



July 27

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

What's up?! Today we kick off our last week of devotions in our Elevate study. I hope you've been tracking along with us. If you have, you've no doubt gotten a great foundation into these 10 amazing books of the Bible. If you're just now starting, no worries! Today we jump into 1 Peter. We'll dig a bit deeper on the who and what's then but for now know this about this book. It's written to encourage a group of people to live for Christ as they live in a world that full of hostility and suffering. Not like, hey the world's a crazy place. More like, your very world is a crazy place. So what would Peter share with them? Glad you ask....let's dive in!

READ & DIG. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12

Some big stuff comes from this opening chapter. Makes sense too considering that these people are going through some serious junk. So Peter begins by reminding them of some things.

LIVING HOPE

Right out of the gate! You've been here right? You've needed a pep talk. We all need pep talks. That moment when you're at the end of yourself. You can't go another step....you just want to quit. Along comes a friend, parent or coach to push you along. That's what we see Peter doing in the beginning of this letter. He does so by reminding them who and what they are.....more importantly he points them to WHO IS GIVING THE GOODS.

Read verse 3 again. (Look for the WHO and for the WHAT he's bringing)

INHERITANCE

The second encouragement is the reality that our most prized possession can't actually be seen right now. You've been here too. You've been told to keep your eye on the prize. The hard thing about our faith is that it can't be seen. So Peter reminds them....in verse 4. This hope leads to an inheritance. It's perfect, spotless, and being kept for you....in Heaven. It's there, know that. It's for you, know that. So as you fight this battle know this....what's ahead and so much greater than what's behind you or maybe even what's in front of you right now. I need this truth today!

But then the reality check.....read vv.6-9 again. What's the reality check?

SUFFERING/TESTING/TRIALS. (3)

I can't help get the image of a coach out of my mind. He pushes his team, constantly reminding them of the ultimate goal. For a team it's a championship. For a team it's a goal that they may or may not actually reach. But they push through with each step of training and practice just for a hope of something big. Meanwhile here we stand, as believers, saved into this living hope. We fight, stand, move, live and sometimes suffer KNOWING what's ahead. There is no doubt that should enter our mind regarding our "championship." We will hold the trophy one day. But on the road to that amazing day, there will be trials. There will be testing and suffering. BUT.....what an amazing word. BUT GOD HAS ALREADY WON THE BATTLE!

APPLY & GO (What now?)

- Go out in confidence today knowing this: GOD HAS WON.
- Go out in faith. We have one job! Follow Christ. Let's do this today, together!