

Opening Round – Standing Strong

What's the difference between self-confidence and arrogance?

Who is the strongest person you know?
What are your criteria for a strong person?

How strong are you?

Deep Dive

Read 1 Peter 2: 4-10 (printed on reverse).
Read from different translations if possible.
Then answer the following:

Verse 4 - What's the role of a cornerstone?
What does this verse say about Christ?

Verse 5 - What does this verse call you?
What's your assigned role?

Verse 6 - Who is the stone in this verse?
What is the promise made to believers?

Verse 7 - What promises are made in this verse?

Verse 8 - What is in store for those who reject Christ?

Verse 9 - List the titles/roles God gives His children (you). Which title or role stands out to you?

Verse 10 - What does it mean to be God's people? What does this verse say believers will receive from Him?

Parting Thought

Believers are addressed directly in these verses. You are spoken to personally and given specific roles, titles and promises. Do you live like that? What can you do this week to move closer to what God has for you?



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why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

Our Mission
what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

Our Core Values
how we do it

Worship - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
Connect - living in community, loving and supporting one another
Grow - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word
Serve - helping people discover and use their God-given talents
Reach - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

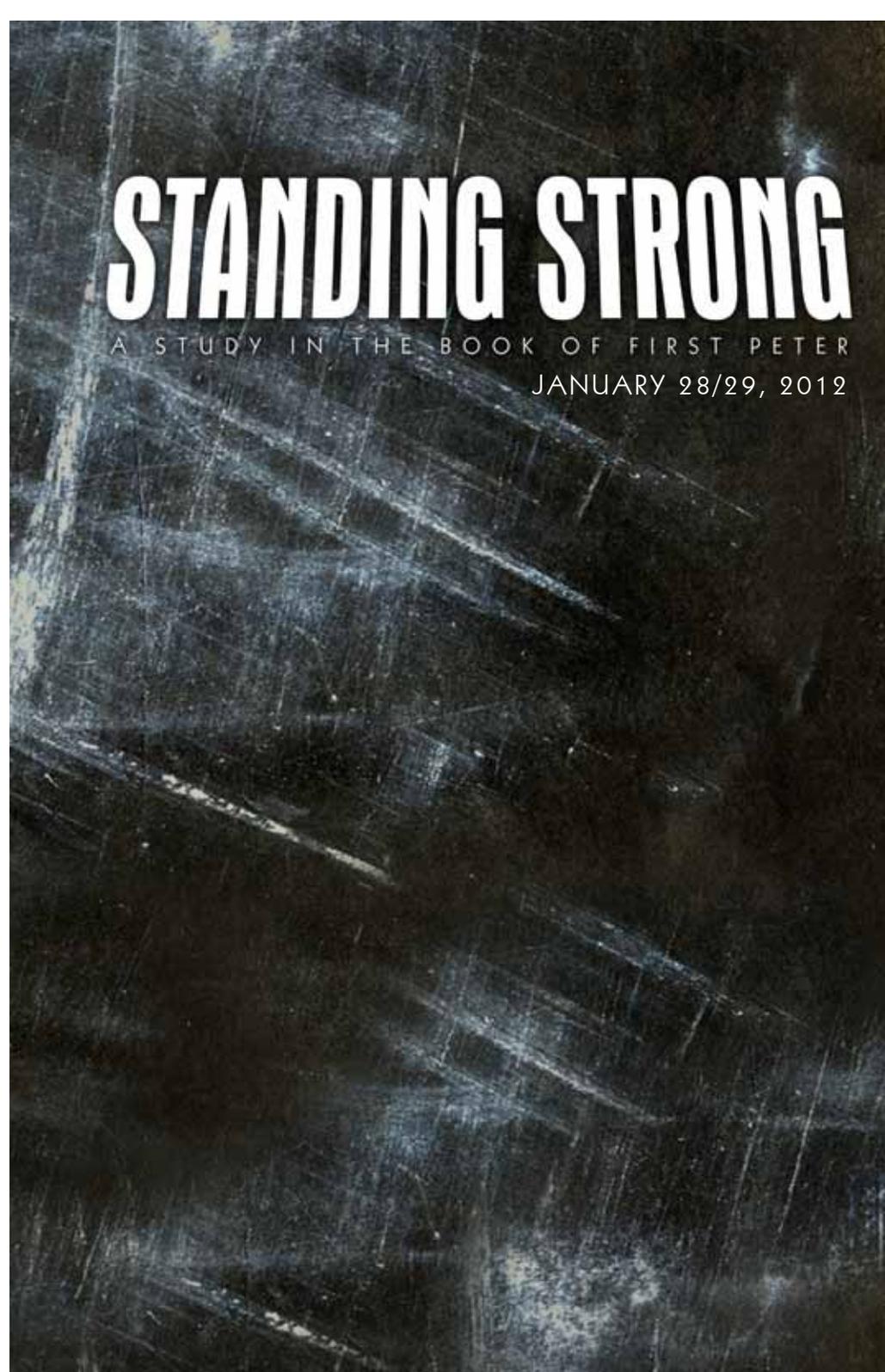
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STAND STRONG Knowing Who You Are

