

Over the past six weeks we've had a lot of fun with our own version of a survey of a wide variety of friends and acquaintances. We've prayed for open doors that would allow us to talk to people about our living hope in Jesus. We knocked on those "open doors" with a two question survey: first, ***"when you hear the word hope, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?"*** We enjoyed hearing from each respondent. The second question was a bit more of a challenge. It was preceded by a statement: ***"some people say the resurrection of Jesus from the dead gives them a lot of hope. How do you relate to that notion?"***

Hope is a favorite theme of God's Word, the Bible. The Greek word for hope, ***elpis***, refers primarily to ***"a favorable and confident expectation"***. God's people find confidence in their new birth and in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Regardless of your life circumstances you too can experience that living hope.

**Our living hope rests upon...**

***A person***

***Great mercy***

***New birth***

***The resurrection of Jesus Christ***

***A guaranteed inheritance***

***The goal of our faith....***

## Personal Application and Group Interaction

1. What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word hope?
2. In a world that is full of confusion, broken promises, violence, and uncertainty, what gives you hope?
3. Some people say the resurrection of Jesus from the dead gives them a lot of hope. How do you relate to that notion?
4. If you were to stand before God at the end of your life and he asked you, why should I let you into my heaven, what would you say? Are you confident he would let you in? Why or why not?
5. Check out God's promises in the Bible: John 3:16; 11:25-26; 20:31; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 10:9; Ephesians 2:8-10; and 1 John 5:11-13. Have you given up on self-improvement plans to save you from the guilt of sin? Are you ready to open up to God's offer of salvation? Jesus said, ***"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, will live even though he dies."*** He followed that promise with a question, ***"Do you believe this?"*** Put your trust in him as your Savior and Lord. Find ***"living hope"*** in Him. May today be the first day of the rest of your life!



# Our Living Hope

**I Peter 1:3-9**

**Pastor John  
April 1, 2018**

