

# The Resurrection of A Joyous Living Hope



## The Resurrection of A Joyous Living Hope

### Key idea:

The resurrection of Jesus gives a joyous living hope even in troubled times for all those who are reborn through Him.

### Key text:

1 Peter 1:3–9

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, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### Key points:

1. The believers to whom Peter wrote were suffering many trials, especially being persecuted for their faith.
2. Suffering is a major theme throughout the letter, so whatever Peter has to say about joy and hope must be understood as applying during times of intense suffering.
3. Peter tells Christians that they were born again into a living hope and that this produces great, glorious joy.
4. The hope and joy given to believers are not dependent upon outward circumstances but are rooted in God, His character, and His work - especially the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

5. The resurrection of Jesus is the basis for a living joyous hope because it shows that the greatest enemy - death - has already been defeated.
6. The resurrection of Jesus guarantees our own future resurrection from the dead and a glorious eternal inheritance.

**Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Why is it important for me to understand how central the theme of suffering is in 1 Peter? How might my understanding of hope and joy be altered if these believers were not experiencing suffering when Peter wrote to them?
3. How much are my hope and joy affected by my current circumstances? Can I think of times when my hope and joy faltered due to circumstances? Can I think of times when they remained strong despite difficult circumstances?
4. What does it tell me if my hope and joy are being affected by my external circumstances? In such times, where am I placing my hope? In such times, what is the source of my joy?
5. How can Peter say that we receive hope through the resurrection of Jesus? How does His resurrection apply to me?
6. Peter also points forward to our eternal inheritance which can never perish, spoil, or fade. How is this related to my living with joyous hope in the present? How should eternity inform my living during this age?
7. Even if I grant that death is the greatest enemy, how does the resurrection of Jesus apply to my other difficulties? Even if I know Jesus will raise me from the dead, how does that help me when faced with sickness, financial difficulties, relational problems, or the loss of dreams?
8. How can I live in the joyous hope that Jesus' resurrection gave to me when I became His follower? How can I experience that joy and hope this week? How can I share it with other members of BRCC?
9. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?