

Learned a new Spiritual Discipline over the last couple of weeks.

- Mountain Biking.
- This is helping me spiritually and giving me a lot of hope.

The title of the message this morning is ...

A Living Hope

1 Peter 1:3-5

CONTEXT

Peter is writing a letter to Christians scattered throughout the provinces of ...

- Pontus, Galatia, Cap-pe-do-cia, Asia and Bithynia ...

The word “Christian” can be a very broad term today.

When the bible talks about a Christian it is talking about ...

- Someone who has made Jesus Lord of their lives.
- Who has joyfully and eagerly submitted their lives to his rule & reign.
- [Because] He has become their greatest affection, treasure, joy & delight.

So he is writing to Christians and he says ...

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! [Why?]

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

There is a lot being said here ...

- But for now, we are going to be focusing on that phrase ...
- In v.3 – “Living Hope”

Let's read it again so that you can get a sense for where it fits in.



³ 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 ...

Between today and next Sunday ...

- I want to try and answer four questions with regards to this living hope.

1. What is the basis of your living hope?

- If you are a Christian.

2. What will the future experience of this living hope be like?

- That we are hoping for?
- What is coming?

3. What is the present experience of this living hope?

4. What is the purpose of God giving us this living Hope?

So, those are the four questions ...

1. ...
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...

What is the Basis of your Living Hope?

What is your Living Hope resting on?

1 Peter 3:15 "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have"

HOPE

So as a Christian/ child of God/ disciple of Jesus.

- I have a living hope.

Peter is saying that you need to always be able to give an answer as to why.

- Why do you have the hope that you have?
- Can you do that?

Imagine News 24 waiting for us outside after church ...

- Interviewing people asking you ...

- Easter in many ways is about a celebration of Hope.
- So then tell me, WHY do you have this hope?

I believe Peter gives us the answer to that question in verse 3 ...

- In three statements that we will look at briefly ...
- And then unpack more fully.

What is the first basis for my Living Hope?

1. THE NEW BIRTH.

- 2 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 ...

As a Christian you are born again into a living hope.

- low's the living hope started in the new birth.
- The hope wasn't there before the new birth.
- The new birth enabled you to enter the living hope.

We will came back to them and say more.

Second basis for the Living Hope is ...

2. GOD'S MERCY

- 2 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 ...

- 4 • No Great Mercy → No New Birth.
- 5 • No New Birth → No Living Hope.
- 6 • No great mercy → No Living Hope

Third basis for the living hope ...

3. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

- 1 Notice the word through.
- 2 In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope THROUGH the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ...

- 4 • NO resurrection → NO new birth.
- 5 • NO new birth → NO living hope.
- 6 • Therefore, NO resurrection → NO living hope.

Now we have three statements as to where your living hope is resting.

- What is the basis of it? (Resting Idea)

1. You were born again.

Great Mercy.

1. LIVING HOPE

3. BORN AGAIN
2. GREAT MERCY

2. Because of the great mercy of God Born Again
3. And he did it through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Let's unpack each of those for a moment starting with ...

- **MERCY**, since that is where everything starts.

In his **GREAT MERCY** he has given us new birth into a living hope ...

Mercy!

- It was there before the New Birth was there.
- It was there before the Resurrection was there.

When you think of your Living Hope through New Birth ...

- Resting on Mercy, how does that effect you?

It should have a very humbling effect.

- As well as a very strengthening effect.

MERCY! What does it mean?

- Mercy – [Eleos] – El-lay-os – Compassion or pity.
- Meaning, you didn't earn it.

You didn't earn the right to be born again.

- You didn't earn the right to have a living hope.
- It came from Mercy. *Compassion*

Someone selling pens door to door for R10.

You say, keep the pens, here is R500.00

- What is that called? Mercy or compassion.
- They didn't earn the R500.
- It was not a fair trade at all.

So, why did you give it to them?

- You just felt generous.
- You gave what the person didn't have a right to.
- Because you felt generous in the moment

*Dude rattle
for soccer trip*

And that is God towards us.

