

Scripture

1 Peter 2:1-12 (NLT)

1 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. 2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, 3 now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

Living Stones for God's House

- 4** You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.
- 5** And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

6 As the Scriptures say,

“I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem,
chosen for great honor,
and anyone who trusts in him
will never be disgraced.”

7 Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor
God has given him. But for those who reject
him,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has now become the cornerstone.”

8 And,

“He is the stone that makes people stumble,
the rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they do not obey
God’s word, and so they meet the fate that
was planned for them.

9 But you are not like that, for you are a
chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy
nation, God’s very own possession. As a
result, you can show others the goodness
of God, for he called you out of the
darkness into his wonderful light.

10 “Once you had no identity as a people;
now you are God’s people.
Once you received no mercy;
now you have received God’s mercy.”

11 Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. **12** Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.