

1 Pet. 1:3-5: Blessed be the God & 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, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, & unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Intro: Last Sunday we considered some of the amazing privileges we have as God's children: chosen, sanctified, cleansed, obedient. Today we see more: born again, living hope, an amazing inheritance, & we are kept by God! All of this moves Peter to bless the LORD!

God has caused you to be born again to to a living hope & to gain a glorious inheritance that you will never lose!

1. God Is The Blessed God

1 Pet. 1:3: Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

a. Peter blesses God: This is a way of thanking, praising, & worshiping God! It's used numerous times in the O.T. to worship the LORD: **Ps. 134:1-2:** Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD! Lift up your hands to the holy place and bless the LORD!

- **Ps. 72:18-19:** Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory!

b. God is blessed: John Piper: There is a beautiful phrase in 1 Tim. 1:11 buried beneath the too-familiar surface of Bible buzzwords. Before we dig it up, it sounds like this: "The gospel of the glory of the blessed God." But after you dig it up, it sounds like this: "The good news of the glory of the happy God." A great part of God's glory is his happiness. It was inconceivable to the apostle Paul that God could be denied infinite joy & still be all-glorious. To be infinitely glorious was to be infinitely happy. He used the phrase, "the glory of the happy God," because it is a glorious thing for God to be as happy as he is. God's glory consists much in the fact that he is happy beyond our wildest imagination. As the great eighteenth-century preacher, Jonathan Edwards, said, "Part of God's fullness which he communicates, is his happiness. This happiness consists in enjoying & rejoicing in himself; so does also the creature's happiness." & this is the gospel: "The gospel of the glory of the happy God." It is good news that God is gloriously happy. No one would want to spend eternity with an unhappy God. If God is unhappy then the goal of the gospel is not a happy goal, & that means it would be no gospel at all. But, in fact, Jesus invites us to spend eternity with a happy God when he says, "Enter into the joy of your master" (Matt. 25:23). Jesus lived & died that his joy – God's joy – might be in us & our joy might be full (John 15:11; 17:13). Therefore the gospel is "the gospel of the glory of the happy God."

c. God is Father, Son, & Holy Spirit: 1 Pet. 1:3: Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! **Scott Swain:** According to the Bible's Trinitarian discourse, the personal names "Father," "Son," & "Spirit" name mutual relations – that is, relations between the persons. The Father is the "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" . . . The Son is the Father's "beloved Son" . . . The Holy Spirit is

“the Spirit of God” . . . & “the Spirit of Christ,” “the Spirit of his Son” . . . What distinguishes the persons of the Trinity from each other are their relations to each other, not their relations to us.

d. Jesus is God: Jesus is the Son of God in a very unique way! He’s always been the Son! Lord!
- **Jn. 5:18:** This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God

2. God Has Caused You To Be Born Again

1 Pet. 1:3: he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

a. What does it mean to be born again?: Jn. 3:3-6: Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb & be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water & the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, & that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- **Ezek. 36:25-27:** I will sprinkle clean water on you, & you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, & from all your idols I will cleanse you. & I will give you a new heart, & a new spirit I will put within you. & I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh & give you a heart of flesh. & I will put my Spirit within you, & cause you to walk in my statutes & be careful to obey my rules.

Of Grace in Regeneration: We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; & that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, & faith, & newness of life. **GOSPEL!**

- **1 Jn. 5:1:** Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ **has been born of God** . . .

- **1 Pet. 1:23:** you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living & abiding word of God

b. You are born again to a living hope: We have hope now – forward looking faith! We have hope in God! We have hope in a glorious future with God! We have hope in God’s amazing promises (Rom. 8:28 & 8:32)! We have hope in a glorious inheritance!

It’s a living hope: “**born** again to a living hope through the **resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead”: **John Piper:** We are born – we are alive! & Jesus is alive! It’s a real hope, not vain!

c. You are born again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead: 1 Cor. 15:20: But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- **Rom. 8:23:** not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

d. You are born again by God’s great mercy: We don’t deserve any of this! We deserve hell!

Remember this when you are suffering! Remember this on bad days when you want to give up!

God has caused you to be born again to to a living hope & to gain a glorious inheritance that you will never lose!

3. You Have Been Born Again To A Glorious Inheritance

1 Pet. 1:4: to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, & unfading, kept in heaven for you

a. What is this inheritance?: In the O. T., inheritance was the promised land! In the N.T., we read of inheriting the kingdom & inheriting eternal life! We will inherit all of this! Heirs of God; joint: Christ

- **Matt. 5:5:** Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

- **Rom. 4:13:** For the promise to Abraham & his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

- **Matt. 25:34:** Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

- **Matt. 19:29:** everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold & will inherit eternal life.

- **Heb. 11:16:** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one

- **Rev. 21:3-4:** I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of **God is with man. He will dwell with them**, & they will be his people, & **God himself will be with them as their God**. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, & death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

- **God: Jos. 13:33:** But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel is their inheritance; **Ps. 73:25!**

- **Ps. 16:5:** The LORD is the portion of my inheritance & my cup

b. Your inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, & unfading: It is can never perish, spoil, or fade! It won't go bad! It has no expiration date! It's pure & holy! Moth & rust can't destroy!

c. Your inheritance is kept in heaven for you: It can never be taken away from you! It is totally & absolutely secure! You can't lose it, & God won't lose it either!

