
The Pursuit of Holiness

Dead Weight or Living Stone?

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, February 25, 2018*

⁴ “As you come to him, a **living stone** rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 2:4–5, ESV**

If I Am in Christ, I Am Chosen & Precious

Dead Weight or Living Stone?

Is the Spirit Filled Life Flowing Out of Me?

As Believers We Choose NOT to Put Our Lives 1st,
Because We Have Chosen to Live for Jesus

So, What Is God Up to In My Life?

1 – God Wants to Give Me Real Life

“⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is **for you who believe**, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.” *1 Peter 2:6–8, ESV*

The Scandal of The Cross Is 2-fold:

There Is No Salvation Without Coming to
the Cross

I Must Surrender Everything to Receive the
Promises of God

“So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.” *1 Corinthians 1:23–24, NLT*

2 – God is Building Me into a Spiritual House

Built to House the Presence of God

Built to Be A Community of Faith

We Are Not Only Saved From, But We Are Saved
To ...

Without A Godly Purpose There Is No Godly Life

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep

your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." *1 Peter 2:9–12, ESV*

Descriptions of My Purpose

vs 5: to Offer Spiritual Sacrifices

vs 9: to Proclaim Jesus

vs 10-12: to Abstain from The Passions of The Flesh and to Keep Our Conduct Honorable

WHY?

What's Peter's Point?

I Am Called to Do the Work of God

I Must Not Allow My Behavior to Get in The Way of
The Work of God

“Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so
that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:16, NLT