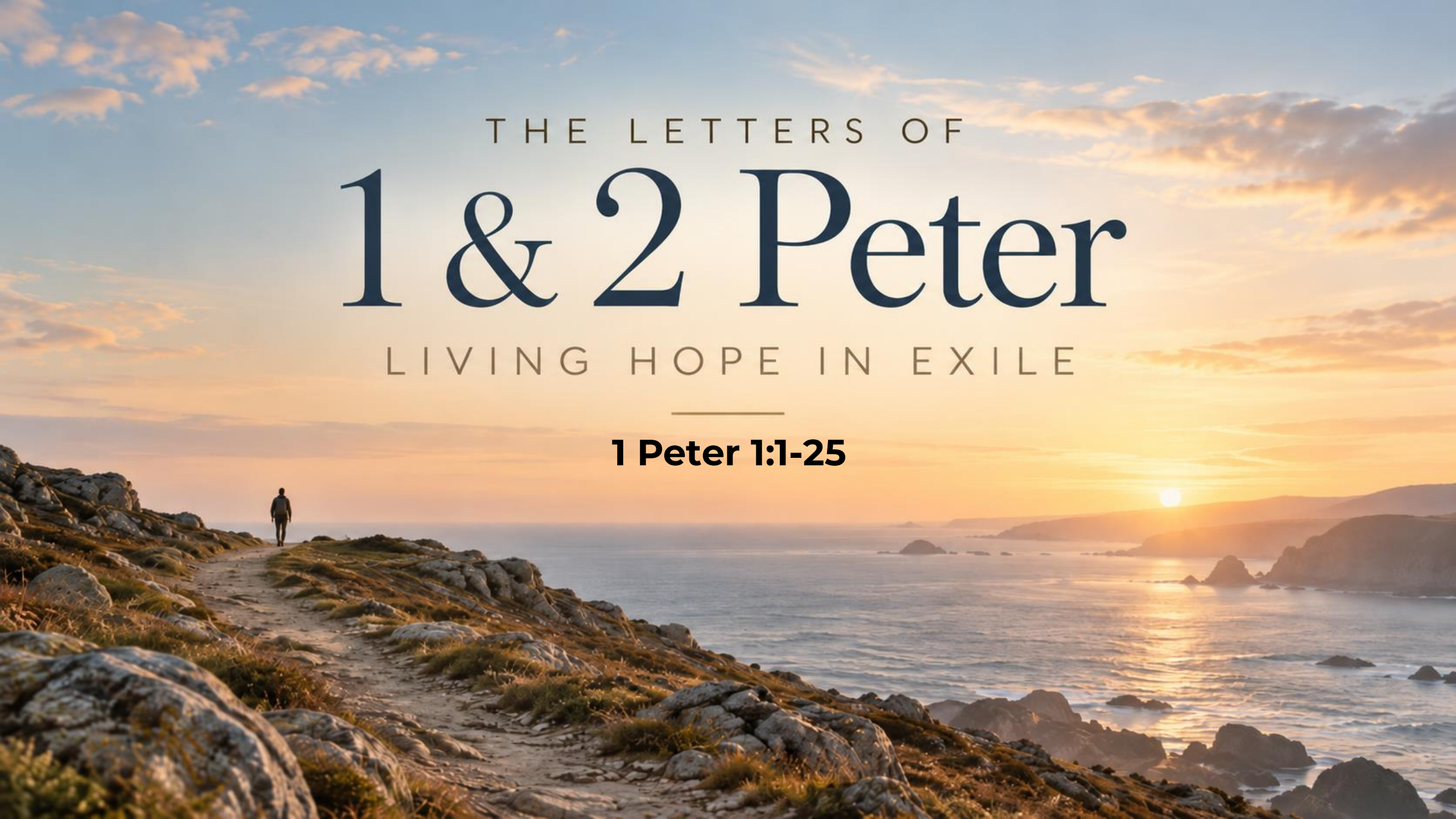


A person is walking away from the viewer on a narrow, rocky path that leads towards a sunset over the ocean. The path is flanked by large, grey rocks and sparse green vegetation. The ocean is visible in the distance, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and water. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

THE LETTERS OF

1 & 2 Peter

LIVING HOPE IN EXILE

1 Peter 1:1-25

1 Peter 1:1-2

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

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THE TEMPTATION TO **WITHDRAW** FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

Pull back, exclude ourselves from society, and simply stick with people who think and believe the same things we do.



