

**Happy
April Fool's
Day!**









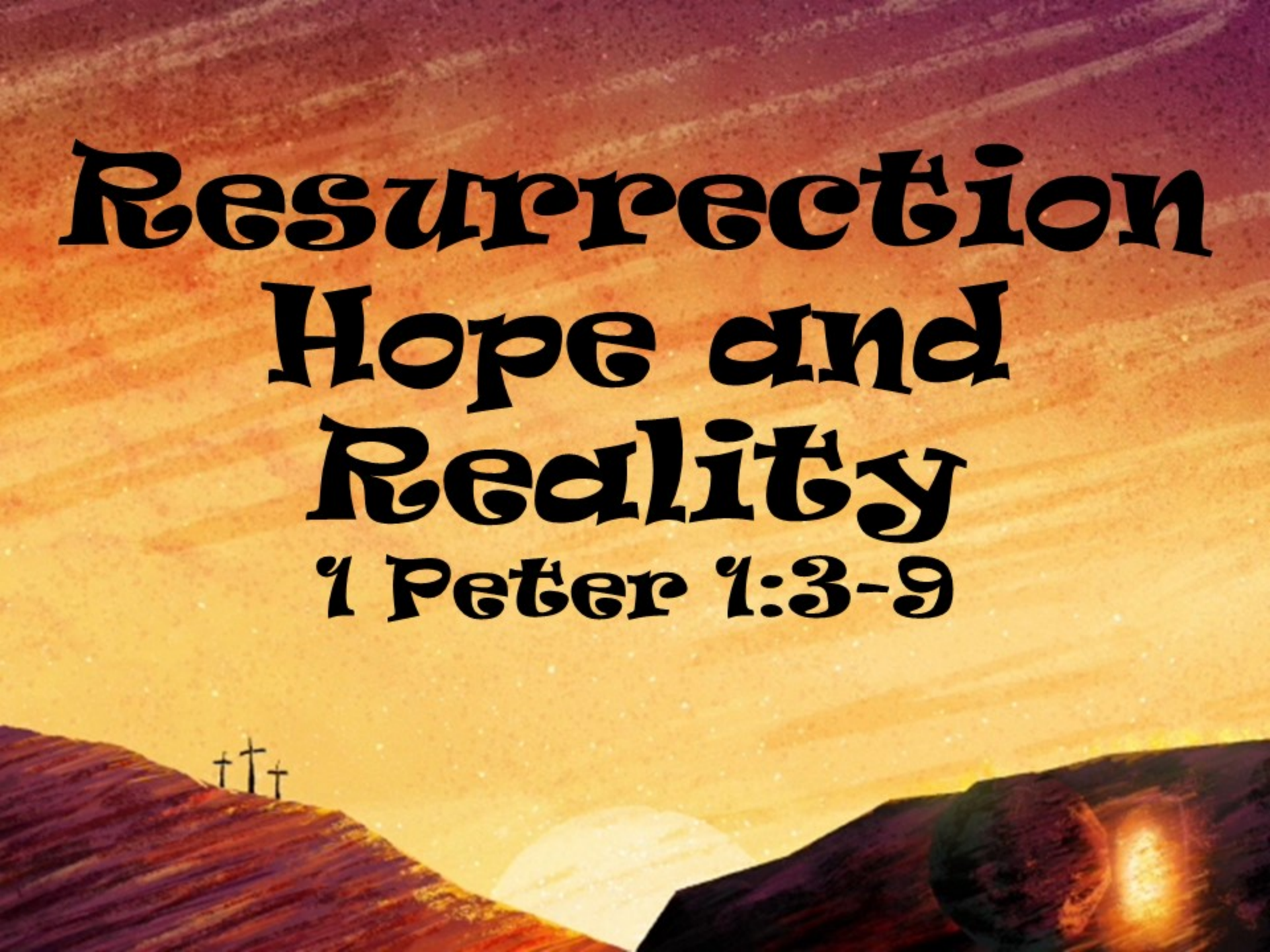
**Because of their faith,
Christians can look
foolish to those who
have no faith.**

**Sometimes Christians
feel foolish. Was I a fool
to believe?**

Prosperity Gospel:

belief that financial blessing and physical well-being are always the will of God. The Bible is viewed as a contract between God and humans: if humans have faith in God, he will deliver security and prosperity.

