

## Resurrection Hope

April 1, 2018

Peter had great hope in Jesus.

But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” (Matthew 16:22, NLT)

Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” (Matthew 26:33, NIV)

But Peter’s hopes began to unravel very quickly.  
He became discouraged and disillusioned.

How do you know that discouragement has a hold of you?

- When you want to quit.
- When you want to run and hide.
- When you look for something to alleviate the pain.

But then something happened that changed Peter’s entire perspective on life.

*I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. **He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve.** After that, **he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time**, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. (1 Corinthians 15:3–8, NLT)*

This is what Peter wrote sometime after the resurrection.

*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**, (1 Peter 1:3, NIV)*

The empty tomb is the basis for true hope.

1. Because Jesus lives his claims are true.

*And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. (1 Corinthians 15:14, NIV)*

2. Because Jesus lives his teachings and promises are true.

*If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:19, NIV)*

*But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20, NIV)*

3. Because Jesus lives we can trust him to forgive us our sins.

*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:17, NIV)*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9, NIV)*

4. Because Jesus lives we can trust him to lead and guide us in the present.

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20b, NIV)*

5. Because Jesus lives we have hope for a great future in heaven.

*and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. (Acts 24:15, NIV)*

*Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, (Hebrews 9:27, NIV)*

*We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:8, NIV)*

*Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43, NIV)*