

# Living Hope

## Problem:

In his book *The Problem of Pain*, C. S. Lewis commented on the ramifications of the promises of God—to make us more like Christ.

We are, not metaphorically but in very truth, a Divine work of art, something that God is making ... Over a sketch made idly to amuse a child, an artist may not take much trouble: he may be content to let it go even though it is not exactly as he meant it to be. But over the great picture of his life—the work which he loves, though in a different fashion, as intensely as a man loves a woman or a mother a child—he will take endless trouble—and would, doubtless, thereby *give* endless trouble to the picture if it were sentient. One can imagine a sentient picture, after being rubbed and scraped and re-commenced for the tenth time, wishing that it were only a thumb-nail sketch whose making was over in a minute. In the same way, it is natural for us to wish that God had designed for us a less glorious and less arduous destiny; but then we are wishing not for more love but for less.<sup>2</sup>

Lewis wrote these words in 1940 - about 20 year later his wife died from cancer and he wrote another book called a grief observed. he wrote about the overwhelming grief that paralyzed him emotionally - how his life became torture and was filled with mad midnight moments of sorrow.

The problem is not pain as an idea - but pain in the present tense - whether you grab the chair or clench your hands the drill keeps on drilling. in that moment we often need more than promises

“We were promised sufferings. They were part of the program. We were even told, 'Blessed are they that mourn,' and I accept it. I've got nothing that I hadn't bargained for. Of course it is different when the thing happens to oneself, not to others, and in reality, not imagination.” — C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

God has not been trying an experiment on my faith or love in order to find out their quality. He knew it already. It was I who didn't. In this trial He makes us occupy the dock, the witness box, and the bench all at once. He always knew that my temple was a house of cards. His only way of making me realize the fact was to knock it down.” — C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

The present tense reality of real pain often asks for more than a mere desire for a better day- it demands proof

## Main Idea:

The empty tomb is proof, that defiant joy in the midst of present pain, is our privileged position

## Text:

### The Empty Tomb is Proof

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

*\*born again- His work through His Word by His Spirit, because of His Son - 1 Pet 1:1-2 the focus in on God's initiative.*

*-no one takes credit for being born*

*- neither can they take credit for being born again - Jn 3:1-8*

*- we were dead - Jn 11:38-44; Eph 2:1-10*

*\*Living Hope- 1 Cor 15:14-19 - is hope that is based on the present tense reality of a Risen Savior because the tomb was empty...*

*->our hope is not a desire for a better future. It is grounded in the settled reality of the Resurrection-*

## Living Hope

### That Defiant Joy in the Midst of Present Pain

1Pet. 1:6 In this (living hope) **you rejoice**,\* though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved\* by various trials,

1Pet. 1:7 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.\*

1Pet. 1:8 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**,

1Pet. 1:9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*\*Rejoice- a matter of perspective when trials come- James 1:2-5*

*\*tested- proven- an untested faith is an untrustworthy faith - untested bridge, car, kid cereal etc -*

*\*praise, glory and honor- to God for your endurance - He will not let you be tempted to fall -*

*->God is glorified by our joy in the midst of grief and suffering - 1 Thess 1:4-6 - joy points to His work in us more than any other thing we do*

*->God is glorified by our defiant joy in the midst of grief and suffering.*

*Defiant joy in the present tense reality of pain is based on the present tense reality of a Risen Savior*

*\*though you do not see Him- their proof came through the Word of God 1 Pet 1:23- (Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Gideon, John the baptist, the disciples, Thomas)*

*Their faith was in the present tense reality of the Resurrected savior proclaimed in the Bible, and His impact on their lives now*

*->our joy in trials brings glory to the God who gave us the faith to endure. It was God's initiative to save us in eternity past, and it His initiative to keep us in the present.*

*-God's power does not shield believers from trials and sufferings, but it does protect us from the unbelief which would cause us to fall away.*

### Is Our Privileged Position

1Pet. 1:10 ¶ Concerning this salvation\*, **the prophets** who **prophesied** about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,

1Pet. 1:11 **inquiring** what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was **indicating** when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

1Pet. 1:12 It was revealed to them that they were **servicing** 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.\*

*\*This salvation- (1 Peter 1:3-9)- introduced through the Word by the Spirit Himself -1 Peter 1:23*

*the salvation that had been foretold on the other side of the cross has been revealed or perfected to us on this side of the cross -Rom 4:23-24; 15:4*

*Peter here seems to assert that the prophets recognized that their prophecies applied to the Messiah who would suffer and be exalted, and that they knew that many details would make sense to the readers only once they had happened - we get to see the whole thing—> hence our joy is even more important*

*\*angels long to look-So profound is the fulfillment of those expectations that even angels long to listen in on our songs of redemption, look over the shoulder of a sinner praying for forgiveness, and linger as believers endure temporary suffering for the sake of eternal glory.*

*If angels marvel at the hope we have in Christ, shouldn't we? eph 3:8-10*

**theirs was a -yet to be seen hope- ours is a living hope ->implication**

### Implication:

everyone before the cross had a yet-to-be-seen-hope, they had mere promises. We have a living hope- the empty tomb proves to us, like no people in history before, that God is for us even in terrible circumstances. - Our hope is based on more than promises - it is based on a risen Christ

**Application:** Rom 8:31-39

## Living Hope

as far as God the Father is concerned I was saved before the foundation of the world,

as far as God the Son is concerned, I was saved on a wooden cross around 2000 years ago,

as far as God the Holy Spirit is concerned, I was saved the moment I heard the gospel (September 29, 2002) and responded with the regenerated faith He gave me as a gift.

as far as I'm concerned, even though I march to the final reality of my salvation, through the valley of the shadow of death - I will defiantly rejoice - for my hope is not merely desire but the settled reality of a Risen Savior who was forsaken so I would never have to be!!!

### **Main Idea:**

The empty tomb is proof, that defiant joy in the midst of present pain, is our privileged position

**Action:** defiantly rejoice when it hurts - God gave you cause

*here are some articles to help you go further in the study -*

*<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/living-hope/>*

*<http://jenniferdukeslee.com/rejoicing-in-the-midst-of-pain/>*

*<http://www.desiringgod.org/sermons/god-is-most-glorified-in-us-when-we-are-most-satisfied-in-him>*