

#LivingHope



▪ Read Isaiah 11:1-10

*Isaiah 11:10* In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**Q: What was Israel's Advent #Expectation? #Hope**

**Q: What is America's #Hope at Christmas?**

▪ We have a #LivingHope (see 1 Peter 1:3-9)

*1 Peter 1:3* 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, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1. You are Born Again to a #LivingHope (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

- This assumes you are “saved” (v. 5)

**Q: Is “Converting” & being “Born Again” necessary for salvation?** (see Matt. 18:3 & John 3:3)

**Q: What is our #LivingHope and why does it matter?**

2. A #LivingHope is the expectation salvation is Kept for you & you for it (1 Pet. 1:4-5).

- Your salvation is kept for you **by GOD** in heaven (v. 4)
- GOD's power guards your salvation through faith (v. 5)

**Q: Why does this matter?**

3. A #LivingHope overflows as Joy (rejoicing) in suffering (1 Pet. 1:6-9).

## Application In Community



**Note:** When a person tries to live the Christian life on their own, taking the truths they like from Christianity (and this religion or that), while ignoring or even rejecting aspects of faith that they don't like, one creates their own spirituality, which (in reality) lacks power to help that person grow.

### Q: How is this so?

Because when a person develops their own version of faith without Christian community that collectively is under the authority of GOD's Word (the Bible), the person on their own develops blind spots. They see only what they want to see, and if they join any kind of group, it tends to be with people that agree with them and affirm their perspective without challenging them to see other aspects of Scripture that they would normally ignore, but which are important to GOD. We often do not want to see what makes us feel uncomfortable or what would challenge us to change and grow. And the result of this kind of spirituality is stagnation.

But in a Christian community of diverse people that has come under the authority of GOD's Word, we are challenged to see GOD's multifaceted character on display in His Word and through the passions of other people in such a way that we, each, are forced to confront our own shortcomings in order to grow in the Lord. And when this is done in a *very* loving environment, GOD's power is manifested and people begin to move forward, worship more fully in community, and see real change for the individual and the group that is in Christ. May this be our goal together in small group and may this spill over into the church and positively impact our community (Acts 2:42-47).

### Questions:

- 1) What makes you happy? [encourage everyone to give one example]
- 2) First Peter 1:6 speaks of testing and trials of various kinds. We would all agree that this Pandemic is a trial. What has been your greatest struggle or "trial" because of the pandemic these past 8 months?
- 3) Why are trials necessary for the Christian, according to vv. 6-7?
- 4) How does our "living hope" (v. 3) give us "joy" (or rejoicing) in the midst of these trials (v. 8)? [i.e., how does the guarantee of Heaven and no Judgment change your outlook...today?]
- 5) How can you make it through this trial with faith and rejoicing? What do you need?