Grace (Favour)

We were able to be born again because of MERCY.

- Not because of our awesomeness.
- Not because of a “fair” trade, but because of MERCY.

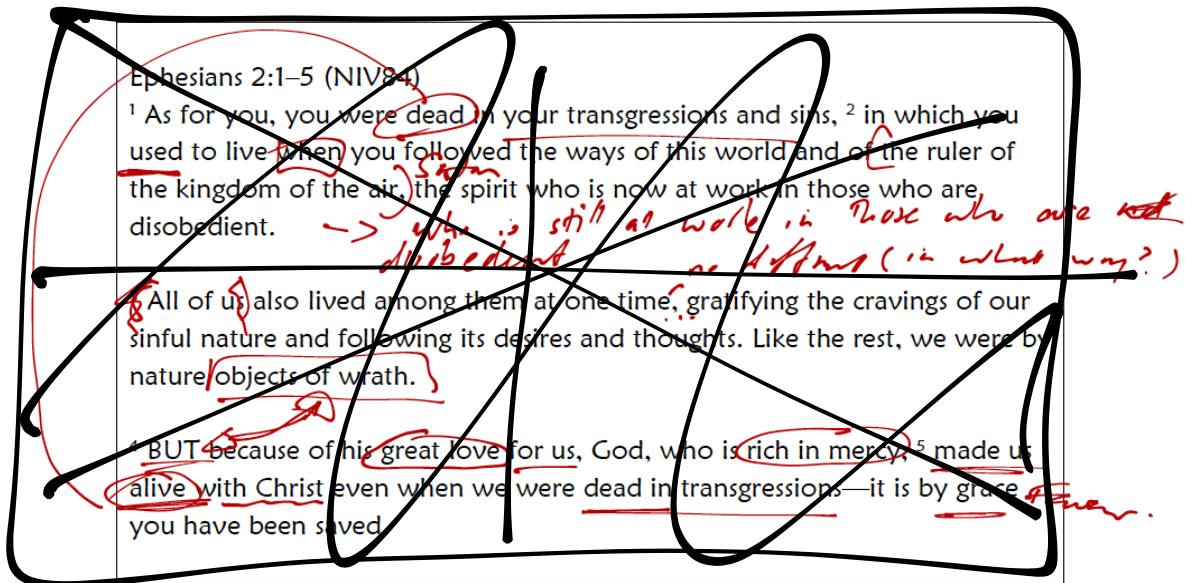
Ephesians 2 makes the point very clear ...

Ephesians 2:1–5 ¹ As for you, you were ² dead in your transgressions and sins, ³ in which you ⁴ used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

⁵ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

⁶ BUT because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁷ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

(Favour)



So, our ability to be born again into the living hope that we have.

- Is because of his mercy, his compassion.
- Which should fill you with both a great sense of humility ...
- And great confidence.

What a blessed thing it is if you know and realize ...

- That everything that you have is because of MERCY.

When you are able to look at everything in life ...

- And you are able to say, I have what I have ...
- And I am what I am, because of God's great mercy.

I don't have a right to life ...

- I don't have the right to be able to breathe ...
- To be a part of God's family.
- To be a part of this great church ...
- To ...

Everything I have, especially my Living Hope, is MERCY!

- When you are able to comprehend that ...
- Everything changes.

It will change the way you live your life.

- How you treat people at work.
- How you look at work, the water crisis, politics ...
- It will change the way you talk to others and about others.
- ...

Second and Third Foundation.

The Resurrection & New Birth

1 Peter 1:3 In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope

THROUGH the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ...

How does that work?

