

LIVING HOPE

PART 3

...to the Fullest!

JUNE 30 & JULY 1, 2012 • MARK SPURLOCK

To God's chosen people... You were chosen according to the purpose of God the Father and were made a holy people by his Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be purified by his blood. **May grace and peace be yours in full measure.**

1 Peter 1:1b–2 Good News Translation

To live your faith to the fullest, remember...

1.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. *1 Peter 2:1–3*

2.

As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him — **you 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.** For 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.” *1 Peter 2:4–6*

(Regarding “spiritual sacrifices” see: Rom 12:1; Eph 5:2; Phil 4:18; Heb 13:15–16)

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for.

1 Peter 2:7–8

3.

But 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. Once 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. *1 Peter 2:9–10*



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Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read 1 Peter 2:1–10. This passage is full of so much rich theology! Write down at least one thing you learned about this passage in last weekend's sermon.

How does this passage encourage you today?

How can you apply it to your daily life and change your actions and reactions?

Thank God today for the truth contained in these verses. Thank Him for choosing you and loving you. Pray that your identity in Christ will inform your actions and reactions today.

Tuesday

Please read 1 Peter 2:1–3. The list in verse 1 is easy to gloss over. We don't want to admit we struggle with these things but we all do! Be honest about your actions and thoughts – in what way are you struggling with malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander?

How do these things hold you back in your spiritual growth?

Verse 2 is an important link in our battle with the list in verse 1: How would you describe your spiritual diet? Where are you finding “pure spiritual milk”?

Thank God today for his Word. Pray that as you continue to dwell on what you've read, you'll continue to “grow up in your salvation”.

Wednesday

Please read 1 Peter 2:4–8. How does it encourage you to know that you're not alone in the life of faith?

Again, Peter makes an important connection between our identity and our actions. Here he says we're a “holy priesthood” to “offer spiritual sacrifices.” Think honestly about your actions over the last day. What do they say about what you believe about your identity?

Please read Romans 12:1, Ephesians 5:2, Philippians 4:18 & Hebrews 13:15–16. What type of spiritual sacrifices do you see in these passages? Why are these sacrifices important to your spiritual growth?

Thank God today for the truth that He's building you together with others. Take some time in prayer today to offer up a sacrifice of praise to Him — thanking Him for His many mercies and blessings.

Thursday

Please read 1 Peter 2:9–10. What adjectives does Peter use to describe you in these verses?

Once again, there's an important link in these verses between who we are in Christ and how we are to live. According to Peter, what is the purpose in our position in Christ?

What does it mean to you to know that you are God's, that He has shown you mercy?

Thank God today for the truth that you are chosen, a royal priesthood and God's special possession. Thank Him for bringing you out of darkness and into light. Ask God for opportunities to “declare His praise” today and the boldness to take them!

Friday

Please reread 1 Peter 2:1–10. As we were told on the weekend, the Church, God's invention for reaching the world, is a really big thing! How do you struggle with feeling lonely? How can focusing on being part of something as amazing as the Church help you in that struggle?

What does this passage teach you about living an abundant life?

How could living in the abundance of grace and peace that God provides give you hope?

Thank God today for the abundance of grace and peace He gives you. Thank Him for allowing you to play a part in His plan for reaching the world! Pray that you will remember who you are in Him and that you will apply that truth to you daily thought and actions.

Saturday

Please read 1 Peter 2:12–23 in preparation for this weekend's sermon. Write down one thing that stands out to you in this passage or one question you have.

Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that the “Hot Rods on the Green” car show will be a great outreach tool and many people will be introduced to TLC. Pray also for the services, that they will be infused with joy and truth.



But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9