

LIVING STONE

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"Therefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere Milk of the Word, so that you may grow into salvation, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. And coming to Him, as unto a Living Stone, rejected indeed by men, but Chosen of God, and Precious; you also, as living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore also it is contained in the scripture, 'Behold, I lay in Zion a Chief Corner Stone, Elect (Chosen), Precious: and he who believes on Him shall not be put to shame' (Isaiah 28:16). Therefore, unto you who believe **He is Precious**; but unto those who are disobedient, **the Stone** which the builders rejected, **the Same** has been made the **Cornerstone**; and a **Stone of Stumbling**, and a **Rock of Offense**, even to those who stumble at the Word, being disobedient; unto which also they were appointed. But you are a **chosen generation**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, a **Purchased People**; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:1-9)

Living: from the Greek word **zonata** which means: to be alive, to be a living physical being. Also, to be spiritually alive: a spiritual living being; as in alive in the Spirit of Christ Jesus. Being not lifeless like an ordinary inanimate stone or rock.

Stone: from the Greek word **lithon (lithos)** which means: a stone, a rock broken free from bedrock, or an object carved from stone, such as or a brick, or block, a foundation stone, or some other object. A stone (literally or figuratively); used of Jesus as He Himself being the Chief Living Cornerstone in a building, that is the Church.

Living Stone: Jesus the Christ, the Living, Tested, Chief Foundational Cornerstone; the One and Only Spiritual Being, who alone can impart spiritual life to spiritually dead human beings. (and also called Living Water, and the Bread of life - Jesus the Son of the Living God!).

When we come to Jesus, and seek the sincere milk of His Word, we are then made alive by Jesus, the **Living Stone**. And we ourselves become **living stones**, who are then built up upon Jesus, this same Precious Living Chief Corner Stone; and we are built up into a Spiritual House, a Holy and Royal Priesthood, a Chosen Generation, a Holy Nation, and a Living Purchased People for God's own possession! Consider these Words of Jesus, the Living Stone who alone gives Life to us:

"But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into **everlasting life**." (John 4:11)

"Truly, truly, I say unto you, He who hears My Word, and believes on Him (the Father) who sent Me, has **everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but has passed from death **into life!** Truly, truly, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and those who hear shall live. For as the Father has Life in Himself; so he has given to the Son to have Life in Himself" (John 5:24-26)

"For the Bread of God is He who comes down from heaven, and gives Life unto the world. ... And Jesus said unto them, **I am the Bread of Life**; he who comes to Me shall never hunger; and he who believes on Me shall never thirst." (John 6:33,35)

"Jesus said unto her, **I am the Resurrection, and the Life**; he who believes in me, though he is dead, yet shall he live: (John 11:25)

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The fact, that **Christ Jesus is our Life**, is very well confirmed by the New Testament writers:

“He who believes on the Son of God has the witness in himself; and he who does not believe God accuses Him of lying; because he does not believe the record that God gave of His Son. And this is the record: God has given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; and he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:10-12)

“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the Firstfruits of those who slept. For since by a man came death, by a Man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, in that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.” (1 John 4:9)

“If you then are risen (made alive) with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

“For if by one man's offense death reigned through that one; how much more shall they who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life by One, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of One (Jesus) the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as through one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so through the obedience of One (Jesus) shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound; so that as sin has reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 5:17-21)

“But now being made free from sin, and becoming servants to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end-result everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

“But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we are awake or sleep, we should live together with Him.” (1 Thessalonians 5:8-10)

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the Life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we who live are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, so that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death works in us, but Life in you.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-12)

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So then, **Christ Jesus is our Life**; and through Him we have been transformed from the state of deadness in our sins, to being alive, and to even becoming **living stones** who are being built up by Jesus **the Living Stone of God**, into a Spiritual House – The House of God! Jesus is our Foundation Stone. His word is the Foundation upon which we build our lives. Take just one away and you end up with neither! Consider also these verses:

Then He said unto them, 'But who do **you** say that I am?' And Simon Peter answered and said, '**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**' And Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jona; for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven! And I say also unto you that you are Peter (**Petros**), and upon **this Rock (Petra) I will build My church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:13-20)

"These things write I unto you, ... so that you may know how you ought to behave yourself in the House of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the Truth. (1 Timothy 3:14-15)

"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, **Christ Jesus**; who was faithful to Him (the Father) who appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this Man (Jesus) was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, just as he who builds the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone; **but He who built all things is God**. And as Moses truly was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; so also was Christ (faithful) as a Son over His own house; whose House are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." (Hebrews 3:1-6)

Finally, consider this exhortation:

"Therefore we are buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection; Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, so that our body of sin might be destroyed, that from now onward we should not serve sin. For he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also **live with Him**; knowing that Christ being raised from the dead shall die no more; for death has no more dominion over Him! For in that He died, He died unto sin once only! And in that He lives, He lives unto God. Likewise consider also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:4-11)

JESUS is ... the Living Stone

**Jesus is the Living Tested Foundation Stone upon whom we exist in Christ!
Jesus is the Living Cornerstone upon whom He builds His Church!
And the gates of hell shall not prevail against the House of God!**

**We are a Living Spiritual House, a Living Holy Royal Priesthood,
a Living Chosen Generation, a Living Holy Nation,
and a Living Purchased People for God's own possession!**

Lord Jesus You are the Living Stone who died, and ransomed, and purchased us!

All praise, glory, honor, and power is Yours forever and ever, Amen!