

A scenic view of a river with stepping stones in a rural landscape. The river flows from the foreground towards the background, with a series of large, flat, rectangular stones placed across it to create a path. The water is dark and reflects the sky. The surrounding landscape is lush green, with rolling hills and a fence line visible in the distance. The sky is overcast and grey.

**“ STEPPING STONES  
OF THE NEW BIRTH”**

# Stepping Stones of the New Birth

## I Peter 1:3-5

A birth is one of the most

exciting things to be a part of

Pain and anguish

The first steps of a child are also pretty  
significant

# Stepping Stones of the New Birth

I Peter 1:3-5

When we are born again, we take spiritual  
steps—stepping stones

Hope

Inheritance

Power

# I. The new birth is a step toward hope (v. 3)

A better description would be to be born from above; a transformation that occurs on the inside

A step toward hope

# I. The new birth is a step toward hope (v. 3)

Peter praises God for His plan in saving people  
which includes:

A changed life on earth

An inheritance in heaven

Security until we get there

I. The new birth is a step toward hope (v. 3)

Christians have hope; unbelievers don't (see Ephesians 2:12 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

"Most men lead lives of quiet desperation" —  
Henry David Thoreau

# I. The new birth is a step toward hope (v. 3)

Jesus walked into Peter's life and said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"

(Matthew 4:19)

At the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Peter's hope was reborn (see 1 Peter 1:3)

# Three Evidences of the Resurrection of Jesus

Jesus predicted His own death and resurrection  
before it ever happened

Individual and group eyewitness accounts

The changed lives of the followers of Christ



## II. The new birth is a step toward inheritance (v. 4)

It's not just about hope now, it's lasting hope, after we die (see 1 Corinthians 15)

All of these earthly things will be dissolved  
(see 2 Peter 3:11-14)

Be spiritually-minded people, not materialistic people

## II. The new birth is a step toward inheritance (v. 4)

Heaven was not just a destination for Peter, it was his  
motivation

"To be absent from the body is to be present with the  
Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8)

### III. The new birth is a step toward power (v. 5)

Kept secure—safeguarded by God

God will keep you, but you have to want to be kept (see Jude 24)

You are kept for salvation

## IV. Three different ways the New Testament speaks of salvation

Past: You have been saved by faith

(see Romans 10:9)

Present: You are being saved right **now**—  
sanctification

Future: You will be saved from the very  
presence of sin

## V. Final Thoughts

This new birth is your only hope for new life  
Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7)

If you ever want to see heaven, you must be  
born again

