



Fully Alive

(1 PETER 2:7-12)

Living Stones series

By Pastor David Hillis, 01.12.20

BIG IDEA: God's loving hand is closely upon your life, and inviting you to become fully alive.

What does it mean to be God's beloved child? (1 Peter 2:9)

- 1. You are chosen — so you have tremendous value to God.**
 - a. We think in this life *we* choose God, and we do; but only because He chose *us first*, and chose to *give us* that choice!
 - b. We are all chosen, as *long* as *we choose* to accept Him.
 - c. When we truly *get* how *valuable* we are to God, it changes the value we put on our own lives, and how we see ourselves.
- 2. You are royal — so you have unrestricted access to God.**
 - a. Peter also says we are royal; we are *not like* everybody else, in fact we are "royal priests."
 - b. Today, thanks to what Christ has done, we are brought into God's family and He treats us like royalty.
 - c. We have unrestricted access to God 24/7, and can speak with Him about anything on our hearts, anytime.
- 3. You are holy — so you are set apart for special use.**
 - a. Peter also says each of us are *holy*, or set apart for special use.
 - b. We need to silence the voice that tells us we are not good enough, because as God's children we are to see ourselves the way He sees us, as holy, as perfect in His sight.
- 4. You are God's special possession — so He gets to choose what to do with your life.**
 - a. God, who created us and sees us as *His* special property, sometimes has a different plan.
 - b. No matter how convinced we are about what is best for our lives, we are God's creation, God's special possessions.
 - c. He gets to choose *when* to use us, *how* to use us, and even *how long* to use us.

NEXT STEP: How can I be a “living stone” at Grace? How does God want to grow me here and use me to help serve others in 2020?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. Review [1 Peter 2:1-12](#). How does Peter encourage you to live as a “living stone”? How do you sense God is calling you to be on adventure with Him, and how and why do you hide from it?
2. With special focus on [verses 9-10](#), we have discovered more about what being God’s beloved means. To dig further into these characteristics, spend some time with similar verses in the Bible:
 - Chosen: [1 Peter 1:2; Psalm 22:30, 33:12, 73:15; Isaiah 41:8, 44:1](#)
 - Royal priesthood: [Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 66:21](#)
 - Holy nation: [Psalm 106:5; Isaiah 26:2; John 17:19; 1 Corinthians 3:17; 2 Timothy 1:9](#)
 - His own possession: [Exodus 19:5; Malachi 3:17; Isaiah 43:21; Ephesians 1:14](#)
 - Once not my people, now you are: [Hosea 1:9-10, 2:23; Philippians 3:20](#)
 - Once no mercy, now receive mercy: [Hosea 2:23; Romans 11:6-7,30; 1 Corinthians 7:25; 1 Timothy 1:13; Hebrews 4:16](#)
3. How does Peter’s description of the church in [1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10](#) emphasize spiritual unity? Why was spiritual unity so important to Peter? Why is it important to the church today? What else do you get out of his description of the church? How do people become members of Christ’s church, according to Peter?

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- [How Do You Love?](#) Video
- [This Is Us](#) info
- [What is hesed?](#) This loyal, merciful love that God speaks of in Scripture is deeper than the love that we often consider. Read more about it here.
- [Why is it so hard for us to show mercy?](#) Read what one Christian columnist recently had to say about it, reflecting on the Frankenstein story.