



THE ORCHARD

## Remember Your Living Hope

1 Peter 1:1-12

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### Introduction:

- For the next several weeks, we'll be looking at the book of 1 Peter.
  - This book was written to Christians who needed encouragement to persevere.
  - After the excitement of coming to know the Lord, they were beginning to face various trials in their lives.
  - The honeymoon was over.
  - And through the coming chapters we'll see how:
  - They were facing social pressure to devote less time to Christ.
  - They were facing conflict at work.
  - They were learning to build healthy marriages, and battling temptation.
  - They were suffering even though they were doing good.
  - They needed more wisdom to share their faith.
  - They needed assurance about the future, and strength to keep serving the Lord.
  
- And Peter writes to encourage these believers to be faithful even in the midst of uncertain times.
  - Through this letter, Peter shows how God gives his people everything they need, so they can stand firm, and keep their hope in Christ.
  
- And I truly believe this is what we need to hear today.



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- Just like the people in 1 Peter, I know we're also facing various trials and pressures in life.
  - Life in this world isn't always easy.
  - But despite all this, many of you are continuing to serve the Lord with all your heart.
  - You're enduring hardship.
  - You're putting the needs of others above yourself.
  - You're doing your best to raise your children.
  - You're honoring the Lord, not only at home, but also at work.
  - You're doing good, even when others don't notice, or pay you back.
  - And through this series, I want to encourage you to keep giving your life for Christ.
  - And so, I've titled this series, Faithful Living in a Broken World.
- And as we begin, we'll see today how we can continue to faithfully live for Christ, because God's power is working in us.
    - In 2 Peter chapter 1 verse 3, Peter states that God's divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.
    - God's power is working in you.
    - Let that sink in.
    - The God of the universe, who made all things, who sustains all things, who rules all things, is working in you.
    - Not just around, but in you.
    - Now, I hear someone saying:
      - "But I don't feel God's power."
      - "Right now, I feel really weak and tired."
      - "How is God's power working in me?"

### **Point 1:**



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- The first way God works in you is by choosing you with his grace.
  - God has chosen you by his grace.
  - Take a look at verse 1:
  - **“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...”** 1 Peter 1:1
  - Peter reminds the believers they were elected by God.
  - They were chosen by God.
- To be chosen by God means we didn't earn our salvation.
  - It wasn't because we proved ourselves.
  - It wasn't because we're more righteous than others.
  - It wasn't because we know more than others.
  - Rather, to be chosen by God means we're saved purely by God's grace.
- Listen to Deuteronomy 7 verses 6 to 8:
  - **“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you...”**
  - To be chosen by God means that God loves you, just because he loves you.
  - You don't have to earn God's love.
  - He loves you purely by his grace.



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- Some people have a problem with God’s election because they feel it keeps people from coming to Christ.
  - They think to themselves:
  - “Won’t some people feel discouraged to believe in Jesus because they feel they’re not chosen?”
  - But let me say this.
  - The doctrine of election isn’t given to discourage people from believing in God.
  - It’s not used to push people away.
  - Rather, the doctrine of election is used to encourage believers that God chose them through his grace.
  - It’s doctrine that strengthens believers to persevere.
  - “Keep going Christian believer.”
  - “Why?”
  - “Because God has chosen you!”
  - And that’s exactly what Peter is doing here.
  - He’s reminding us that we’re chosen by God.
  
- And to those who don’t believe, the Bible gives an open invitation, that anyone can come to Christ.
  - Romans 10:13 clearly states:
  - **“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**
  - In fact, the truth that God elects by his grace, and invites all to come, is actually a great comfort for people to trust in Jesus Christ.
  - It means, no matter your background, no matter your past, you can come to him, because we’re saved completely by his grace.
  
- When you’re not sure about your future, when you face sin in your life, when you feel unworthy, remember that your salvation is grounded in God’s power and not your power.



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- He chose you and loved you, not because of what you did, but because of his grace.
- And so, you can trust in him.
  
- And the doctrine of election is important for us to remember, because we're also exiles in this world.
  - Peter says we're elect, but also exiles in the world.
  - An exile refers to someone who doesn't fully belong, or to someone who isn't finally home.
  
