

Hope in Uncertain Times by Nigel Coles A Reason For Hope: Part 5

Welcome to the Fuelcast on Friday. We're on week five rooted in 1 Peter 3:15:

in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect 1 Peter 3:15

Today we'll focus on what Peter hopes will result, he wants us all to - '*give the reason for the hope that you have*'.

Hope is a favourite word for Peter. He had become a rock and he was now certain. Absolutely certain of Jesus.

He begins this letter by saying: ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy **he has given us new birth into a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

He's reminding all of us who are followers of Jesus, we have been **born again** by the spirit of God and **born into a living hope**.

So what do we say when we give a reason for our hope?

Always two things:

Talk about *your* hope

Make it personal and be totally honest.

Carl, a friend of mine said in a small group last week 'I find the best policy is to be totally honest, even if I'm a bit shaky, as I can be.

He went on to talk about when he first became a Christian, he was quite unsure about even mentioning he went to church, because he thought he knew what the other guys he worked with would be thinking.

One day the subject came up and one of his colleagues, asked him a question and he didn't particularly think he'd done a good job of answering, but this guy said: *you know some guys talk the talk, but you Carl walk the walk.*

The fact is we've all got a story to share about how Jesus has made a difference in us.

This week, I've spent some time dwelling on that earlier verse and the living hope and asking a few questions of myself, like:

"Does hope look alive in me from others perspective?"

That's a really challenging question to ask and I commend it to anyone, but here's something I found really encouraging: every time I'm in a conversation where I share something about my hope in Jesus, it **has** been spotted.

I'm a bit of a birdwatcher and if I'm looking for a particular bird, around where I live, I look at the Tweets from those who know far more about birds than me and then I go in the area where they've seen any particular bird recently.

Whenever anyone asks you a question, you can be sure the hope you have, has been spotted, so be confident.

Please take a look at **talkingjesus.org** - you'll find a great course there, which you, either alone or with a group and it's free until the end of August.

If you look there, you'll find plenty to support my second point, which is:

Talk about Jesus

... After all, Jesus is the reason for your hope.

When you talk about your hope, you'll be pointing to him, in any case, so hopefully sharing what Jesus has done in your life, for you, will follow on from that.

What was the biggest influence on you becoming a Christian? For one in three of you it was having a conversation with an existing Christian. How do I know that? Because we asked existing Christians, through the Talking Jesus research, that question and 36% of them said having a conversation with a Christian was the biggest influence in their coming to faith.

Not only that of those people interviewed 1 in every 5 said, having spoken to a practising Christian wanted to know more about Jesus Christ. I'm convinced that those who get as far as asking you to share the hope within you, that percentage is way higher, because those people are most probably in the 1 in 5 already.

You'll always be ready if you know your hope:

- Is already at work in you: You know Jesus is your Lord.
- Is bigger than your circumstances. Whatever they are, you know your God is bigger.
- Is rooted in Jesus, the resurrection and the life. Ultimately, you have confidence whatever ever happens, or whenever your life here on earth ends, there is a promised land called heaven awaiting you.

To watch the video, go to: <https://www.thefuelcast.com/>

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