

Rock of Ages...

Standing Stones & Living Stones

We live in a culture built on shifting sand. Ideologies change overnight, circumstances turn in an instant, and our human efforts frequently crumble under the weight of life's trials. But from Genesis to Revelation, Scripture points us to an unchanging truth: God is our Rock, our Fortress, our immovable Foundation, and the Cornerstone of lives.

Over the next few weeks, we will take a journey through the physical and metaphorical stones of the Bible. From the protective fortress of God in Psalms to the wilderness rocks, the rejected cornerstone of salvation, the transformation of our hearts of stone, and our modern identity as living stones...this series will show us the only foundation that cannot be shaken.

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." Matthew 7:24-27

Permanent Reminders – Tattoo, child, scar, certificate...

Question: When trials hit, why is our default reaction to think and behave like God has never helped us before? Human beings are prone to spiritual amnesia.

Standing Stones Declare

5 And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, 6 that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever." Joshua 4:5-7

Every believer needs a personal "standing stone"—moments in their past where they can point and say, "That is where God saved me, provided for me, and brought me through."

The Cornerstone Defines

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 1 Peter 2:4

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,” 1 Peter 2:6-7

If your life feels unstable or out of alignment, check what you are building on. A life aligned with the Cornerstone will never crumble under pressure.

Living Stones Display

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 2:5

Your testimony, your transformed life, and your love for one another are the dynamic "living stones" the world looks at today for proof that God is real. Yet, a single stone alone in a field accomplishes nothing. It must be fit together with other stones to form a wall, a home, and a community!

God is our Fortress, Shield, and Unchanging Rock FOREVER

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Why is the idea of being a "lone ranger" Christian completely incompatible with Peter's description of believers as "living stones"?

Tuesday – Just as stones in a wall rub against one another, church life can sometimes bring friction. How can friction in biblical community actually shape us into better followers of Christ?

Wednesday – Read John 8:1–11. How does Jesus' response to the woman caught in adultery balance total grace with unwavering truth?

Thursday – Read 1 Peter 2:9. What does it mean to you personally that God calls you part of a "royal priesthood" and a "chosen people"?

Friday – Reach out to another member of our church family today—through a text, call, or invitation to coffee—to encourage them and strengthen your bond in the house of God.