- God's people were exiles when enemies captured them, and took them away.
  - They were living in foreign lands.
  
- And it's the same with us.
  - We may be a citizen of the United States, or India, or Canada, or Mexico.
  - But as Christian believers, we're citizens of heaven.
  - This world isn't our final home.
  - No matter where you live, we're all living in tents, waiting for our final resting place.
  
- The problem is that we oftentimes forget that we're chosen by God, and so we work really hard to be chosen by the world.
  - We find our identity in our position in this world.
  - Do you ever try to do that?
  - Or we find security in building wealth.
  - Or we look for comfort by being accepted.
  - Now, these aren't necessarily wrong.
  - But if our identity, and security, and comfort is grounded in the world, and not in Christ, we're going to be disappointed because none of these will last.



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- Positions change, wealth disappears, and people who are friendly one day, can turn to hate you the next day.
- I remember when I was in middle school, I really wanted to fit in with my friends at school.
  - And I begged my mom to buy me a Starter jacket because I wanted to fit in.
  - Did any of you ever have a Starter jacket?
  - It was an expensive jacket that wasn't even that warm.
  - I begged my mom.
  - So, she bought me a Charlotte Hornets Starter jacket, and I thought I was so cool.
  - Looking back, it was the biggest waste of money.
  - I had a nice warm puffy jacket, but instead of wearing that, no matter how cold it was, I just had to wear my Starter jacket.
- I see some youth group students in our service, and I really hope you can see that your confidence needs to come from Jesus Christ.
  - In middle school it may be a jacket.
  - In high school it may be grades.
  - In college it may be pressure to sleep with someone you're dating.
  - As adults it may be your career.
  - Later in life it may be respect for what you've accomplished.
  - But none of these will give you peace.
- In this world:
  - You'll continue to experience trouble.
  - You'll continue to face difficult times.
  - You'll have times of emptiness and dissatisfaction.



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- Why?
  - Because God made us for himself.
  - God made you and me for the world to come.
  - And it's only when we see that we're chosen by God, that we can feel peace in our hearts and find that we can truly rest.
  - It's only when you see that your confidence can only come from Christ, that you can live how you were made to live.
- When you feel you don't belong, when you feel rejected by others, when you feel empty and weak, remember that you're chosen by God.

### **Point 2:**

- How is God's power working in you?
  - Not only are you chosen by God, but second, God's power is also shaping you into his image.
  - He's making you more like him.
  - Take a look at verses 1 and 2 again:
  - **“To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood...”** 1 Peter 1:1-2
- Do you notice how the Trinity is involved in shaping you to be more like him?
  - Peter says that God foreknows, the Spirit sanctifies, and the Son purifies.



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- Let's take a closer look at what all this means.
- Peter speaks about the foreknowledge of God.
  - The foreknowledge of God is referring to God's plan and care for his people.
  - It not just about what God knows about the future.
  - Rather, it means that before God made the world, even before time began, he decided to make you his child.
- And think about this, it also means he decided to save you, knowing every mistake you'd ever make.
  - Before time began, God knew every sin you'd commit.
  - And yet, he still decided to make you, so that one day he could complete the good work he began in you.
  - I'm not sure what you're facing today.
  - But remember this, it's not outside of God's plan.
  - God is completing the work he began in you.
- And the way God is shaping you, and making you blameless is through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
  - When you become a Christian, the Spirit opens your mind to see truth in the Bible you never saw before.
  - He also helps you to see sin in your heart you never saw.
  - It's like putting on new spiritual glasses, so you can begin to see truth you never saw before.
- Can you imagine a world where everyone was born blind and no one knew what it meant to see?
  - If we were all born blind, no one would know the beauty of a sunset, or experience the wonder of creation.
  - That's what it's like to live without the Holy Spirit.



