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**Living in Hope**

***1 Peter 1:3-12***

When I was a kid, my parents decided to take our family to Disneyland. As the day drew closer, my sense of excitement and anticipation mounted. I had never seen Disneyland in person, but I had heard about it for years. I had listened to Walt Disney himself describe the wonders of Tomorrowland, Adventureland and Main Street USA. I had seen films of the Mouseketeers sailing on a sternwheeler, peering out a porthole in Captain Nemo's submarine and screaming as they rode the runaway mine train. To me it sounded like the best place on earth!

In 1 Peter 1:3-12 the apostle describes both a person and a place we've never seen--a place so exciting and a person so wonderful that we should be filled with a childlike sense of joy and anticipation.

1. When you know that something wonderful is about to happen-an exciting vacation, the birth of a child, a visit from your best friend­ how does your sense of anticipation affect you?

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2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-12. According to Peter, what are some of the reasons we have for praising God (vv. 3-5)?

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3. How has Christ's resurrection from the dead given us a "living hope" (v. 3)?

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4. How would your life and attitudes change if you were told you had inherited a vast fortune from a long-lost relative?

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How can the excitement and joy of an earthly inheritance help us to look forward to the greater inheritance God has promised us in heaven (v. 4)?

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5. How do trials of various kinds prove the reality of our faith in Jesus Christ (vv. 6-7)?

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6. What kinds of trials have demonstrated that your faith

is genuine?

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7. Do you find it difficult to believe in and love a Savior

you've never seen (vv. 8-9)? Explain.

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8. When Peter speaks of the salvation of our "souls" (v. 9),

he is thinking of our whole person-body, mind, spirit and everything else that makes us human. What excites you

most about the hope of experiencing a total personal renewal?

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9. How were the Old Testament prophets serving future generations when they spoke of the sufferings of Christ

and the glories that would follow (vv. 10-12)?

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10. Peter concludes this passage with a brief and somewhat odd remark: "Even angels long to look into these things"

(v. 12). Why do you think he felt this was worth mentioning?

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*Take a moment to reflect on the magnitude of what Peter has described in this passage. Spend time thanking and praising God for the incredible hope we have in Jesus Christ.*