



April 15, 2017

## Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-5

God created us to be in an intimate relationship with Him. When we come into contact with Him, the only appropriate response is worship. We can participate in religious activities, but lasting life change will only occur when we develop a personal relationship with Him. God's mercy and grace provides the freedom for us to not focus on our performance, but to rest and trust in what Jesus did for us on the cross.

1. Read 1 Peter 1: 3-5. Do you think often enough about the inheritance that God is keeping for you in heaven? Why or why not?
2. In what ways are you clinging to your earthly life and asking Jesus to bless your circumstances? What changes can you make to focus more on your relationship with Christ?
3. Describe how accepting God's grace and mercy has provided freedom for you in your life. How does his grace affect your conscience, your daily decisions, etc.?
4. Bill described the difference between "living hope" and "dead hope". What dead hopes (control, pride, success, etc.) are you hanging on to that are causing you anxiety?
5. If you put your hope in Christ do you need to take steps towards baptism because of what He has done for you?