THE TEMPTATION TO BECOME **ENMESHED** IN THE CULTURE AROUND US

So involved and enmeshed in the culture around us that we begin to lose our distinctiveness as followers of Jesus.



AS AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIANS TODAY...

PARTICIPATE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

love our neighbours • work and study •
raise families • serve others

LIVE DIFFERENTLY

shaped by Jesus, not simply by the
values of the culture around us



Why is the Christian hope a living hope?

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It's a living hope:-

Based on True Events in the Past (v.3)

1 Peter 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

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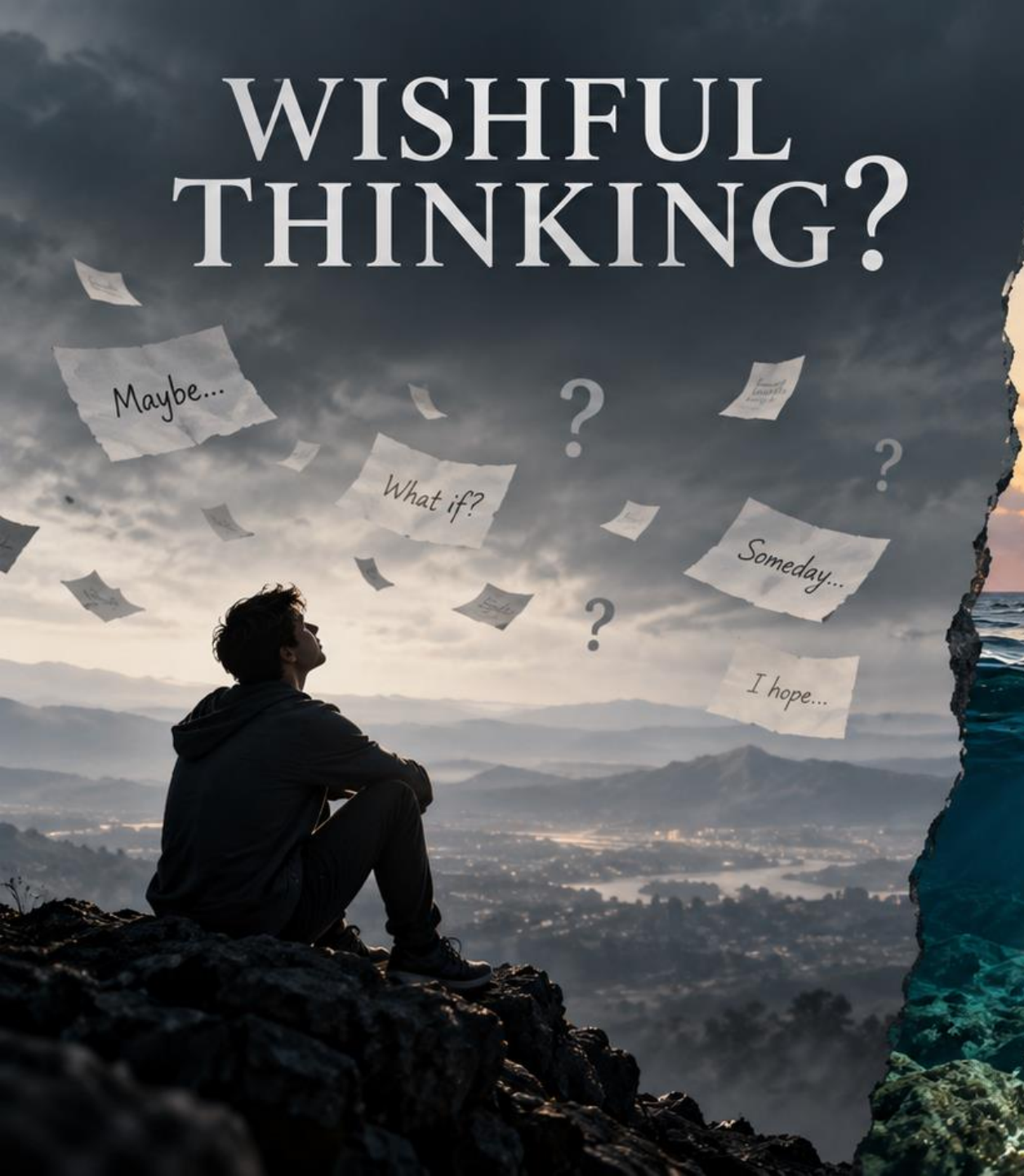
Based on True Events in the Past (v.3)

- Not based on how we feel.
- Not based on our efforts or how 'religious' we are.
- It is grounded in something objective: an event in history that happened.
- It is founded solely on what God has done for us in Jesus Christ's death & resurrection for our sins.

