

Marinating in God's Word: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Peter's growth as a disciple is detailed in the stories of the gospels and Acts. But Peter's letters show his growth in a different way, from later in life. And since we want to grow too, they can help us as we focus for several weeks on 1 Peter.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Peter begins with "Blessed be God," the usual beginning for Old Testament prayers, and then he describes why we're praising him. If you start your prayer with "Blessed be God for...", what would lead your list of reasons to praise God on this Coronavirus Sunday?
- Peter believes we enter the Christian life by being "born again." What was your "born again" experience? Could you point to a particular day, or was it spread across time?
- None of us is responsible for our birth. It's the first of life's givens. What do you see in your spiritual birth that was given, and not your doing?
- All of us have had plans interrupted by this Coronavirus season. About what can you say, "we had hoped..."? In what ways does our "living hope" in Jesus (v. 3) lift us beyond the reach of the plague's impact?
- How are you seeing non-believers cope with the Coronavirus shut down? How are you coping? How is your more stable hope showing to non-believers around you?