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- But when you come to Christ, the Spirit opens your eyes so you can begin to see God's word, and the danger of sin, and the beauty of Christ, and the right direction you need to go.
- Even more, to be sanctified by the Spirit also means that he gives new desires.
  - Birds have an appetite for worms.
  - Kids have an appetite for candy.
  - Dogs have an appetite for whatever's on the dinner table.
  - Our dog will wait until we're not watching, and eat what's on the table.
  - And sinners have an appetite for sin.
  - But when the Spirit begins to work in your life, you'll begin to see that he gives you a longing for God's word, and prayer, and worship, and obedience to Christ.
  - You'll still battle sin in this life.
  - But you'll also begin to experience a longing to obey Jesus Christ.
  - That's the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.
  - He opens blinded eyes and transforms you to love Jesus Christ.
- The power of God shapes you through the Father's plan.
  - The power of God shapes you through the Spirit.
  - And finally, the power of God also shapes you, through the sprinkling of Christ's blood.
  - Now, what in the world does Peter mean, when he speaks about the sprinkling of Christ's blood?
- Well, he's saying that we're forgiven and cleansed of our sins.
  - The blood of Christ washes away our sin.



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- But I believe Peter is saying more than that.
  - In Exodus 24, the people of God vow to obey his word, and afterward, Moses sprinkles them with blood.
  - The sprinkling was a way for God to tell his people that they belonged to him.
  - Those who were not his people, became his people.
  - In the same way, through the blood of Christ we're now marked by God.
  - It means we belong to him.
  
- A few months ago, we decided to get a gecko.
  - His name is Meatball.
  - And we were worried because Meatball wasn't eating and gaining weight.
  - We got a scale to weigh our gecko.
  - We helped him eat his food.
  - My son would literally spoon feed the gecko.
  - And he's really good at hiding, so when we couldn't find him in the tank, our whole family would get worried that he somehow escaped.
  - For a simple gecko, our family poured out our heart.
  - Why?
  - Because he belonged to us.
  
- That's what Peter is saying about us.
  - Through the sprinkling of blood, we now belong to God.
  - And if we care this much about a lizard, how much more do you think God cares for us?
  - Do you see what that means?
  - It means he knows our sorrows.
  - It means he cares for us.
  - It means he's going to bring us to where we need to go.
  - It's like God is saying to us:



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- “You belong to me now, so you don’t have to worry.”
- “You belong to me now, so I’m going to help you and shape you.”
- Listen to this benediction from 1 Thessalonians:
  - **“Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”** 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
  - God is going to get you there.
  - “Pastor, I’m feeling really discouraged right now, I don’t know if I can press on.”
  - God will surely do it.
  - “Pastor, I’m really struggling with sin.”
  - “I’m trying to fight, but I don’t know if I can overcome.”
  - Brother and sister, God will surely do it.
- Through the Father’s plan, through the Spirit’s presence, through the sprinkling of the blood, the power of God is working to shape you into his image.

### **Point 3:**

- Not only are you chosen by God’s power, not only are you being shaped by God’s power, your inheritance is also being kept secure by God’s power.
  - God is keeping your inheritance secure.
  - Take a look at verse 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...”**



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- Peter says that God has caused you to be born again to a living hope.
  - Notice again how it's God who brings new life.
  - God is the one who causes new birth in us.
  
- Furthermore, you're not born into a hopeless situation, rather you're born into a living hope.
  - We all come into this world under very different circumstances.
  - Some are born into a lifetime of sickness.
  - Some are born into conflict.
  - Some are born into pain.
  - Others are born into war.
  - But do you see the good news in this verse?
  - God is saying, no matter your situation, no matter where you are, no matter how dire the circumstance may be, if you come to Christ, you're born into a living hope.
  
- And the reason it's living hope is because you're given new life through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - When Jesus died, he paid for your sins.
  - And when Jesus rose, you rose with him to newness of life.
  - That means, you're no longer dead in sin, but alive in Christ.
  - You're alive in Christ.
  - Sin can tempt you.
  - Sin can discourage you.
  - Sin can bring sorrow.
  - It can even cause pain.
  - But you know what, if you're in Christ, it can never ever condemn you.



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- It can never take away your salvation.
- And one day, you'll stand before the King of glory, because you're born into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- But there's also a future aspect to this hope.
  - Listen to what Peter writes:
  - **“He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...”** 1 Peter 1:4-5
- Peter says that our future inheritance is imperishable.
  - That means, it's indestructible.
  - After God's people finally received the promised land, it was destroyed and taken over by other nations.
  - They worked so hard.
  - They waited so long.
  - But what they received in this world didn't last.
  - But here, Peter says that the coming inheritance will never perish.
  - It can never be destroyed.
- Sometime ago, someone told me how they felt robbed because someone took their parking spot.
  - They had their blinker on.
  - They were clearly waiting for the spot when another person just stole the spot.
  - Have you ever had someone steal your parking spot?
  - Well, in the new heavens and the new earth.



