (the core of who you are) if you set your hope on things that can be taken away?

II. What is the Christian's Hope

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you view God as being merciful towards you? Through what actions can you be sure that God is actually merciful according to v. 3? What subjectively happens to you? What objectively happens in history?
2. What does it mean to be "born again to a living hope" (1:3)? Look up the following passages and note what each adds to your understanding of this phrase:
 - a. John 1:12-13
 - b. John 3:3-6
 - c. Galatians 4:4-7
3. Revisit Matthew 6:19-21 and compare it to vv. 4-5 of our passage. Where should we place our heart (or our hope), in the things of this world or in

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God's promises? What happens if we place our heart (or our hope) in the things of this world? What happens if we place our heart (or our hope) in the promises of God?

4. According to your list of desires and wants in part 1 above, will any of them remain forever? How are they different to God's inheritance described in vv. 4-5?

5. Look up the following verses and note what each adds to your understanding of the nature of our inheritance in Christ:
 - a. Palm 16:5-6
 - b. Romans 8:22-25
 - c. 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
 - d. Ephesians 1:13-14
 - e. 1 John 3:1-3

III. How Hope Brings Present Joy

Discussion Questions:

1. In v. 6 we learn that we can have joy in the midst of suffering and v. 7 reveals that God refines us through suffering to a greater joy. Is there anyone or anything else that can work even through suffering to bring greater joy? Then read the verses below to see how God continues with you through suffering.

2. Read 1 Peter 5:6-7 – What does this say about God's awareness of your anxiety? What does this say about God's concern for you in the midst of anxiety?

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3. Read 1 Peter 4:19 - What does this say about suffering? Is it outside of God's will? According to this verse will he fail to uphold his promises in 1 Peter 1:3-9?

4. Read 1 Peter 4:14 – What does it mean to you that God will be with you in suffering? Have you ever had to walk through something difficult? Did you ask someone to go with you?