

Living as Stones by Lauren Plagenz

Dirty. Boring. Rough. Most stones aren't much to look at, and they certainly don't have many endearing qualities about them. Yet throughout the Bible, stones play a surprisingly prominent role.

When Joshua and the Israelites were finally able to cross over into the Promised Land, the twelve leaders from the twelve tribes each took a stone from the middle of the Jordan River and used those stones to build a memorial to remind future generations of God's greatness. (Joshua 4)

Life as a stone on the bottom of a river must have been challenging. They were buried under feet water. It was dark, heavy, and rough as the current brought countless pieces of debris. But on that day they were unexpectedly chosen, brought out of the river, and put together as a reminder to anyone who saw them of God's strength.

How has your life as a living stone been going lately? Do you feel like one of the stones chosen for the memorial? Or more like one of the stones still scattered across the riverbed? Beaten and weighed down, stuck in the dark.

I often feel like I'm still one of those scattered stones. The endless cycle of laundry, dishes, and demands as a wife, mother, and friend keep me wishing for more time in the day. The ordinariness of daily routines can keep me feeling scattered. From forgetting stuff ("mom brain!") to feeling isolated as I go through day after day after day.... I too easily forget we were made for more, and are often already making a difference in the Kingdom.

When we get caught up in feeling scattered, we forget we are chosen by God and, "like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood" (1 Peter 2:5). Jesus' sacrifice takes us dirty, boring, rough stones and utilizes our diversity to create a beautiful memorial to his grace.

Note the passage says you ARE being built. Christ isn't finished with you yet, ~~and~~ That's a beautiful thing! The strength of this spiritual house comes from being built up with other stones around you. Each stone has its individual role to play, but together, we make a spiritual house.

What an amazing reminder that though we might feel scattered and beaten down, we are **CHOSEN**, we are **BEING BUILT**, and we are **NOT ALONE**. You are a living stone, but more than that, you are a part of God's spiritual house.