I HOPE...

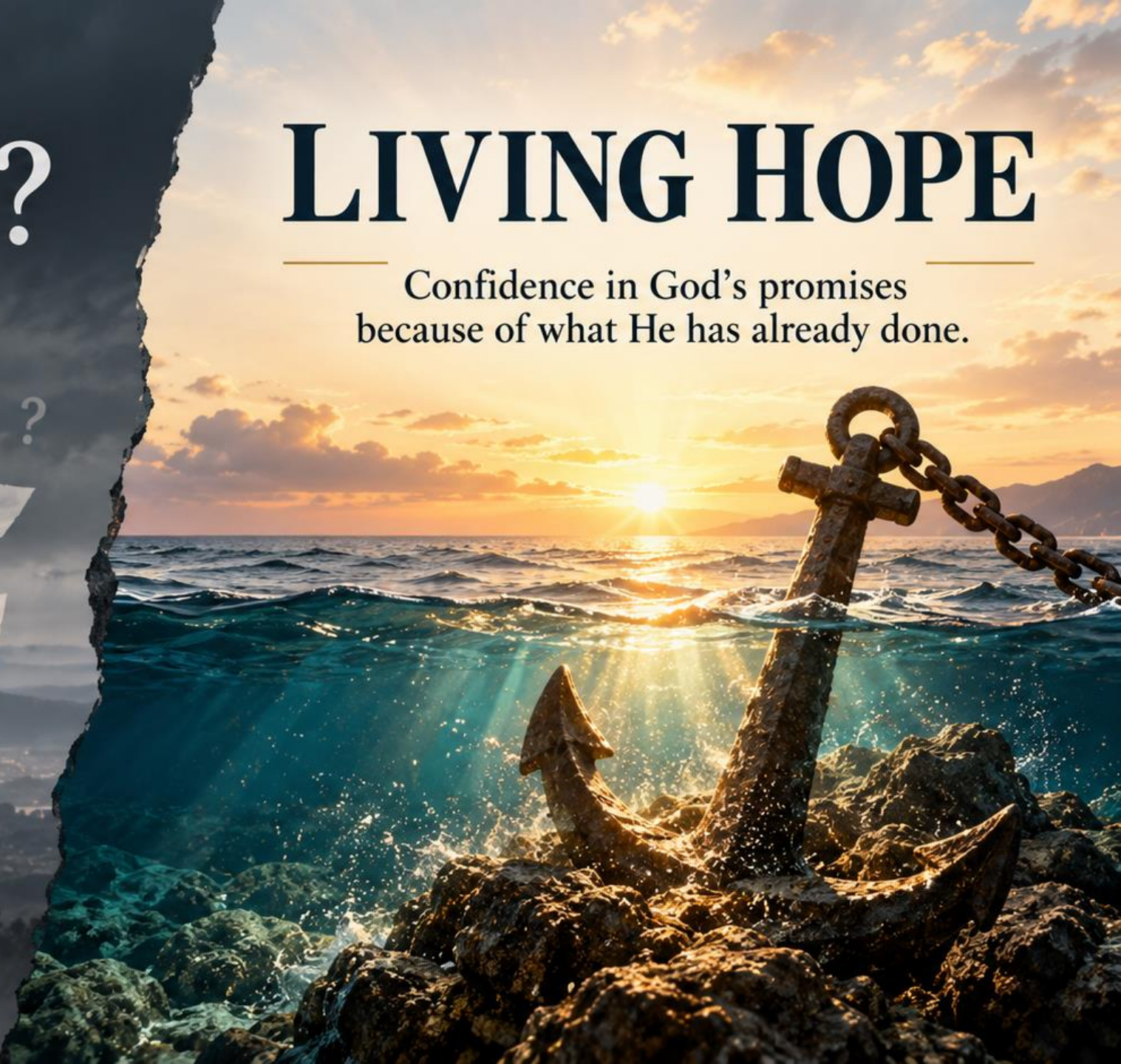


WISHFUL THINKING?



LIVING HOPE

Confidence in God's promises
because of what He has already done.



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Based on True Events in the Past (v.3)

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Based on True Events in the Past (v.10-12)

1 Peter 1:10-11

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.

