

6/30/19 | Living Hope: New Hope



“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” —1 Peter 3:15 | NIV

1. Name something you have committed to in your life. How has your commitment helped you weather storms when it may have been easy to give up?

What does it mean to be committed to Christ? What difficult things has your commitment to Christ helped you endure?

2. In 1 Peter 3:18, Peter communicates the gospel message. What four aspects of this one verse sum up the gospel message?

Does what Jesus did give you assurance that sin has been dealt with once and for all? Read Hebrews 7:23-27, Hebrews 9:12, Romans 6:10.

Do you have peace in your life because of the reality that Jesus lived, died, and rose again to overcome sin and death? If so, how does that make a difference?

Is the gospel message something you can communicate to people as you live your life? In what ways can you effectively share the message of Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection?

3. What is Peter saying about Jesus in verse 19? When and to whom did he proclaim this message?

When you first read “spirits in prison,” who or what comes to mind? Are these spirits of men or other spirits who have been bound?

Is Peter contrasting spirits in prison with spirits in heaven? If so,

what would that lead you to believe about who these spirits are?
What message did Jesus proclaim to the spirits in prison?

4. How did God deal with disobedience in the Old Testament? Think of Noah and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

How does God deal with disobedience now? How can a Christian have victory over sin and the result of sin, which is death? Read 1 Corinthians 15:53-57 & Romans 6:1-5. 5.

5. Peter compares the flood and the salvation of Noah's family to baptism. What does Peter say about the meaning of baptism?

What commitment does a person make when they are baptized?
What does it mean to make a pledge/appeal to God? How is this similar to the commitment of marriage?

Where do the power and salvation that Peter talks about in baptism really come from?

How does the resurrection make salvation possible?

6. What main point is Peter trying to communicate with this passage of Scripture? Where does he begin, and where does he end?

How would a persecuted Christian be encouraged and strengthened by the victory of Jesus over sin and death and their connection to that victory through baptism?

Does this message encourage you? How can you live out the real hope of resurrection as you go about your life this week?

TAKEAWAY: Be prepared to give your reason for your hope.