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## The Incredible Reward of Holiness

1 Peter 1:6

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### “Providing a Lap”

**W**alking to the park with your daughter, you listen as she confidently relates what she wants to be when she grows up. Her speech reveals a child who has great security in her dad. The security she knows did not come overnight. Every day that you made your way from providing a living, to providing a lap for her in the easy chair, you added a block to the foundation for this relationship. Her entire trust is in your strong arms, listening ear and warm heart. She trusts you completely, and, she is not daunted that you know her inside and out. In fact, your acute understanding of her zealous and impulsive nature draws her to you even more. You've forgiven her mistakes and selfishness again and again. And, to the extent that your forgiveness has been extended, and your patience tried, your love for each other has cemented.

### Reflection

When a man who knows Christ begins the pilgrimage of holiness, the Lord reveals himself at deeper and deeper levels. Time spent with the Lord, restoration in times of failure, and promises to remain faithful, all serve to cement the relationship. Peter drew closer and more determined as a follower when he had failed the Lord and had to face the Lord with his failure. He then looked to the future with new resolve to remain close at the Lord's side.

### Accountability and Application

Determine that in order for you to be solid in relationship with the Lord, you must be totally transparent with him.

- Are there areas of your life which you are holding on to, resisting to show the “real you” to the Lord?
- Would you like to have a deep relationship with him that results from that kind of dependency and transparency?
- Do you want to be dependent on the Lord? What will it cost you?

**Prayer:** Lord, I'm not sure about this deep relationship bit. I know I'm not as close as I can be. I hold back a lot. Help me to give it up to you. Cement us, Lord.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV)

### Praise to God for a Living Hope

<sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.