

**LET
GOD
ARISE!**

*Like a Master Builder
Prayer Guide #10
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



Built Up as a Spiritual House
1 Peter 2.4

Cornerstone
Leon Patillo

I lay in Zion
For a foundation a Stone.
I lay in Zion
For a foundation a Stone.
A Tried Stone,
A Precious Cornerstone,
A Sure Foundation
A sure foundation.

A Tried Stone,
A Precious Cornerstone
He that believeth shall
Shall not make haste.

Wonderful! Counselor!
The Mighty God
The Everlasting Father.
Wonderful! Counselor!
The Prince of Peace.

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Being Built Up as a Spiritual House

Living Stones through the life in Christ, We Are Built Up as a Spiritual House

1 Pet. 2.4-5 - 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.

John 5.26 - For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

John 6.57 - As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

John 11.25-26 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

John 14.6 - Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14.19 - Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

Rom. 5.10 - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

Col. 3.4 - When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.



Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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Jesus Christ Is the Living Stone of God

Isa. 28.16 - Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”

Dan. 2.34-35 - As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. [35] Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Zech. 3.9 - For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.

Zech. 4.7 - “Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’”

Ps. 118.22 - The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Isa. 8.14 - And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Matt. 21.42 - Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’”?

Luke 20.17-18 - But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the



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cornerstone'? [18] Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

Acts 4.11-12 - This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. [12] And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Rom. 9.33 - As it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

1 Cor. 3.11 - For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Is the Stone Chosen and Precious in God's Sight

1 Pet. 2.4-5 - 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.

Isa. 42.1 - Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

Matt. 12.18 - Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

1 Pet. 2.7 - 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."



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We Are the Temple of God, the House Where God Dwells

1 Cor. 3.16 - Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Cor. 6.19 - Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own.

2 Cor. 6.16 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Eph. 2.20-22 - Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Heb. 3.6 - But Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Rev. 3.12 - The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

We Are Being Built Up Also to Be a Royal Priesthood

Isa. 61.6 - But you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.

1 Pet. 2.9 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



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Rev. 1.6 - and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 5.9-10 - And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, [10] and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

Rev. 20.6 - Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

As Priests in God’s House, We Are Challenged to Offer Up Spiritual Offerings Acceptable to God

Ps. 50.14 - Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High.

Ps. 50.23 - The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!

Ps. 141.2 - Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

Mal. 1.11 - For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

John 4.22-24 - You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. [23] But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and



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truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Rom. 12.1 - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Phil. 2.17 - Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

Phil. 4.18 - I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

Heb. 13.15-16 - Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. [16] Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

God Wills That All We Do in the Church Be for the Purpose of Its Upbuilding

Eph. 4.11-13 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Rom. 14.19 - So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Rom. 15.2 - Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.



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1 Cor. 14.12 - So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

1 Cor. 14.26 - What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

2 Cor. 12.19 - Have you been thinking all along that we have been defending ourselves to you? It is in the sight of God that we have been speaking in Christ, and all for your upbuilding, beloved. ■

A House Worthy of God to Dwell In

A. B. SIMPSON, founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance movement, speaks in his book *Wholly Sanctified* of what a great builder needs to build. His illustration speaks truly to the power of God to construct a temple for his own indwelling without our worry or care:

In the upper portion of New York City, many citizens may often have noticed, especially in the past years, a great number of miserable shanties, standing on the choicest sites. Though perhaps on the corner of a splendid new avenue or looking out on a magnificent prospect, the house was utterly unworthy of the site.

Suppose that a millionaire should want to purchase this site, and that the owner should begin, before giving possession, to repair the old shanty for the new owner, putting fresh thatch on the miserable roof and a new coat of whitewash on the dirty walls. How the purchaser would laugh at him and say, "My friend, I do not want your miserable old wreck of a tenement fixed up like this. At the best, it will only be a shanty when you have done all you can to it and I will never live in it. All I want is



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the ground, the site, and when I get it I will raze the old heap of rubbish to the foundations, and dig deep down to the solid rock before I build my splendid mansion. I will then build from the base my own new house according to my own magnificent plan. I do not want a vestige of your house, all that I require is the location.

Our annual theme for this year is *Like a Master Builder*, providing us an opportunity to meditate on and articulate some of the rich sub-plots and themes associated with Christ as our Foundation. On him and him alone do we build and seek the favor and blessing of the Lord, and in him alone do we find an identity and purpose that allows us to glorify him, to serve (amazingly!) as a spiritual house where the Lord indwells by his Spirit.

Simpson's illustration is illuminating as an analogy of what our God is doing as he builds us up as a spiritual house for his own indwelling and glory. God is truly *the* master builder, the one who calls his people one by one through faith in Christ, and, through his Holy Spirit, places them ever so skillfully in the greatest single construction project of all time and civilization. God Almighty is calling men and women, boys and girls to be living stones in an edifice where he himself will dwell. Having laid Christ as the foundation, the cornerstone, he builds his structure on the witness of the apostles and prophets, laying the living stones together by his Spirit to form a place where he will grace us with his presence. The physical Temple of old, a type and figure of Jesus Christ and his Church, becomes a shadow of the new Temple, the place where God's honor and presence dwells, the Church.

