

You Can Begin to Live Again
International Bible Lesson

1 Peter 1:3

Sunday, May 5, 2013

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“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3—KJV).

“Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope” (1 Peter 1:3—GNB).

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3—NRSV).

Because of God’s great mercy, Jesus Christ came into the world to give believers a new birth, a new way of life as dramatically different as a new born child coming forth from their mother’s womb (see John 3:1-18). After Jesus rose from the dead, Peter became an amazing apostle, because Jesus had said, “you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus Christ sent Peter into the world to preach the good news about Him, and Peter fulfilled his apostolic commission by preaching repentance, baptism, the forgiveness of sins, and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ (see Acts 2:36-47). Peter addressed his letter to those “chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit

to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood” (1 Peter 1:2). Thus, Peter fulfilled what the church has called “The Great Commission of Jesus Christ” to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19, 20). The Holy Spirit brings the new birth to those who trust in Jesus Christ. The new birth by the Holy Spirit gives believers the living hope of empowerment to love and serve God and others better; a hope that someday they will see and bow before their heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in humble adoration and praise.

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Thinking Further

1. Give one reason God has chosen, destined, and sanctified you as a Christian.
2. How has God given Christians a new birth and a living hope?
3. How does Peter describe the inheritance of Christians? What does that lead you to think about God? How does knowing these truths make you feel?

4. Give one reason Christians suffer various trials on earth.

5. Does someone need to see Jesus in order to become a true believer in Jesus? Why is this truth important for both believers and unbelievers to know?

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