



Living Hope

Faith does not keep life from being hard. In fact, sometimes faith makes life harder. Christians need a conviction that the present will surrender to a glorious future. Not “hope so”, but living hope, the kind that Jesus’ resurrection brings. Welcome to 1 Peter!

Week 6: ...In the Grace of God

1. **Read 1 Peter 5:1-6.** Peter’s final words begin with a focus on humility among both elders and all believers, because **living hope creates humble lives**. Where do you see hope in these verses? What does choosing humility look like in your life? (*Optional follow up: look at how Philippians 2:5-11 follows the “lowered then lifted” trajectory of 1 Peter 5:6*)
2. **Read 1 Peter 5:7-9.** Peter charges **the family of faith to stand against the devil**. He warns about the reality of the devil and reminds suffering believers that they are not alone. When you read this warning about the devil, what does it make you think? What do you think it looks like to stand firm in your faith? When you read about Christians suffering throughout the world, how does it make you feel?
3. Christians are told to be “alert and sober minded” three different times in Peter’s letter: **5:8, 4:7, and 1:13**. Taken together, why do you think hope in Jesus’ return, prayer, and spiritual warfare all require us to have alert mindsets? What are ways we can be lulled out of staying alert to spiritual realities?
4. **Read 1 Peter 5:10-14. Christians take their stand and find their hope in the grace of God.** Verse twelve says we are to stand fast in the grace of God. What does it mean to make God’s grace the foundation of your life? Peter talks about grace in ways that affect both the present and the future. How does God’s grace meet us today? How does God’s grace give us a hope for eternity?

Finish by praying for spiritual protection for one another, as well as for suffering Christians throughout the world.

