

1 Peter 2:4–10 (NKJV)

Coming to Him *as to* a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God *and* precious,⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,

“Behold, I lay in Zion

A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,

And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

⁷Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient,

“The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,”

⁸and

“A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.”

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

⁹But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Interpretation: Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.

1. Compare 2:4 with Acts 4:11-12; Mark 12:10-11; Matt. 21:42-44; and Luke 20:17-18. Based on these other references, what must Peter be saying about Christ in 2:4?

2. What does the imagery of Christ as the Living Stone (2:4) and believers as living stones (2:5) imply about the relationship between Christ and the church?

3. What is the single criterion for acceptable spiritual sacrifices in 2:5? Based on the context, what could Peter mean by *spiritual sacrifices*?

4. Why is Christ's role described as that of a "chief cornerstone" (2:6), and what does that mean about the structure of the church?

5. What does the contrast between "you who believe" and "those who are disobedient" in 2:7 suggest about the spiritual life of a believer?

6. Compare Exod. 19:5-6 with 1 Pet. 2:9. What does it mean to be part of God's "royal priesthood"?

7. What does Peter identify as the purpose for God's people in 2:9?

8. Explain the contrast between the past and present state of believers in 2:10.

Application: Take time to reflect on the implications of 1 Peter 2:4-10 for your own life today.

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?
