

## 1 John 3:3-4

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### 1 John 3:3

**And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

And everyone who has this hope in Him

We hope for many things in this life. Can we hope for something yesterday? No, we can only hope for something now or in the future.

Biblical hope is to anticipate with pleasure, favorable and confident expectation with assurance of the unseen future.

This hope is by God's grace through faith in Jesus which produces peace, endurance and character by God's love for His children. By the Holy Spirit's work, we are kept, preserved, sustained in our trials, by hope. The hope He has given us enlightens our hearts showing us the glorious eternal inheritance by His power and great might. The same power of the resurrection that raised Christ from the dead. Our trials can be so great that nothing, but hope would get us through them. This hope allows us to carry them with patience, confidence, and assurance.

**Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

**Ephesians 1:18-21 Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.**

**Titus 3:7 So that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

**1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

**1 Peter 1:21 Who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.**

We depend on God for the hope of becoming like the image of His Son.

**Romans 8:29-30** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

**2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

This hope is based on being made like the Savior, “Christ in you”.

**John 17:22** And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.

**Colossians 1:27** To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

This hope is certain and eagerly awaited.

**Romans 8:24-25** For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

**Philippians 3:20-21** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

**Colossians 1:5** Because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel.

This hope anticipates and has confidence in Christ’s return. Our hope is “blessed” in that Jesus’ return will be an amazing experience for the believer. We will be blessed beyond what we could ever imagine! The trials of this life will be over (yay!), and we will see that “our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18)

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then, we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

**Titus 1:2** In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

**1 Peter 1:13** Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.

**1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.**

### Purifies himself

Purify: To make clean, i.e. (figuratively) sanctify (ceremonially or morally) purify (self).

*How can we live a purified life?*

As believers, we should put forth an effort in struggling against sin. This is necessary to make oneself purified and to overcome our evil tendencies. This is only made possible through the Holy Spirit. He has given us all the tools we need to live a purified life: confession, repentance, obedience (holiness) and His Word. By reading God's Word daily helps us to know how to obey. True fellowship with God cannot result in ongoing sinful living without repentance. A believer will experience conviction, which is meant to lead to a return to God and a restored fellowship with Christ. Our love for God is obedience to Him and His commands.

**Psalm 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

**Acts 3:19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.**

**2 John 1:6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.**

*Our desire should be to want a purified life. This is called sanctification. The Lord continually transforms us through the power of His indwelling Holy Spirit. It's not that we become sinless, but the more we fill our minds with His Word and yield to the Spirit's leadership, the more victorious we will be over sin. Dr. Charles Stanley*

As God's children, we exist to bring glory and honor to Him by becoming more and more like His Son in our character, conduct, and conversation. It is living a life of purity and holiness as our old attitudes and habits are replaced with godly ones.

**2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**

**Hebrews 12:14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**

**Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

**1 Timothy 5:22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.**

**1 Peter 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.**

**2 Peter 1:4** By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

*According to these verses, what are our responsibilities as children of God?*

Just as He is pure

Pure: Properly, clean, innocent, modest, perfect, chaste. Free from moral defilement; without spot; not sullied or tarnished; incorrupt; undebased by moral turpitude; holy. Free from guilt; guiltless; innocent. Absolute (complete).

God is completely without sin and absolutely set apart from imperfection.

**Numbers 23:19** God is not a man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?

**2 Timothy 2:13** If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

**Hebrews 6:18** Thus by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be strongly encouraged.

*What does purity look like in the life of a believer?*

When our thoughts, words and deeds are pure, we have a clean and clear conscience before God. We can make good choices and no longer have to live a life of guilt and regret. We can live a life of satisfaction, peace, and joy. Just as God is pure and holy, we are to be pure and holy.

**Psalm 119:9-11** How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

**Psalm 19:8** The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

**Matthew 5:48** You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**1 Peter 1:15-16** But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

**Hebrews 7:26** For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

If we love and cherish our Lord, we will aim to live our lives in a manner that pleases our Lord. To be pure is to be free from sin; to live increasingly like Christ in a world filled with sin. Believers can look forward to heaven rather than fear future judgment. We are to be pure and blameless until the day of Christ. Our hope in Christ is one day we will live a perfect and sinless life, where the redeemed will be perfectly holy.

**Philippians 1:10-11** So that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**2 Peter 3:14** Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

**1 John 4:17** By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

*Something to ponder:* Above all, do I desire to live a pure and holy life?

## **1 John 3:4**

**Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.**

Everyone who makes a practice of sinning

John reminds his readers to live in holiness and stop committing sin. He shows us the contrast of living in holiness and purity and the continual practice of sin. God requires lives of obedience and holiness. Sin and new life in Christ are incompatible. Being forgiven does not give us the right to continue to sin. Walking with Christ should deter us from sin.

**1 John 3:5-6** You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

Sin is lawlessness

*What is the definition of sin?*

Sin: Missing the mark. All sin is a violation of the law of God. We are no longer under the Law, but under grace because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. God's Word has been given to us. It measures our heart when we do not obey. It communicates what the will of God is and what is required for righteous living. When we do not do what God says, it is sin. All who do not comply are guilty before God.

**Romans 5:21** So that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Romans 6:14** For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

**Romans 8:3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh.

*Do laws have a penalty if they are not followed? What are some penalties we can receive from not following the law?*

There can be suffering, disadvantage, or forfeiting of privileges. A child of God should not deliberately and habitually sin; sin is rebellion against God. There are consequences when we do not obey God.

*What is the definition of lawlessness?*

Lawlessness: The utter disregard for God's law (His written and living Word), wickedness, unrighteousness.

Those who do not know Christ are called "workers of lawlessness." Those who regularly go against God's ways (sin) are living as if there is no standard of righteousness (lawlessness). A lawless person is one who has given himself or herself over completely to a sinful lifestyle.

**Matthew 7:23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'**

**Matthew 13:41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers.**

**Matthew 24:12 And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.**

*What deters us from indulging in sin?*

Those who know God will seek to live for Him; including a life that increasingly flees from sin and follows the teachings of Christ. With Jesus as Lord of our lives, we are no longer enslaved by sin. We have the power, through the Holy Spirit, to live victoriously over sin.

**Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.**

**Romans 6:19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.**

**Hebrews 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."**

**Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.**

Freedom from sin allows us to offer ourselves as willing slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ, who continues to work in us to make us more like Him.

**Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.**

**Philippians 2:13 For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

*Something to ponder – Do I seek to live a life of righteousness?*