It's a living hope:-

A Joyful Expectation for the Future (v.4-5)

1 Peter 1:4-5

⁴ and into an inheritance **that can never perish, spoil or fade**. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

It's a living hope:-

A Joyful Expectation for the Future (v.4-5)

- Because of what Jesus has ALREADY done, we can be confident about what God has PROMISED to do.

EARTHLY TREASURES FADE

Even the most precious possessions we own won't last forever.



It's a living hope:-

A Joyful Expectation for the Future (v.4-5)

Revelation 21:3-5

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

It's a living hope:-

A Joyful Expectation for the Future (v.4-5)

Revelation 21:3-5

⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

It's a living hope:-

A Joyful Expectation for the Future (v.4-5)

Revelation 21:3-5

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

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A Joyful Expectation for the Future (v.4-5)

1 Peter 1:4-5

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It's a living hope:-

A Joyful Expectation for the Future (v.4-5)

- Because of what Jesus has ALREADY done, we can be confident about what God has PROMISED to do.
- Our future hope does not ultimately rest on our strength, but on God's faithfulness & power.

It's a living hope:-

That changes everything about our
present (v.6-25)

It's a living hope:-
**That changes everything about our
present** (v.6-25)

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

It's a living hope:-

**That changes everything about our
present** (v.6-25)

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

It's a living hope:-

**That changes everything about our
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- Suffering & trials can be opportunities to grow our faith in God. (v.6-7)

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- Suffering & trials can be opportunities to grow our faith in God. (v.6-7)
- Our circumstances not get the final word – God does! (v.6-7)
- Remember the goal of our faith = salvation (v.8-9)

Why is the Christian hope a living hope?

The Christian hope is a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, that changes everything about our present.

SO WHAT?

**Let this hope shape the way you
live...(v.6-25)**

1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

SO WHAT: Response #1

Set your hope fully on Christ (v.13)

- **Therefore...** set your hope on Christ (v.13)

SO WHAT: Response #1

Set your hope fully on Christ (v.13)

- Therefore... set your hope on Christ (v.13)
- Be intentional about where you place your hope.

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- If we're not intentional, we can end up living like other things are more important than our relationship with Jesus.

SO WHAT: Response #1

Set your hope fully on Christ (v.13)

- Therefore... set your hope on Christ (v.13)
- Be intentional about where you place your hope.
- If we're not intentional, we can end up living like other things are more important than our relationship with Jesus.
- **Keep your eyes fixed on what truly lasts.** (cf. Matthew 6:19-21; Hebrews 12:1-3)

SO WHAT: Response #2

Be holy in all you do (v.14-21)

1 Peter 1:14-16

¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

SO WHAT: Response #2

Be holy in all you do (v.14-21)

- Holy ≠ self righteous.

SO WHAT: Response #2

Be holy in all you do (v.14-21)

- Holy ≠ self righteous.
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- We have been set apart for God's purposes because we belong to Him. (v.14-15)

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- Holy ≠ self righteous.
- Holy = set apart for a purpose.
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- Holiness is not simply avoiding bad things; it is about increasingly reflecting the character of God.

SO WHAT: Response #2

Be holy in all you do (v.14-21)

- We have been set apart for God's purposes because we belong to Him. (v.14-15)
- Holiness is not simply avoiding bad things; it is about increasingly reflecting the character of God.
- We are to pursue holiness because we belong to Him!

SO WHAT: Response #2

Be holy in all you do (v.14-21)

1 Peter 1:18-19

¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

SO WHAT: Response #3

Love one another deeply (v.22-25)

1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, **love one another deeply, from the heart.**

SO WHAT: Response #3

Love one another deeply (v.22-25)

- Loving deeply means being willing to give up some of my time, talents, comfort and preferences.

SO WHAT: Response #3

Love one another deeply (v.22-25)

- Loving deeply means being willing to give up some of my time, talents, comfort and preferences.
- The love we are called to show towards one another is rooted in the love God has already shown us in Jesus.

SO WHAT: Response #3

Love one another deeply (v.22-25)

1 Peter 1:23-25

²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Why is the Christian hope a living hope? (v.1-12)

The Christian hope is a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, that changes everything about our present.

If you share this hope you are called to respond.

1. Set your mind fully on Christ. (v.13)
2. Be holy in all that you do. (v.14-21)
3. Love one another deeply. (v.22-25)