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- No one will be able to take your inheritance from you.
- Furthermore, it'll also be undefiled.
  - After receiving the land, God's people struggled to obey his word.
  - They kept worshipping idols.
  - They kept defiling the land.
  - But when we get to heaven, there won't be any more sin.
  - It'll never be defiled.
- Do you ever get discouraged by sin and failure in your life?
  - If we're honest with ourselves, I'm sure all of us can confess that we've struggled with sin.
  - Haven't we struggled with sinful thoughts?
  - Haven't we struggled with sinful words?
  - Haven't we struggled with pride?
  - Haven't we struggled with selfishness?
- In the coming inheritance, you'll be completely blameless before Jesus.
  - There will be no more sin.
  - There will be no more pain.
  - There will be no more tears.
  - You'll won't be able to mess it up.
  - It'll be undefiled.
- Finally, your inheritance will never fade.
  - Do you ever feel your body fading away?
- My wife and I showed our kids our wedding pictures.
  - You know what they said?
  - "Was that really you?"



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- “You guys look so different?”
- Why?
- Because our body is fading.
  
- In this world, our bodies will fade.
  - Our strength will fade.
  - Our memory will fade.
  - Our beauty will fade.
  - Our possessions will fade.
  
- But the Bible reminds us that our inheritance in Christ will never fade away.
  - God’s going to give you a new body, a new mind, everlasting strength, and an eternal home.
  - He’s prepared for you an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
  - It’s kept secure in heaven.

### **Point 4:**

- How is God’s power working in you?
  - He’s chosen you by his grace.
  - He’s shaping you into his image.
  - He’s keeping your inheritance secure.
  - And finally, he’s guarding you until he brings you home.
  
- Take a look at verses 3 to 5.
  - **“He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a**



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**salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” 1 Peter 1:3-5**

- Not only is God keeping your inheritance secure, he’s also guarding you, until you can receive that inheritance.
- Listen to Pastor Warren Wiersbe:
- “Believers are not kept by their own power, but by the power of God. Our faith in Christ has so united us to Him that His power now guards us and guides us. We are not kept by our strength, but by His faithfulness. How long will He guard us? Until Jesus Christ returns and we will share in the full revelation of His great salvation.”  
(Wiersbe, Be Hopeful, 32)
  
- Some time ago, I decided to do a 100-mile bike ride from Glenview, to the city of Chicago, and all the way to Indiana.
  - And the plan was to return the same way back to Glenview.
  - Well, I got to the city.
  - I got to Indiana.
  - And once I got back to Chicago, there was no more power in my legs to pedal the bike.
  - And so, I had to call my wife to pick me up and take me home.
  
- This morning, you may feel that you don’t have any strength.
  - You may feel tired.
  - You may feel weak.
  - You may feel discouraged.
  - But you know what, God isn’t going to leave you on the side of the road.
  - He’s going to bring you home.

### **Conclusion:**



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- And so, how should we respond?
  - Let's rejoice.
  - In verse 6, Peter says:
  - **"In this you rejoice?"**
  - In what?
  - In all that he's said from verses 1 to 5.
  
- If someone pays you 3000 dollars a year for a difficult job, you're going to feel depressed.
  - But if someone pays you 30 billion dollars, you're going to rejoice as you work.
  - No matter how hard, you'll work with joy.
  - Well, God has prepared for you an eternal and glorious inheritance, worth more than anything in this world.
  - So, let's rejoice.
  
- Not only that, but let's keep going.
  - Keep trusting Jesus Christ, because he never fails.
  - Keep fighting sin, because it can never condemn you.
  - Keep serving the Lord, because he's your everlasting strength.
  - Keep doing good, because there is a reward.
  - Keep living faithfully in this broken world.
  - Because the power of God is working in you.
  - He's chosen you.
  - He's shaping you.
  - He's secured your inheritance.
  - And by his grace, he's going to bring you home.