

4Ws live in hope

LIVING HOPE TRANSFORMS

MAY 9, 2021

WORSHIP

God So Loved,
Indescribable, Solid
Ground, Since Jesus
Came into My Heart

WELCOME

What is the most
fascinating transformation
story you've heard?
(e.g. house or car
make-over, community/
environmental
transformation, etc.)

WORD

1 PETER 1:15-16

¹⁵ but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶ because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

(READ 1 PETER 1:13-2:3 FOR FULL CONTEXT)

Last week, we learned that LIVING HOPE brings JOY because the great assurance of a future hope in the Lord gives us a solid reason to rejoice even as we face tough times. Peter helped and encouraged a suffering group of believers scattered throughout Asia Minor through his letter. **1 Peter 1:3** gives the assurance that God has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus! Peter reminded these brethren that our living hope—an imperishable inheritance, is anchored on a Person, the Messiah. We can rejoice even if we are going through tough trials (**v.6**). Our salvation demonstrates the manifold wisdom of God and His eternal purpose is made known (**Ephesians 3:10-11**) in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Another aspect of our living hope is its effect on our **transformation**. Having a living hope is not just wishful thinking; it compels us to act upon it but are we really living transformed lives? To live a transformed life, we have to:

1. FIX OUR HOPE COMPLETELY BY THINKING CLEARLY

1 Peter 1:13 teaches us to FIX OUR HOPE in God. We do this by preparing our minds (**Gk. Anazonumi**, which means to prepare or gird up the loin for battle) for the challenges it will face, clearing it of anything that goes against God's commandments. We are also tasked to be sober in spirit, which means to think clearly. Christianity is a faith that requires thinking. Wrong thinking leads to wrong behavior! The mind is foundational as **Proverbs 23:7** says "as man thinks within himself, so he is". Right thinking will produce the right kind of emotions, and thereby leading to the right actions.

To live a transformed life, you begin with right thinking. The Bible is saying that if we really believe the hope promised to us, we are to FIX our HOPE completely, not partially, on the **grace** to be seen at the coming of Jesus. And this is something we can all be sure of, and that certainty enables us not to copy the values of the world but pursue the things that glorify God.

2. BE HOLY

In **1 Peter 1:14-16**, Peter emphasizes the command to be holy (set apart) from the world. We are not to conform to worldly standards; since you fix your hope on an eternal perspective, you have to be holy. Even the Apostle Paul reminds us in **Romans 12:2** that we are not to be conformed to the patterns of the world. We are consciously and unconsciously copying the behavior of the world. If we are so sure of the coming of Jesus, we must live transformed lives! People today don't like to talk about being holy, because they interpret it as negatives (ex. don't do this, don't do that). But more than that, it means living a life set apart and totally devoted to the Lord. Somebody once said, power is God's arm; omniscience is God's eyes; love is God's heart; holiness is God's beauty. If you are not able to trust God, it is because you have not understood the holiness and goodness of God. We are capable of being holy, it will not be commanded if it is impossible to do! God gives us the power to live this way through the Holy Spirit.

Holiness and sanctification, comes from the same root word (**Gk. Hagiasmos**), and can mean **positional** holiness

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(ex. **1 Corinthians 1:2**), focusing on our justification and our legal standing. It describes a decisive moment, focused on the finished work of Christ which gave us the forgiveness of our sins. But holiness as pertained to by Peter in **v.16** is progressive sanctification (ex. **Hebrews. 12:14**). It describes the practical holiness required of us—happening continuously, striving and cooperating with God to bring us towards Christlikeness, and also the ability to overcome temptations. When we say living hope transforms, it has to do with living a holy life.

3. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD AS JUDGE

1 Peter 1:17 shows us that GOD will judge us. We will face God's judgment seat (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). We live a transformed life not only because of hope and grace, but also because of the coming judgment of the Holy Judge. Living hope transforms us because we know whatever we do for Jesus will be rewarded. God is our JUDGE and He is not unjust to forget the work we do for Him (**Hebrews 6:10**).

4. LIVE A LIFE PLEASING TO HIM

1 Peter 1:18-19 reminds us of the price paid for our redemption. It was not with perishable things like silver and gold. It was with the precious blood of Christ, pure, unblemished, and spotless! This was foreshadowed by the animal sacrifices in the Old Testament. God bought us back and we were redeemed through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We are so valuable and precious to God and we are to live a life pleasing to Him! **1 Peter 1:20-21** says that since our salvation is all anchored on Jesus, established and **foreknown (Gk. Proginosko)** before the foundation of the world, our **faith and hope are in God (v.21)**. Transformation is the work of God in our lives, but we must cooperate with Him. We must continue to study His Word to know His desires for us!

5. GROW IN LOVE THROUGH HIS WORD

1 Peter 1:22-23 tells us to **fervently love one another** because of this living hope and the certainty that Jesus is coming again. Since our salvation is precious and we must be holy, and to be holy is to be Christlike; to be Christlike is to be able to love others fervently. It's easy to love people we seldom interact with, and so the true test of fervently loving one another is seen at **home**, in the **family**. Fervent love means we think of others' needs and how we can help provide for those needs. The reason for this is because we have been born again to a solid relationship with Jesus! Our transformed nature ought to dictate our appetite and how we live. We progressively show changes in our lives because of the power of the enduring Word of God (**Matthew. 24:35, 1 Peter 1:24-25**).

Because of this living hope and clear thinking, we are to do as **1 Peter 2:1-3** says: we put away all things pertaining to "**malice, deceit, hypocrisy, and envy**" (sins of the heart and the tongue). We put all these "dirty clothing" aside and instead "**long for the pure milk of the word**"—comparing our transformation to the growth of newborn babies. We grow "**in respect to salvation**". When we become a child of God; it is inevitable that we grow and live a transformed life. Delight to abide by God's Word and continue living a transformed life because of the living hope that we have in Christ Jesus!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Why do you think "right thinking" is important in the Christian life?

2. Setting It Right

What do you need to do (or stop doing) in order to really live a life pleasing to God?

3. Living It Out

How can you share this amazing truth to others when holy living is not so appealing to environment of the world?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for a renewed and clear mind and transformation of life of people we are reaching out to. Serve your family and loved ones selflessly even in tough times. Share the life-changing gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as you go about serving others around you.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends



¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy"

1 Peter 1:15-16