Tom Schreiner: This inheritance "can never perish" or be corrupted. Elsewhere we are told that God is imperishable (Rom 1:23; 1 Tim 1:17) & that our resurrection bodies are incorruptible (1 Cor 15:22). The inheritance cannot "spoil" or perhaps better is "undefiled." The inheritance will not lose its luster & beauty. It will never become stained or filthy. The same word is used to denote Jesus' sinlessness (Heb 7:26), the purity of marriage (Heb 13:4), & genuine religion (Jas 1:27). Finally, the inheritance will never "fade". It will last forever, just as the crown of reward that elders receive will never fade away (1 Pet 5:4). The verse concludes with the promise that the inheritance is "kept in heaven for you." The passive of the word "kept" is a divine passive, referring to God as the one who reserves the inheritance for believers. Peter emphasized in the strongest possible terms the security & certainty of the reward awaiting believers.

Remember this when you are suffering! Remember this on bad days when you want to give up! What if you found out today that you received an inheritance of trillions of dollars?!

God has caused you to be born again to to a living hope & to gain a glorious inheritance that you will never lose!

4. You Are Guarded By God's Power

1 Pet. 1:5: who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

a. You are guarded by God's power: God is going to make sure you receive this inheritance!

- **Ezek. 36:27:** I will put my Spirit within you, & cause you to walk in my statutes & be careful to obey my rules.

- **John 6:39-40:** this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son & believes in him should have eternal life, & I will raise him up on the last day.

- **John 10:28-29:** I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

- **Rom. 8:30-39:** those whom he predestined he also called, & those whom he called he also justified, & those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

b. You are guarded through faith: You must keep believing! You must keep trusting! You must keep hoping in God! You must keep placing your faith in Christ! & God will ensure that you do!

Of the Perseverance of Saints: We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; & they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

c. You are guarded for salvation: This is not a promise that God will necessarily guard you from pain & suffering & trials or even death. He can! But Christians suffer! God tells us we will suffer:

- **2 Tim. 3:12:** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted
- **Acts 14:22:** through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

But your faith will not fail! You will be empowered by God to endure whatever sufferings He has appointed for you & keep you persevering in faith until the end so that you will inherit salvation!

- **Lk. 22:31-32:** Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. & when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.
- **Lk. 21:16-18:** You will be delivered up even by parents & brothers & relatives & friends, & some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish.

d. This salvation is future: Salvation is used in three different senses in the Bible:

- 1) You have been saved (justification): **Eph. 2:8-9:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. & this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
 - 2) You are being saved (sanctification): **Phil. 2:12-13:** work out your own salvation with fear & trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will & to work for his good pleasure.
 - 3) You will be saved (glorification): **Rom. 13:11:** you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.
- **Heb. 9:28:** so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

V. 5: who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

God has caused you to be born again to to a living hope & to gain a glorious inheritance that you will never lose!

Hymn: When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold, Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold, He must hold me fast
- He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast!

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost, His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied, He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Til our faith is turned to sight, When he comes at last
- He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast

From our text: 1) God is great in mercy; 2) God caused us to be born again to a living hope;
3) God raised Jesus Christ from the dead; 4) God promises us an amazing inheritance;
5) God is keeping that inheritance so that it will never ever perish or be defiled or fade away!

So bless the LORD! **Hymn:** Bless the Lord, O my soul; Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name!

We have this amazing hope, all because of Jesus! Our Living Hope!

John Piper: I need to tell you something. My wife and I met for lunch yesterday which is our habit on every Thursday. I had been praying for some time about a very important subject that I wanted to talk with my wife about, a weighty subject. We had that conversation & it went very badly. My wife & I have hardly spoken a word since yesterday at lunch. We tried to speak yesterday afternoon but all I wanted to do was cry. We always pray on our knees. I read from a devotional at night and then we pray, Noel first & then me, & I was able to read & we were able to pray, but we really couldn't even speak to one another last night. & when I left this morning we didn't have the opportunity to speak. I had to go get to the airport & get to the plane & fly here. I kissed her on the cheek & I said, "Noel, this is my problem & we'll talk about it when I get back." & I got on the plane & I haven't spoken to her since. Now the reason I'm telling you this is because first of all, I don't want you to think too highly of any man. You have all these famous preachers flying in on planes to preach to you this week & they're sinners & they need the Gospel too. Secondly, I want you to know that I need the power of the resurrection every bit as much as you do. & thirdly, I want you to know because I know some of you are coming here today guilty & struggling with sexual sin & all kinds of discouragements. I want you to know that you need the power of the resurrection as well . . . I love the death & resurrection of Jesus Christ not because they turn my life into a string of successes, but because they keep me from collapsing under a string of failures.

Christ Jesus Is Our Living Hope
Our Joy, Our All Of Greatest Scope
His Father Blessed Grants Mercy Great
Gave Us New Birth, Now Heav'n Awaits
Inheritance, Unfading Kept

In Heav'n For Us Because He Wept
Because He Died And Bore God's Curse
But Then He Rose – The Curse Reversed
Salvation Comes By Faith Alone
Because Of Christ The Precious Stone!