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NLT)
Pastor Rick Countryman

You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced."

Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

1 Peter 2:4-10 (NLT)

For as [a person] thinks his heart, so is he.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

Finally, brethren, whatever things true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)

What does God say about me?

1. God _____ me just the way I am.

You are a chosen people.

Verse 9

God the Father knew you and chose you long ago...

1 Peter 1:2 (NLT)

Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close.

Psalms 27:10 (NLT)

Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Romans 15:7 (NLT)

2. God places a _____ on my life.

[You are] God's very own possession.

Verse 9

God paid a high price for you, so don't be enslaved by the world.

1 Corinthians 7:23 (NLT)

Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-21 (NLT)

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but he has now revealed him to you in these last days.

1 Peter 1:18-20 (NLT)

3. God wants to have a _____ with me.

You are royal priests.

Verse 9

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2 (NIV)

Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me.

Luke 11:23 (NLT)

While we were God's enemies, he made us his friends through the death of his Son.

Romans 5:10 (NCV)

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

Matthew 27:50-51 (NLT)

Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-13 (NLT)

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

How should I live?

I ought to _____ for Jesus Christ that I might be used by Him to show others the goodness of God.

As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

Verses 9-10

So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NLT)



Memory Verse

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.
1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verse did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verse. What do you sense God saying to you?

From the sermon outline, what declaration about who you are in Christ might help you stand stronger in your faith? How will you apply this principle to your life?

Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 2 Peter 2:1-25.
From 1 Peter 2:4-8, Acts 4:10-11 and Ephesians 2:19-22, who is the living Stone or Cornerstone?

What do these verses say about the living Stone?

Peter wrote this letter to believers in 5 different provinces (1:1), yet he said they all belonged to one spiritual house. What does this indicate about the unity of believers today?

Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 2 Peter 2:1-25.
From verses 5 and 9, why do you have the right to become part of God's royal priesthood?

What are spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ? See also Romans 12:1-2, 15:16; Philippians 4:10-20; 1 Timothy 2:1-8 and Hebrews 13:15-16.

What does *holy* mean? What work do you think a holy and royal priesthood should be doing?

Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 2 Peter 1-25.
From verses 6-8, what causes stumbling? What other Bible verses can you think of that would help a person not stumble?

What do these verses say about believers and non-believers?

Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 2 Peter 1-25.
From verses 9-10, why is it a blessing to be a chosen people?

Why might it be a struggle to believe that God can come into your life and make you holy?

Personal Reflection & Application

What practices or behaviors indicate that your heart and life are being transformed toward holiness?

How have you experienced the mercy of God in your life?

How have you witnessed the mercy of God in the lives of others?

Reaching Out

If you are not serving in the church, call and ask your Pastor where you might fulfill your priestly duties and declare God's praise.