

Born Again to a Living Hope

Scripture Reading: *John 3:1-8*

Introduction:

- A. Two fantastic words: **living** and **hope**.
- B. Not all of life is hopeful, and not all hope is alive.
- C. But isn't that why you're here?

I. We can have "living hope" because God is _____.

- A. Your hope doesn't lie in your own perfection or righteousness.
- B. The basis of "living hope" lies in the abundance of God's mercy.

II. We can have "living hope" because Jesus is _____.

- A. Without the resurrection, there is no hope!
- B. *1 Corinthians 15:14-19*

III. We can have "living hope" because of our _____.

- A. If an inheritance is good, hope is strong, it's "alive."
- B. If an inheritance is poor, hope is weak, it's "dead."
- C. Listen to the language associated with **our** inheritance (*1 Peter 1:4*):
 - 1. Imperishable
 - 2. undefiled
 - 3. Unfading
 - 4. Reserved in heaven for you

IV. We can have "living hope" because we are _____.

- A. "*Being guarded*" — a military term; "garrisoned about by God's protecting care."
- B. This guarding involves two things:
 - 1. The power of God
 - 2. Our faith
- C. Which leads to this basic question: **is your faith genuine?** Is it providing and strengthening you with "**living hope**"?