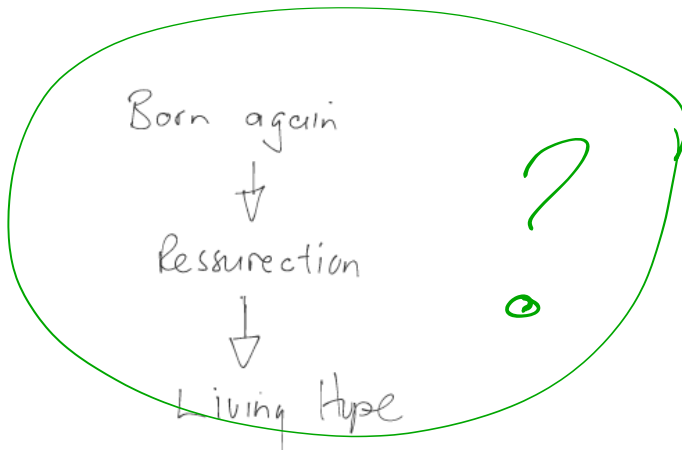
- How does the new birth come about through the resurrection?

The new birth is something that happens in here (heart)?

- The resurrection is an historical event ...
- That happened over 2000 years ago.

What does he mean? How does this work?

Born again → through the resurrection → Into a living hope.



But how?

Romans 6:3-7³ ... don't you know that all of us who were baptized ...

~~Baptized~~ = Baptizō

To be submerged, immersed or dipped in water.

³ ... don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death [Why?] in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

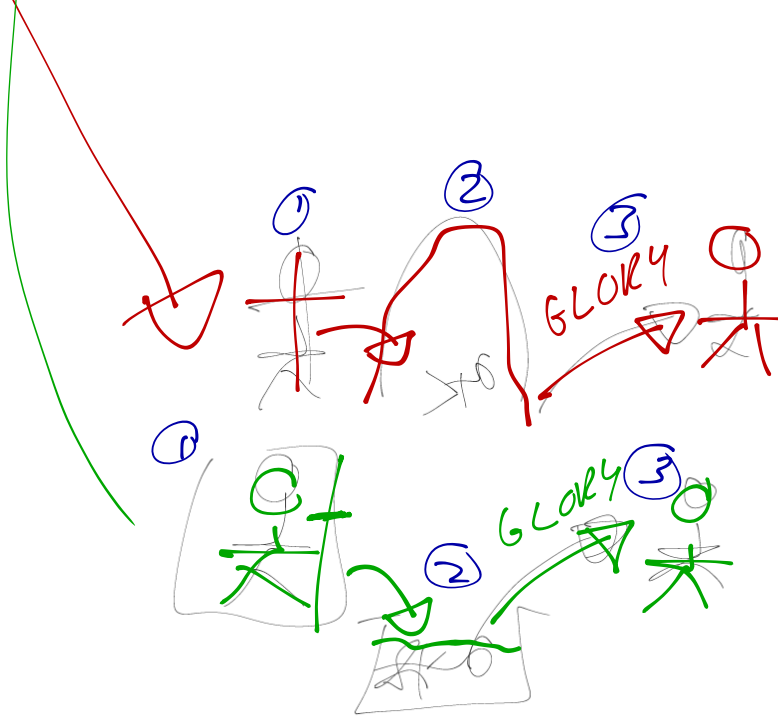
⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷ because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

ONE SIDE you have Christ.

- Died, buried, raised.

OTHER SIDE

- We have my dead soul.
- I make a decision to die with him.
- Get buried with him. (Connection)
- And raised with him through the glory of the Father.
- Into the indestructible life of the Coming Age.
- That is my Living Hope.



That is the 2nd and 3rd foundation New Birth through the Resurrection.

Remember 1 Peter 3:15 “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have”

So, someone says, ok, that I “sort of” understand.

- But, how did you even get to this point?
- Where and how did all of this start.

This is all still very mind boggling to me.

- I have always known you NOT to be a very religious person ...

Or maybe even, I have always known you to be a religious person.

- But you were just that, religious.

You use to be disinterested or apathetic towards God and the bible.

- But now it is like there is light & life in your eyes ...
- You seem to love God, the bible and his church.
- It actually seems to be all consuming.
- Almost bordering on a little koe-koe.

You are up early every morning to be with God.

- With a bible and a notepad.
- ...
- It seems like you are completely taken by it?

It even seems like church is not just a place that you go to.

- But something that is almost a part of you.

