

## God Promises To Give Us Eternal Life

**Opener:** Have you ever gotten something you hoped for that disappointed you? What was it?

**Scripture:** 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 resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.  
I Peter 1:3-5

### Discussion Questions

1. I Peter 1:3 perfectly summarizes the Gospel: "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 resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." What's the "new birth" he refers to? How can we experience it? How is it different than going to church to have a better life? Check out the Wrap Up below.
2. How would you describe what Peter means when he says we have "a living hope"? What does it mean for hope to be living and how does it contrast with things people typically hope in and for? I Peter 1:3
3. I Peter 1:4 promises that the inheritance we have in Christ "can never perish, spoil or fade"—and it's kept in heaven for us! How would our life be different if we focused more on our inheritance in heaven than on what we can see now?
4. When we think of receiving an inheritance, it's typically because someone died and left something here for us. How is what we've inherited because of Christ similar and different from that? In this world, sometimes someone with a big inheritance will grow lazy. Can our heavenly inheritance have the same effect on us? Why or why not?
5. If that inheritance is kept in heaven for us, what blessings or gifts has Jesus given us to enjoy now? What will we enjoy in heaven that we can't enjoy now?
6. I Peter 1:5 tells us that this inheritance is reserved in heaven for those "who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." So God guards His people by his power, but He does it through our faith. How does this work? Examples?

**Wrap Up:** "New birth" is what happens when we accept Jesus as our Savior. That means we're born into His kingdom and will live forever with Him. In case you haven't accepted Jesus as your Savior, realize that it's not a ritual based on any specific words or prayers, but rather a willful decision and a sincere step of faith. The Bible explains that everyone needs forgiveness, which is why Christ died for us while we were sinners, and if we repent and accept Him as our Savior we'll have eternal life. Rom. 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9-10

So if you truly believe and want to accept God's gift of salvation, it's just a matter of repenting of your sins and turning your life over to Jesus Christ. That decision yields more life than any other decision you could ever make. A prayer to accept Jesus goes something like this:

- Jesus, I know in my heart that You are the Son of God and that You died for my sake so we could not only do life together here, but for all eternity. I ask that You forgive me. I surrender and give You full access to every part of who I am. You're it for me, and I love you. Thank You for loving me and for creating me with a purpose, a calling, and an identity made to worship You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Salvation is not an end in itself. It's just the beginning of a lifelong relationship with Jesus, and it will culminate when we receive that inheritance Peter describes. Now that's a living hope! John 3:16-18; 3:35-36; Acts 4:11-12; I John 4:13-16