The Greatest Builder of All Time Has Come to Work

Greater in resources than a mere millionaire, more ingenious and brilliant than an architect, and more skillful than a construction foreman, our God has determined to live in his people, to literally build them up together as a spiritual house where he can reside. This new Temple, this new place of worship and indwelling will be served by those, too, who have received the



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commission to serve as a spiritual priesthood, offering sacrifices of thanksgiving and blessing to the great God whose unmerited favor and grace has established them as his own. And all of this without cost or price.

This is where Simpson's illustration is so important for us in urban ministry, who seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the city. Look again at our text for reflection, contemplation, and prayer for this month:

1 Pet. 2.4-5 - 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.

The apostle Peter tells us that his audience, believers in Christ, have come to him in faith, the One who is a living stone rejected by men but precious and chosen in the sight of God, Jesus Christ. We who believe are ourselves being built up by God and him alone to be a spiritual house, and then, to mix the metaphor, to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. This is significant; God does not require our aid to accomplish his plan. He does not need our opinion and instruction as he sketches out his blueprint for his masterful, beautiful, and awesomely marvelous temple. Rather, he needs us simply to give him ground, to give him place, to allow him to put together his wonderful structure.

You see, the vision and picture of the Temple was formed in the mind of God, and his own zeal and energy will finish it. He doesn't need nor request your aid and interference; simply give him the ground, the freedom to work with and through you for his higher and exalted purpose. Recall Simpson's important words to the fellow who sought to merely "dress up the shanty" in his building plan:



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All I want is the ground, the site, and when I get it I will raze the old heap of rubbish to the foundations, and dig deep down to the solid rock before I build my splendid mansion. I will then build from the base my own new house according to my own magnificent plan. I do not want a vestige of your house, all that I require is the location.

The Work and the Glory Is God's Alone

In the cities of the world, it appears as if human life and potential is viewed merely as rubble, as shanties unworthy of notice or rebuilding. God is the only one who can see the rubble of a human life and, through his sovereign grace given in his Son Jesus, wholly transform us into the person he desires us to be. All he needs is the ground, the site, and he will rebuild his Temple on a new foundation, and infuse the stones with life, and build a new house according his “own magnificent plan.”

It is for this very reason that we ought to constantly rejoice in God's resolve to complete the salvation that he has begun for us in his Son. Our God, as a master builder, does not start projects only to let them go unfinished, half-done, sloppily carried through. You can be certain that if the One who created the spheres is putting together a home for his own indwelling, it will be magnificent beyond words, pleasing and beautiful, glorious in splendor and structure. Just think of his saints as living stones set carefully together by the hand of the Carpenter as a place where the living God resides—what a vision, what a hope! Yes, the Father will complete his difficult but exciting task!

Let us this month rejoice in the Father's resolve to build his Temple, and glory in his architectural and construction brilliance. Let us rest assured in his wondrous plan to fashion his people into a dwelling worthy of his presence. During this Season after Pentecost, where we focus on the harvest we are seeking to gather in his name, let us derive real confidence in knowing that every soul brought to Christ will be another living stone placed within the most beautiful temple of all time—the Church of the living



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God in Christ Jesus. Let us labor in prayer and proclamation, calling all we encounter to repent and believe in Christ, to receive the Good News of God's grace, and to become disciples of Christ and his Kingdom—co-laborers with God and Christ in building a spiritual house worthy of God to indwell.

All the Father requires is the location. He is calling the living stones, and he will carry out the plan. Let's give him our all, and he'll do the rest. ■

The Season after Pentecost: A Season of Harvest

1 Pet. 2.4-5 - 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.

Biblical Principle of the Month

During this Season after Pentecost, let us affirm our Father as the greatest Master Builder of all time, with architectural and construction brilliance that can neither be measured nor understood. He has resolved, by his own sovereign grace and plan, to build up the saints as living stones into a spiritual house where offerings of thanksgiving and praise can be made to him, acceptable through Jesus Christ. Let us be confident, therefore, in our intercession as we announce and rest in the Father's plan to draw out a people from the cities to himself, and to form this remnant into a spiritual dwelling place worthy of his presence.

Let us pray fervently that he will have his way in our lives, that he will raise up a new generation of laborers for the urban harvest, and he will continue to form and build up his people in the cities of the world. He will accomplish his will, for his glory, by grace alone.



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Isa. 28.16 - Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'"

Eph. 2.20-22 - Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

An Example of This Month's Teaching: Peter's Preaching on the Church

1 Pet. 2.4-10 - 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." [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," [8] and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. [9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



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