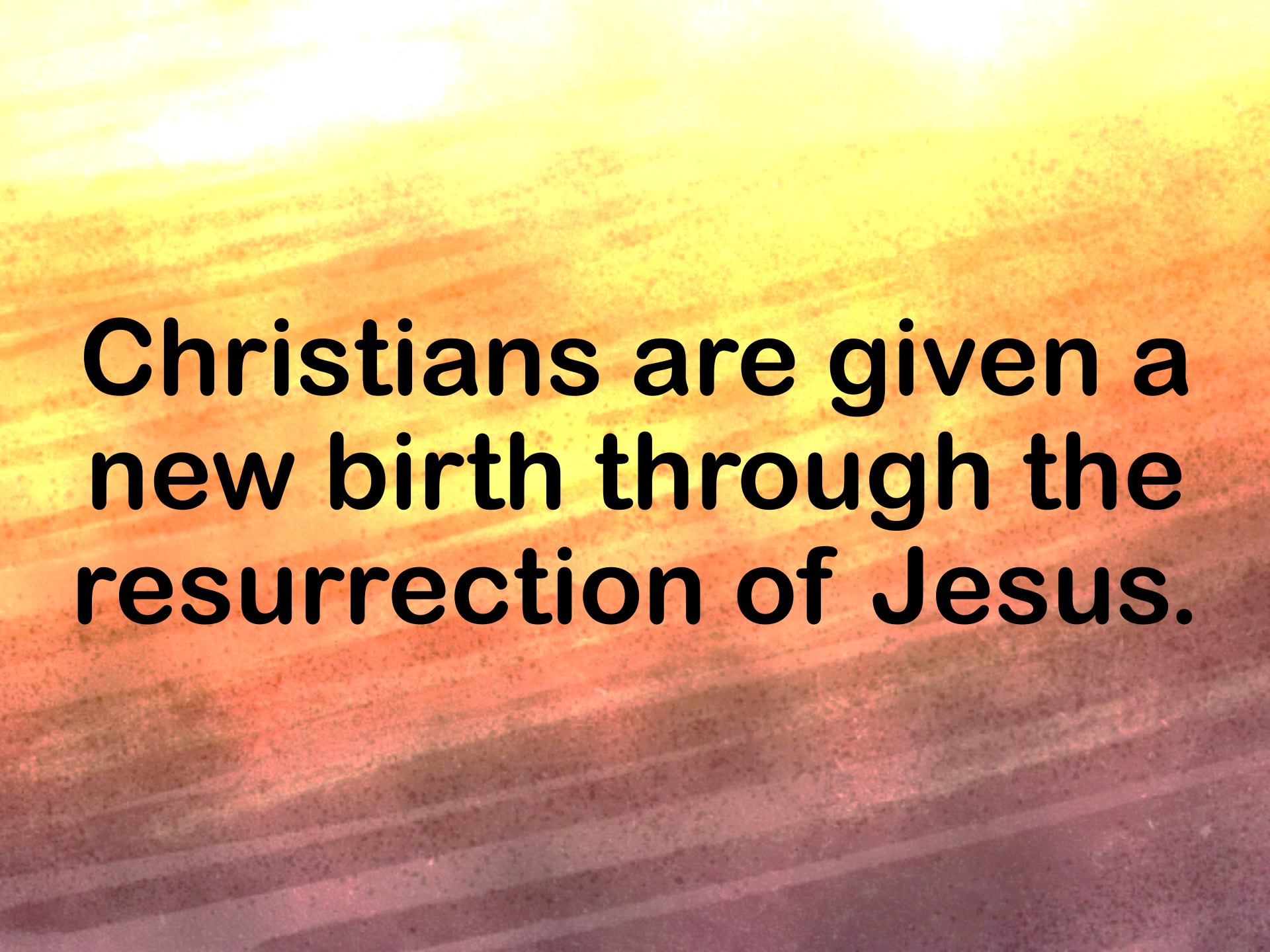
**Jesus Christ did not die
on the cross and then rise
to new life so I could
escape all the painful and
scary things of this world.
If that's true, why would I
want to celebrate the
Resurrection?**



**Resurrection
Hope and
Reality**
1 Peter 1:3-9

1. The cross and resurrection of Jesus accomplish new birth for the Christian. This new life includes a living hope and an inheritance kept in heaven that is certain and protected.





**Christians are given a
new birth through the
resurrection of Jesus.**



**This new life in Christ
includes a living hope.**



**The Christian's new life
is an inheritance kept
safely in Heaven.**

**The suffering believers
experience in this
world is real and
destructive, but it is not
enough to keep them
from their eternal life in
Christ.**



I was not created simply for life on this planet. I was created to be with God forever in eternity. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ makes that new life a reality.

**2. The basis for the
Christian's new
birth is the merciful
love of God.**



**God has a great, or
abundant, merciful
love towards me
even though I don't
deserve it.**

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:3-5

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

Paul is not saying that in Christ we are exempt from experiencing these things in this life. He is saying that even when we experience these things, we are still loved by God.

Do I truly believe, in spite of everything I may have to endure, that I will be saved in eternity because God loves me with an unfailing love?

Jesus did not die on the cross and rise from the grave to new life so I would be rescued from all the painful and scary things of this world. The rescue I experience is from what happens on the other side of death. And I am rescued because I am loved by God.