

Discussion Questions

Praise to God for a Living Hope – 1 Peter 3 - 8

- 1 What does Peter mean by “new birth”?
- 2 What does the future hold for Christians?
- 3 How can we be so sure about the future?
- 4 In what light should we see our problems?
- 5 What do we learn about our relationship with Jesus Christ from verses 8 and 9?
- 6 What would you write on a form if asked for your religious preference?
- 7 Do you associate love or fear with God?
- 8 When it is said that Christianity will make a change in your character, how do you feel?
- 9 What does the idea of a relationship with God suggest to you?



Alpha

A Practical Introduction to Christianity

Session 4 How Can We Have Faith?

Introduction

The Word of God

The Work of Jesus

The Witness of the Spirit

Conclusions

Introduction

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! – 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Experiences vary. Some immediately know the difference. For others it is more gradual.
- Receive and believe. *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.* – John 1:12
- God wants us to be sure. *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.* – 1 John 5:13

The Word of God

We must not trust only our feelings which can be changeable and may even be deceptive at times but rely instead on God's promises.

- *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me* - Revelation 3:20
- *I am with you always* - Matthew 28:20
- *I give them eternal life* - John 10:28

Faith = Taking God's promises and daring to believe them

The Work of Jesus

We cannot earn God's forgiveness, but Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we might be reconciled to God

- Gift of God – Romans 6:23
- God loves us and died to prove it – John 3:16
- Jesus took our sins upon Himself – Isaiah 53:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21

The Witness of the Spirit

When someone becomes a Christian, God's Holy Spirit come to dwell within them – Romans 8:9

Jesus transforms us from within

- Our character: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, Kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control* - Galatians 5:22 – 23
- Our relationships

Which of the following changes have you already experience in your life?

- New love for God
- Desire to read the Bible
- Sense of forgiveness
- New concern for others
- Enjoyment of worshipping God
- Desire to meet with other Christians

He brings a deep, personal conviction that we are God's children: *For you did not receive a*

spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of son ship. Any by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. - Romans 8:15-16

Conclusions

God wants us to be assured of our forgiveness and of eternity with Him.

Assurance comes from taking God at His Word and not by trusting our feelings.