



Day 2: Our Hope Is Alive!

by Kate Kernaghan

Today we're reminded that our hope is alive. 1 Peter 1:3 - **'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 ...'** New birth into a living hope, because he lives.

'New birth' Being born again isn't so much that we get to start life over with Jesus; but that we're delivered from one way of living to another. At physical birth, we're delivered from living in utero to ex utero, darkness to light, breathing air and blinking at the daylight. New birth is another delivery – one place to another, one status to another. I'm still me and you're still you, but everything has changed.

'New birth into' What were you physically born into? Wealth, position, privilege, poverty, need, rejection, reputation, expectation? What we're born into was nothing of our doing, we just got delivered there. It's the same when we're born again, we get born into grace, eternal life, royalty, family, justification, belovedness ... and 'living hope'; unearned, unmerited, undeserved, unafforded. When babies are born, the effort and cost of delivery isn't borne by the one being born. It's the same spiritually, the cost lay elsewhere; 'Jesus for the joy set before him endured the cross'. He bore it, he paid it, he won it, at the cross.

'New birth into a living hope'. Not a 'under the mattress for a rainy-day' hope. Or 'break glass in time of emergency' hope. Not a hope that just appears at funerals or on your death bed. But a living hope. A steadfast and certain hope in God, his purposes, his character, his faithfulness, his mercy, his grace, his promises. A hope

sealed, demonstrated and declared by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. A 'beyond the curtain anchored in eternity' hope, an 'eternal security with my Father, mansions prepared, treasure stored up' hope. This living Hope is alive now, at work now, changes everything now. It's part of that fresh air that we breathe when we are born again. That heady mix of faith, love, grace, mercy, peace, joy, assurance ... hope.

And it comes to us **'through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead'**, because he lives! Because of the resurrection, because my Jesus walked from the tomb never to die again, the first fruits from the dead, victorious, triumphant, alive; because of this I have living hope.

I wonder what living hope looks like for you today?

Have a think, how might you end the sentence 'Because he lives...'?

- Because he lives ... I have no fear of death
- Because he lives ... Today's struggles are 'light and momentary'
- Because he lives ... I can pray
- Because he lives ... Jesus is interceding for me
- Because he lives ... I know Jesus is saviour
- Because he lives ... I can face my doctor's appointment next week
- Because he lives ... I can trust him with my kids
- Because he lives ... I don't need a bucket list
- Because he lives ... I don't need to compare myself to anyone else,
- Because he lives ... I hold my money, possessions and time lightly
- Because he lives ... I can be bold in telling others about Jesus

This hope is alive! As alive as Jesus! Because he lives ...

'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 ...'

Because
He lives
I can face tomorrow