

# The Hope of Salvation Response Guide

1 Peter 1:3-12

Bethany Assembly of God

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- Have you ever felt like an outsider because of your faith in Jesus? What happened? How did you respond to that feeling?
- What has helped you to keep the faith in spite of times when you've felt like a stranger in this world?

**Big Idea: You can persevere in faith through the hope of salvation.**

## 1. You should bless God for new birth.

*“Blessed be the God and 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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Peter 1:3–5, ESV)*

- What are some of the implications of being “born again?” Why do you think God chose to use this image.

*“Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”” (John 3:3, ESV)*

- How does the reality of new birth speak to current situations in our society regarding racism?
- What makes the hope of this new birth “living?”
- Your new birth comes with an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. How do these three words contrast with any inheritance you may get in this world?
- How does God not only keep your inheritance safe but guard your life by His power?
- Lookup Acts 19:11; Eph. 3:20; Col. 1:11; 2 Pt. 1:3; Col. 1:29; 2 Thes. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:7; 2 Pt. 1:3. What do these verses say God does for believers by His power?

- Peter refers to salvation as something that is going to happen, not just as something that has already happened to you. How should this shape your view of salvation? How should this forward looking understanding of salvation change your perspective and your life?

## **2. You should rejoice in distress.**

*“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1:6–9, ESV)*

- How can suffering and joy coexist in the same person?
- How can suffering produce glory?
- Can you tell of a time when you did something hard that resulted in joy that you wouldn't have experienced if you took the easy way out?
- What can these experiences teach you about persevering in faith?

## **3. You should remember your advantage.**

*“Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.” (1 Peter 1:10–12, ESV)*

- How can understanding that the biblical prophets point forward to what you know about Jesus help strengthen your faith?
- One lesson this teaches us is that you fit into God's historic plan of salvation. Does that encourage or motivate you? In what way?
- What do angels have to do with this salvation? How can this strengthen your faith?
- How can seeing the position of privilege you have before God enable you to overcome your battles against sin, the flesh, and the world?

## **Conclusion**

Because of our relationship with God through Jesus, we are outsiders in this world. Being an outsider tests your faith. Praising God for the inheritance you have because of your new birth, rejoicing in the midst of suffering as you look forward to glory, and remembering your position of privilege before God can help you to remain steadfast in times of distress and temptation. Take a moment to praise God now for all that He has done for you in Jesus.