

Journey into GOD'S GRACE

Guides for Personal Bible Study with Pastor Mark Jeske



First Peter/First Things: Hope Keeps Me Going

SCRIPTURE VERSE

I Peter 1: 3-12 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 resurrections of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation...In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold...may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Peter encourages us that we can praise God even in our struggles.
- Our troubles and pain are temporary, allowed by a loving God to make us strong and sure.
- Our true joy is not in things of this world which will not last, but in Jesus' resurrection which assures us that sin and Satan are defeated and our heavenly home awaits us.
- Jesus gives us living hope.

IN SUMMARY

It doesn't matter who you are, we all at various times have disappointment and pain. God doesn't want us to see this world as our paradise. We need to be strong and survive because we're in a war. But no matter what, we have hope, a living hope which is connected to Jesus, our living Savior. He guarantees us a place with him forever. This is what will last, not the things of this world that momentarily give us pleasure. During struggling times we remember that our faith is the only thing that matters and we look to what is to come. But until that time that Jesus takes you home, look for the blessings he gives you along the way, to give you encouragement.

FOR REFLECTION

Even when things are really bad, you can still find God's blessings if you take the time to look. What about that neighbor who shovels your driveway unasked since you had your surgery? What about the company bonus you weren't expecting that helped to pay for your car repairs? What about the devotion you stumbled upon that seemed to speak right to your heart at just the right moment? God is always there – watching, caring, helping. Look for him.