

# Keep Hope Alive

## *1 Peter 1:3-9*

Introduction: We can do all the positive thinking we want, but life is really terrible. Just thinking positive will not do. Genuine (true) hope must go beyond positive thinking. Genuine hope is not, “Wishing for something you know isn’t going to happen.”

### I. The origin of genuine hope (v. 3a)

- A. All real hope is derived from God and his promises.
- B. It is a gift of his mercy.
- C. Genuine hope is a result of our salvation. We were born into a living hope.

### II. The foundation of genuine hope (v. 3b)

- A. The foundation is the work and ministry of Jesus Christ.
- B. The resurrection of Jesus is particularly crucial in the formation of genuine hope. It makes all the difference.

### III. The durability of genuine hope (v. 4)

- A. It is incorruptible. This speaks of its essence.
- B. It is undefileable. This speaks of its purity.
- C. It is unfading. This speaks of its beauty.

### IV. The power of genuine hope (vv. 6, 7)

- A. It helps us to face our trials with courage.
- B. It helps us to face our trials with joy.

V. The wonder of genuine hope (vv. 8, 9)

- A. We love a person we have never seen.
- B. We long to go to a place we have never visited.
- C. Genuine hope concerns our greatest need—salvation.

Conclusion Hope is a powerful concept (idea). Without hope in the future, we have no power in the present. Hope may keep us alive. Without hope there is no reason to live. It has been said, “Life without Christ is a hopeless end, but life with Christ is an endless hope.”

Illustration: She was a hospice nurse. She had ministered to many as they faced death, trying to ease the transition. A minister asked her, “Do Christians die differently from others?” “Most definitely, yes,” she replied, “Christians really do die better.” Why do Christians die better? They know it isn’t over.