

# "The Immune System – Protected By God"

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## Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1: 3-7 NRSV

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What jumps out at you about this passage?
2. Think back to a painful or challenging time in your life. Can you think of ways that the negative experience helped you mature or grow?
3. This passage is filled with praise, gratitude, and joy even in the midst of suffering. How can this be?
4. Peter says we are protected by the power of God. How does God protect us? When something bad happens to us, did God fail to protect us? What role does Peter say we have in this protection?
5. A lot of this passage is focused upon the future. How can the future help our present?
6. Peter talks about the great mercy of God. In what ways have you seen or experienced the great mercy of God?
7. What do you think this new birth into a living hope is?
8. What is this inheritance that Peter is talking about? If it is kept in heaven, how does it help us now?
9. Why are all of these wonderful promises and future hopes rooted in the resurrection? Why is resurrection such a crucial part of Christianity?
10. Peter likens our faith to the preciousness of gold--how is it similar. Why does fire purify gold? Why might sufferings purify our faith?
11. What are you thankful to God for?