

“Suffering With Joy”

1 Peter 1:3-12

1 Peter 5:12

Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. *Stand firm in it!*

I. The Hope of Salvation

A. Peter's Prayer of Adoration

B. God's Work in Them

NIV – “he has given us new birth into a living hope.”

John 1:12,13

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.

I. The Hope of Salvation

A. Peter's Prayer of Adoration

B. God's Work in Them

C. Result of God's Work in Them – Hope

1. Our Need for Hope

“Humans seek after hope like moths seek after light. It’s intrinsic to who we are.”

“The one factor most strongly predictive of suicide is not how sick the person is, nor how many symptoms he exhibits, nor how much physical pain he is suffering, nor whether he is rich or poor. The most dangerous factor is a person's sense of hopelessness. The man without hope is the likeliest candidate for suicide. ... We cannot live without hope.”

- Aaron Kheriaty

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C. Result of God's Work in Them – Hope

1. Our Need for Hope

2. The Foundation for this Hope

Romans 8:34-39

Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? Just as it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We were regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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1. Our Need for Hope

2. The Foundation for this Hope

3. That For Which We Hope

Colossians 1:23

if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven.

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1. Our Need for Hope

2. The Foundation for this Hope

3. That For Which We Hope

4. Our Response to this Hope

The church in each culture has its own special challenges—theological blind spots that hinder Christians from growing to full maturity in Christ I think one of the most serious theological blind spots in the western church is a defective understanding of suffering. There seems to be a lot of reflection on how to avoid suffering and on what to do when we hurt. We have a lot of teaching about escape from suffering and therapy for suffering, but there is inadequate teaching about the theology of suffering

The "good life," comfort, convenience, and a painless life have become necessities that people view as basic rights. If they do not have these, they think something has gone wrong One of the results of this attitude is a severe restriction of spiritual growth, for God intends us to grow through trials.

-Ajith Fernando

I. The Hope of Salvation

A. Peter's Prayer of Adoration

B. God's Work in Them

C. Result of God's Work in Them – Hope

II. Hope Realized

A. Protected through Faith

B. Testing of Faith

NIV – “proven genuineness of your faith.”

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

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II. Hope Realized

A. Protected through Faith

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III. Hope Foretold

A. Corroborated What They Had Heard

B. The Treasure Entrusted to Them

John 20:4,5

The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead, faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; and he *stooped* to look in, and saw the linen wrappings lying there; however he did not go in.

John 20:11

But Mary was standing outside the tomb,
weeping; so as she wept, she stooped to
look into the tomb;

1 Corinthians 2:9

“Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the human heart, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Suffering is not evidence of God's absence, but of God's presence, and it is in our experience of being broken that God does his surest and most characteristic salvation work. There is a way to accept, embrace, and deal with suffering that results in a better life, not a worse one, and more of the experience of God, not less. God is working out his salvation in our lives the way he has always worked it out—at the place of brokenness, at the cross of Jesus, and at the very place where we take up our cross.

- Eugene H. Peterson

