

Hope in Hostile Times – Week 1

1 Peter 1:1–12

Main Theme:

We can have *hope in hostile times* because we are chosen by God, born again through Christ, and kept by His power until glory.

Introduction: The Reality of Hostility

The Bible never hides hostility toward God's people. Persecution is not accidental—it's part of following Jesus. Yet, in every passage about suffering, Scripture offers **hope**.

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." — Hebrews 6:19

Hope is not the absence of hostility; it's the presence of Christ in the midst of it.

Without hope, trials crush us, fear dominates, and the future feels uncertain. With hope, trials refine us, faith endures, and the future is secure in Christ.

1. We Are Strangers in This World (vv. 1–2)

Peter writes to believers scattered across Asia Minor—spiritual exiles. The gospel changes everything, even our address.

John 15:19 — "You are not of the world."

Philippians 3:20 — "Our citizenship is in heaven."

As pilgrims passing through, we hold loosely to this world and cling to eternity.

Application: Remember—this world is not your home.

2. We Are Secure in God's Plan (v. 2)

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ."

The Father chooses, the Spirit sanctifies, and the Son cleanses. Even suffering is under God's sovereign plan and loving purpose.

Key Truth: Your suffering isn't wasted—it's a tool in God's hand for your sanctification and witness.

3. We Are Born Again to a Living Hope (v. 3)

"Blessed be the God and Father... who has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Hope is living because Christ is alive. Suffering is never final because the tomb is empty.

Elisabeth Elliot: "Suffering is never for nothing. The cross is always followed by resurrection."

Application: When you fix your eyes on Jesus, your trials gain purpose.

4. We Have an Eternal Inheritance (vv. 4–9)

“An inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, that does not fade away, reserved in heaven.”

Given by mercy, not merit. Secured by Christ’s resurrection. Pure, eternal, unchanging.

C.S. Lewis: “Aim at heaven and you’ll get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you’ll get neither.”

Application: Think less of what’s temporary, more of what’s eternal. Trials test and refine your faith and become a witness to the world.

5. We Have Christ Living in Us (vv. 10–12)

The prophets longed to see what we now experience—Christ within. Even angels marvel at our redemption (v. 12).

They saw God’s work from afar; we experience His presence within.

Application: The greatest hope in hostility is knowing Christ not only reigns above us—He lives within us.

Conclusion: Hope Has a Name — Jesus

We can have hope in hostile times because:

1. We are strangers in this world.
2. We are secure in God’s plan.
3. We are born again to a living hope.
4. We have an eternal inheritance.
5. Christ lives in us.

“Hope is not fragile—it’s steady, it’s true, and the Christ who holds heaven will carry you through.”

Day 1: Hope in Hostile Times

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1–2

Peter opens his letter to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor—pilgrims in a foreign land. Their faith in Christ had made them strangers in their own culture. Peter reminds them that though they are exiles on earth, they are chosen by God the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Cross References:

John 15:19 – “You are not of the world.”

Philippians 3:20 – “Our citizenship is in heaven.”

Hebrews 11:13 – “They confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”

Reflection:

To live faithfully in a hostile world, we must remember where our true citizenship lies. Our identity is not rooted in earthly approval but in heavenly belonging.

Application Questions:

1. How does remembering your heavenly citizenship affect how you respond to hostility or rejection?
2. In what ways can you live today as a pilgrim passing through?

Prayer Prompt:

Father, help me to live as Your chosen child in this world. Give me courage to stand firm in faith, and remind me that my true home is with You. Amen.

Day 2: Chosen for a Purpose

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:2

Believers are “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.” Our salvation—and even our suffering—are part of God’s sovereign plan. The Father chooses, the Spirit sanctifies, and the Son redeems.

Cross References:

Romans 8:28–30 – “Those whom He foreknew He also predestined.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13 – “God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit.”

Ephesians 1:4–7 – “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.”

Reflection:

God’s plan for your life is not random. Every trial and triumph is woven into His redemptive purpose to make you more like Christ.

Application Questions:

1. How can viewing suffering as part of God’s plan change your attitude toward it?
2. What step of obedience might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to take right now?

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, thank You for choosing and sanctifying me. Use every circumstance to draw me closer to You and to reflect Your glory through my life. Amen.

Day 3: Born Again to a Living Hope

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

This hope is living because Christ is alive. It is not wishful thinking but confident assurance anchored in the resurrection.

Cross References:

Romans 5:1–5 – “Suffering produces endurance... and hope does not put us to shame.”

Hebrews 6:19 – “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul.”

John 11:25 – “I am the resurrection and the life.”

Reflection:

Hope in Christ is stronger than any hostility we face. Because Jesus lives, we can face tomorrow with confidence and peace.

Application Questions:

1. Where have you been tempted to lose hope recently?
2. How does remembering Christ's resurrection change your perspective on your current situation?

Prayer Prompt:

Jesus, thank You for giving me a living hope. Remind me daily that no matter what happens, You are alive and my future is secure in You. Amen.

Day 4: An Inheritance That Lasts

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:4–9

Our inheritance in Christ is “incorruptible, undefiled, and unfading.” Trials on earth test our faith, but they cannot touch the eternal reward waiting for us in heaven. When we fix our minds on what’s next, God transforms how we handle what’s now.

Cross References:

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 – “Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory.”

Matthew 6:19–21 – “Store up treasures in heaven.”

James 1:12 – “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial.”

Reflection:

The trials you face today are temporary. The inheritance you have in Christ is eternal.

Application Questions:

1. What are you holding onto that will not last?
2. How can focusing on your heavenly inheritance help you endure present trials?

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, thank You for an inheritance that cannot fade. Help me keep my eyes on eternity and not lose heart in the face of temporary troubles. Amen.

Day 5: Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:10–12

The prophets longed to see what we now experience—Christ in us. Even angels marvel at the salvation we have through Him. We not only live with Christ one day—we live with His presence now.

Cross References:

Colossians 1:27 – “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

John 14:23 – “We will come to him and make our home with him.”

Romans 8:10–11 – “The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.”

Reflection:

What the prophets foresaw and angels admire, we experience daily—Christ dwelling in us. His presence brings peace, power, and perseverance.

Application Questions:

1. How does knowing Christ lives in you give you hope during hostility?
2. In what ways can you display His presence to others today?

Prayer Prompt:

Holy Spirit, fill me with the presence of Christ. Let His life shine through mine so that others may see hope even in hard times. Amen.