

I Peter 1:3-9

The Believer's Hope through Trials

> In what sense do you think our hope is a "living" hope (v.3)?

Our hope is based in Christ's resurrection – the fact He is alive (He is "living") proves that our hope is a reality.

> What do you see in **verses 4 and 5** that show our salvation is eternally secure (i.e. can't be lost)? Our inheritance is already reserved for us and we are kept by the power of God.

> We are told we can rejoice through trials? For what reasons is that true according to **verses 6-7**? Because trials are temporary, and because they show our faith is genuine.

> How are trials intended to impact our faith? They are to strengthen and purify us, allowing our faith to bring glory to God. They also increase our joy as we anticipate Christ's return.

Application

When we go through a difficult experience, we often think of ourselves as innocent victims who deserve better. The fact is, God says to expect trials for they serve a great purpose.

Think of a trial Christians face that you can relate to. List the pros and cons of experiencing that trial:

- Pros - _____
- Cons - _____

Consider: Do the pros outweigh the cons? Why or why not?

When we think about salvation and the hope Christ has given us, we can have confidence that He will carry us through the difficult moments of life. Use those moments to demonstrate a genuine trust in Him. What trials are you going through right now? How may God be strengthening your faith through them? Surrender to God and allow His will to be done. In the end, your faith will only grow stronger!