

Great Is Our Salvation

1 Peter 1:3-12

By Scott Huckaby

12/22/2024



1 Peter 1:3-12 – What it means to be saved

³ 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, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ 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.

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

v3 – Why did Peter praise God?

When Peter considered the salvation of God, his immediate response was to simply praise Him.

- This is especially because the motive for God's work is found in Him, not in us (being **according to His abundant mercy**).
- All His goodness to us begins with **mercy**.

What is this *new birth* (*begotten us again*, NKJV)?

The wording here is different from *born again* (John 3:3) but the meaning is the same. Peter's idea is that when a person is saved, they are made a *new creation*:

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

What results from our *new birth*?

We are born again to a **living hope** because we have eternal life in a Savior who has conquered death Himself.

- The hope lives because it is set upon an **inheritance incorruptible** that can never **fade away** because it is **reserved in heaven**.
- This is a significant contrast to any inheritance on this earth.

Why is our hope of eternal life called a *living hope*?

It is also called a 'living hope,' because it is imperishable. And it blesses us in the here and now...

John 10:10 – *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Life is so much better when we don't have to fear death.

How is Christian hope not just wishful thinking?

Our hope is based on the promises of God who never lies. It is based on the very character of God.

v4 – What is our inheritance?

Peter didn't really describe our inheritance. All tells us is what it is *not*. Our inheritance actually is something too great for him to describe. Yet we can know that our inheritance can't *perish*, it can't *spoil*, and it can't **fade away**.

How is our inheritance like the inheritance of Aaron?

Numbers 18:20 – *Then the Lord said to Aaron: "You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel."*

Our inheritance is the gift of God Himself. Since God is the Creator and owner of it all, that is a pretty amazing inheritance.

- And since God gives Himself to us now, our inheritance begins here and now.

v5 – How may we be certain of our inheritance?

The promise of our inheritance is certain because we **are kept by the power of God**. This enables us to endure **through faith** until the coming of Jesus. And God reinforces this with us:

Romans 8:16 – *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*

Our faith results in an ongoing relationship with the Lord... we begin to have doubts when we fall out of fellowship with Him.

Is our faith in God blind faith as unbelievers suppose?

No, our faith is based on the promises of God and He has proven Himself faithful to His Word. Our faith is continually reinforced by answers to prayer and all the evidence that God's Word is true: archeology, honest science, prophecy, wisdom, absence of contradictions, soteriology, and changed lives, etc.

v6 – When should we rejoice?

We especially **rejoice** in God's keeping power when we are **grieved by various trials**, knowing that He will keep us as our faith is **tested by fire** (v7).

What causes us to suffer grief?

Trials will cause us to suffer grief. But God enables us to overcome this grief as we put it in the perspective of eternity. We know our trials are but for a little while and with His help we can make it through.

v7 – How is our faith refined (tested, NKJV)?

Our **faith** isn't tested because God doesn't know how much or what kind of faith we have. It is **tested** because we often are ignorant of how much or what kind of faith we have.

- God's purpose in testing is to display to us and others the enduring quality of our faith.

How is the testing of our faith a good thing?

It shows us (and others) that our faith is real and helps us to grow in our faith.

How do we come by faith?

It is a gift of God...

Ephesians 2:8 – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God*

That is how we can pass our tests of faith. If we fail in our test of faith, we have to wonder in whom are we really trusting (it may be ourselves and not God).

Why is our faith compared to gold?

Gold is precious and is purified by fire. Likewise, our faith is far more precious than gold.

- **Gold** is one of the most durable of all materials. Yet it too will one day perish, but our faith will not.
- God has an important purpose in testing our faith...
- Faith is tested to show that it is real.
 - Faith is tested to show its strength.
 - Faith is tested to burn away the dross from the gold.
 - we should trust in God, not ourselves (the dross)

What will the refinement of our faith result in?

praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed: Our resurrection to glorified bodies so that we may always be with the Lord.

- This will happen when Jesus Christ is revealed in conjunction with His return to earth to rule.

v8 – How is it possible that though we have not seen the Lord, we can love and believe in Him?

Our faith makes this possible.

- Jesus was no less real despite not having seen Him.

What is this inexpressible and glorious joy?

Knowing that our inheritance is secure takes the pressure off living.

- This describes a joy so profound as to be beyond the power of words to express.
- We don't have to worry about missing out on anything this life has to offer, we will have all eternity to experience what we miss out on in this life, or something even better.

v9 – What is the end result of your faith?

The **end of your faith** is the return of Jesus and the ultimate **salvation of your souls**.

- Testing and trials are inevitable as long as we are on this side of **the end of your faith**.
- As long as we do not see the God, we must endure through trials but can face them with faith and joy.

v10 – What is significant about prophets having inquired and searched concerning salvation?

Peter felt it was important to demonstrate that their teaching was no novelty, but that it was **testified beforehand** by the prophets.

- Understanding this made salvation so much greater in the mind of Peter's afflicted readers.

How was the grace that would come to us prophesied?

The prophets of the Old Testament longed to see the **grace** of the New Covenant to come.

- Prophesying by the **Spirit of Christ**, they knew *something* of His **sufferings** and **glories**, but far less than they longed to know.
- One may only imagine how excited Isaiah would have been to read the Gospel of John.
- There were mysteries to the Old Testament prophets, including the character of the Church (Ephesians 3:4-6) and the very essence of life and immortality (2 Timothy 1:10).

v11 – What did the prophets of old seek to know?

They wanted to know more details about the circumstances by which the Lord would deliver us. And they knew the Messiah would suffer but did not know how that was connected to our deliverance.

v12 – To whom were the prophets of old ministering when they foretold of things they did not understand?

To people in the future... The prophets understood that **they were ministering** to people beyond them as well as to people in their own day.

- These things the prophets predicted were reported as fact by the apostles (**the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel**).

How should knowing the details of God's deliverance impact us today?

Because we know the *Who* (Jesus) and the *when* (Jesus' day) of these Old Testament prophecies, they should be of far more interest to us than they were even in the day of the prophets.

What is it that the angels long to look into?

The unfolding of God's eternal plan is something that angels desire to look into.

- It must really be a point of curiosity that the Creator-God would condescend to become one of us so that He could die for us and thus redeem us from our fate.
- The angels had no such plan of redemption.

How does God showing mercy to people influence the angels?

Part of God's eternal purpose is to show His wisdom to the angelic beings through His work with the church...

Ephesians 3:10-11 – *now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord*

God *wants* the angels to **look** in on what He does in the church, and the idea is that the angels are interested and **desire** to learn more about God.

- There are other places in the Bible where the supernatural world eagerly observes God's program of human redemption (1 Corinthians 4:9, Ephesians 3:10, and 1 Timothy 3:16).
- The concept seems grounded in Jesus' words in Luke 15:7, 10 where angels are said to rejoice over one repentant sinner.

What applications come to mind from this passage?

- We have a living hope that makes life worth living in the here and now.
- Our inheritance in heaven is a sure thing; we have eternal security and do not have to wonder if we will be good enough to inherit eternal life.
- Faith is a gift from God; as we grow in our relationship with Him, we grow in faith.
- God tests our faith so that it may grow.
- Angels are curious about our salvation and learn more about God watching His dealings with us.