

**A Different Perspective**  
**Don't Lose Heart**  
**09-41-2**  
***No Future***

I wonder if you've ever been in a place where it seems like you have no future. You're here. You can't go back. But when you look forward, you just can't see a future for yourself. I have. And it's a devastating place to be.

Now one of the most important things to our sense of well being is that we have some real hopes and dreams for the future. Hope keeps us going. Hope gives us something to look forward to. Hope says, 'You know, I might be having some ups and downs right now but I have something to look forward to'. And when we don't have anything to look forward to, you know what we do? We lose heart. There's no wind in our sails.

I'm a great believer in living for today and enjoying today but we also need a future.

This week on the program I guess we're looking at all different circumstances that cause us to lose heart. There are so many things that can drag us down and drag us back in life. People don't often like to talk about it in their lives.

You know how we go to work or we put on a mask and pretend that everything's okay. Some people put on this really aggressive or confident front but inside they can be dying. Inside they've lost heart. People can be stuck in a rut and you just can't see how to get out of it.

It's not something that just happens to schmucks, it happens to all of us. Sometimes life just bears down on us in a way that obscures the future. We need to have a good and certain hope for our futures. Some things are going to happen to us that we don't want in our futures. Sickness or loss or retrenchment or maybe financial problems or maybe the kids don't just grow up the way we'd hoped. We all have those things.

Other times life is going really incredibly well. Whether we're on a mountain top or in a valley, I truly believe we need to have a hope for the future. When marriages fall apart. The hardest thing, often, is that the hopes and dreams of that wife or that husband, the things that they wanted to do together. Those dreams are lying shattered and destroyed on the floor.

When someone gets retrenched from their job. Their aspirations for their careers or promotion or future or financial security seem to be torn out from underneath them. Without a hope for the future people, very quickly, lose heart.

The apostle Peter was writing to Christians who were being persecuted 2000 years ago. And these people could have easily have lost heart. I mean they were being tarred and put on stakes and burned as torches at the Roman emperors garden parties. They were being fed to lions. They were being tortured just because they believed in Jesus. What does their hope for the future look like then?

This program is heard all over the world. All different sorts of political and social contexts. Places where persecution happens. Places where people are really hurting. Place where people could easily lose heart.

What did Peter have to say to them then and to us now? This is what he wrote:

*"I praise God and the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His great mercy He's given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish or spoil or fade. Kept in heaven for you who, through faith, are shielded by Gods power until the coming of salvation that is ready to be revealed in those last days."*

*"In this you greatly rejoice though for now, for a little while, you might have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith, which is much more precious than gold which perishes even though refined through fire, so that your faith may be proved genuine and may result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus is revealed."*

See, Peter is talking to these people and saying, 'Look, I know you're going through suffering. I know you're going through persecution. I know it hurts at the moment. But you have a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus didn't just die for your sins, He rose again and He sits at the right hand of the Father.'

When you and I die, do you believe in Jesus? I do. And if you believe in Jesus, when we die we have a certain hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ 'cause that's what's going to happen to

us too. And not just a resurrection, we have an inheritance that can never perish or spoil or fade that is being kept in heaven for us.

You know, we can become so focused on the here and now, we completely lose our eternal perspective. I've seen people so focused on their careers as though, at the end of the day when they're lying on their death bed, that's what's really going to matter. Or so focused on the next this or the next that or ... Get a grip.

One day you and I will breathe our last breath on this earth. One day there'll be no more career or house or car or job. One day all we have to take out of this world will be ourselves and our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. And there's this eternal, amazing future there for us. A future with no more tears or crying or sickness or pain or tiredness or exhaustion. An eternity in God's presence.

You know what? It's time for us to lift up our eyes and set them on the things that are above. On heavenly things. On this eternal reality. When we do that, you know, it puts the good times into perspective.

You know when something good happens, maybe you get a promotion at work or maybe you get married or you buy a new house. Just something really nice happens in your life and you think, 'This is fabulous. I'm on a mountain top.' We need to see that in perspective. That house or that marriage or that job promotion. It's temporal, it will pass away, it's only for the here and the now.

I love the life that I'm living. And it has its ups and it has its downs. And some days, you know, you want to lose heart. It can be tough here on earth. When you step out, as I did in ministry for Jesus, you are bound to face opposition.

But I know, through my faith in Jesus Christ, that there is an eternal inheritance. A hope that's not some uncertain hope. A hope that is so certain because Jesus was raised from the dead. And His promise is that we will have eternal life just like He does.

Have you ever done that? Have you ever given your life to Jesus, put your faith in Him? Let me encourage you. If you've never done that before, to do that right now, to give your life over to Him. Pray this with me.

*Father, I just have heard about Jesus and I believe that Jesus died to pay for my sin and He's risen again. And Father, I just accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Saviour. I believe that because of what He did for me on the cross, all my sins are forgiven. I am so sorry for all the things I have done wrong. I turn away from those now and I turn to you and I believe I have the gift of eternal life.*

*Lord, I want to live the rest of my life on this earth for Jesus. I accept Him as my Lord. Father, I pray all of these things in His name.  
Amen.*

Not everything is going to come up roses tomorrow morning but as we grow in our depth in our relationship with Jesus, He takes the burdens and the problems on Him. And whatever tomorrow brings there is a certainty of a relationship warmer and deeper and more wondrous than we can ever imagine.