

You are a living Stone!

In her book *It Only Hurts When I Laugh*, Ethel Barrett tells about a king of Sparta in ancient Greece who boasted to a visiting monarch about the mighty walls of Sparta. But the guest didn't see any walls, and finally he said to his host, "I'd like to see those walls. Show them to me!" The Spartan ruler pointed with great satisfaction to some disciplined and well-trained troops, part of Sparta's mighty army, and exclaimed, "There they are! Those are the walls of Sparta!"

Just as each Spartan soldier was viewed as a brick in a mighty way, so we are to think of ourselves as "living stones...built up a spiritual house" (1 Pet. 2:5). And because it is built by Christ Himself, it can never be destroyed. Even if you are feeling like you are going through something today- you don't have to rely on YOUR STRENGTH – but the Lord!

Below is I Peter 2:4-12 (The Message)

4As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame."^[a] 7Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone,"^[b]^[c] 8and,
"A stone that causes men to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."^[d] They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.