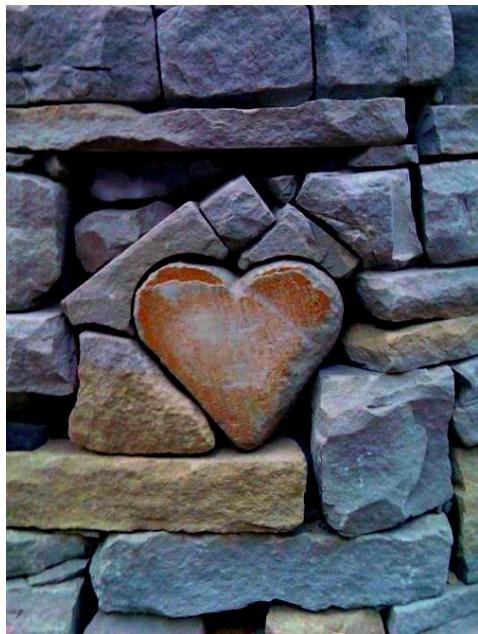


FAITH: I = IGNEOUS

Part 3 of a 5-part series on the life of the Apostle Peter from Sunday Praise with Spooner Church of the Nazarene.



You are a living stone, chosen and precious.

We Are Living Stones

Peter, originally known as Simon, experienced a profound transformation through his relationship with Jesus. Once an impulsive fisherman, Jesus renamed him Peter, meaning "rock," signifying his role in building the Church. In 1 Peter 2:4-5, we read, "As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house."

This passage reveals a powerful truth: just as Peter was shaped and refined, we too are called living stones, uniquely designed to contribute to God's Kingdom. Our lives, talents, and experiences are not random; they are meant to help build the Church and create pathways for others to encounter Christ.

1 Peter 2:1-6 ESV

A Living Stone and a Holy People

1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

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. 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."

English Standard Version (ESV)

We are Called

A meaningful analogy can be found in igneous rock, which forms under intense pressure and heat. Like igneous rock, our faith is often shaped by life's challenges and refining moments, strengthening us to stand firm and support others. As living stones, we are called to:

- Use our gifts to serve the Church – Every talent we have can be used to glorify God and bless others.
- Create pathways for others – Just as roads made of stone provide direction, our lives should help lead others toward Christ.
- Stand firm under pressure – Our faith must remain steadfast, even in times of hardship and opposition.

When we embrace our identity as living stones, we recognize that our purpose extends beyond ourselves. We are part of a greater plan, working together to build God's spiritual house. How do you use your gifts to serve Jesus?

FAITH: I = IGNEOUS

Part 3 of a 5-part series on the life of the Apostle Peter from Sunday Praise with Spooner Church of the Nazarene.



Reading her Bible by Johannes Weiland

Life Application

Today, let us take intentional steps to:

1. Crave God's Word daily – Set aside time to engage with Scripture and allow it to shape your life.
2. Use your gifts to build the Church – Look for opportunities to serve and encourage others in their faith.
3. Trust in Jesus as your foundation – Surrender your fears and doubts, knowing He is your firm and unwavering cornerstone.

Jesus – The Cornerstone of Our Lives

While we are called to be living stones, it is crucial to remember who our foundation is—Jesus Christ. Peter emphasizes this in 1 Peter 2:6, saying, “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.”

In ancient architecture, the cornerstone was the most critical stone in a building. It set the foundation, determined alignment, and provided structural stability. Without a solid cornerstone, the entire structure would collapse and crumble. In the same way, Jesus is the cornerstone of our life and faith, offering the stability and direction we need to thrive. My mom helps me plan these Bible lessons by sharing hymns with me. She shared How Firm a Foundation, which is perfect for this Praise video. I love the first line: “How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!”

When we build our lives upon Jesus and His Word, we experience:

- Unshakable strength – No matter the storms we face, our foundation in Christ remains firm.
- Guidance and direction – Jesus provides the wisdom we need to navigate life's complexities.
- Security and confidence – Trusting in Him assures us that we are never alone or without purpose.

I tried to build my life on unstable foundations such as career success, material things, and good works, but only Christ provided the lasting hope I truly need. When we surrender our lives to Him and trust Him as our cornerstone, we experience true fulfillment and peace.