- Almost like it is in your DNA.
- Almost like your church is your family.

And then, besides all of that ...

- It seems like your whole value system has changed.

Not only do you NOT look at woman ...

- In an inappropriate and disrespectful manner ...
- But it also looks like you do not even have the desire to do so.

And I know that I sound a bit like a Verimark add, but there is more ...

- You use to be quiet, reserved ...
- But now you are engaging and interested and contributing.

WHAT HAPPENED?

- What caused the change?
- I want to understand?
- What happened?
- What did you experience?
- It seems strange and yet amazing at the same time???

If you are born again.

- If you are able to see and savour the supremacy of Christ ...
- Above all things.
- And you have joyfully and eagerly submitted your life ...
- To his rule and reign.

I think you will say something like this ...

- I know at a time (or for many years) ...
- I either had no interest or it had no real effect on me.

I use to just go to church or read my bible or ...

- Because it was a good thing to do or a right thing to do ...
- Or that is what my parents always did.

But then one day I started reading the bible with more intent ...

- Or God placed people in my life who taught me more about the bible.
- And as I read, or as they taught and I read ...
- Something happened.

It was like something inside of me woke up.

- As if could suddenly see something, that I have never seen before.
- But, it was not that I was merely seeing with these eyes (head).
- But suddenly I was starting to see with these eyes [The eyes of my heart.]

And something inside of me suddenly came alive ...

- With regards to the things of God.
- And I couldn't get rid of the feeling.
- It was as if I was completely taken by it.

And God's love and his call became clearer and clearer and clearer.

- And the more clearly, I was able to see him and his love and his will.
- The more clearly, I started to see myself.

And the more clearly, I started to see myself ...

- The more I started so see who I was before him.

And the more clearly, I started so see who I was before him.

- The more I desperately wanted to be different ...
- And somehow fulfill my God given purpose ...
- Of reflecting some of his beauty, splendor and majesty into the world.
- Because the light of the knowledge of the glory of God ...
- Was shining into my heart.

Sorry, the light of what?

Let me show you a scripture.

2 Corinthians 4:4 ² The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, ¹ so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, ⁴ who is the image of God.

²
Satan



Satan has blinded me for all of my life ...

- To the light of the gospel that displays the glory [splendour, beauty ...] of Christ.

The wonder of Christ has always been right before me ...

- But I was blinded to it.

But then the ⁶ ... God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in "my" heart to give "me" the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

I started seeing God's glory in Jesus.

God



- I started to see who Jesus is.
- And I started to see everything that God is for us in him.

(2) → GLL
(3) → in

Let me show you another scripture ...

2 Corinthians 3:18 ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

(2) Pray (3)

As soon as the veil started to lift.

- And I started contemplating the glory of Jesus.
- I was as if I was starting to be transformed into his image ...
- With an ever-increasing glory.

That was not my own doing ...

- But that came from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
- And THAT IS MY STORY!

Let me tell you, that is the only kind of KNOWING ...

- That will enable you to stay the course ...
- When life gets hard, when disappointment knocks on your door.
- When your dreams don't seem to come true ...
- Or when the "Christian" life does not turn out ...
- As easy as you thought it would be.

When you face those moments of crisis or despair or trauma or disappointment

- Living this life because it is right or because your parents did ...
- Or because you have researched the historical arguments ...
- And facts and logic deductions ...
- Will not suffice!!! It will not cut it!
- It will not pull you through.

To see, ^[with the heart] is to know!

- And that kind of knowing is the same as ...
- Knowing that there is light outside.

Is there light outside?

- Argue for ... that there is light outside.
- There is no argument, there is light outside.
- That is what these (eyes) are for.
- And that is what Paul says, the eyes of your heart are for.

So, that is the answer to the first question.

- What is the basis of your Living Hope?
1. The MERCY of God, where it all flows from.
 2. The resurrection of Jesus, so that you are caught up ...
 - Into his indestructible life through the new birth.
 3. And this miracle by which the eyes of the heart opened to see ...
 - The self-authenticating Glory of God in the Face of Christ in the gospel.