



And this gospel of the **kingdom**
will be *preached* in all the **world**.
MATTHEW 24:14

Living Stones

Pastor Sherwyn Tryon
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Summary

We are precious, living stones and each person is important to God. God goes through a process of building a spiritual house with all of us that He can inhabit. The work that God is doing to build this house is either enhanced or brought down by our actions and interactions with each other. When we operate in a carnal way, with envying, strife and divisions among us, the building is not where it needs to be. There is an order and flow of anointing where everything benefits as a result of the church being most important in your life, including your relationship with your husband, wife, children and your job. Your commitment to the church increases your value and preciousness.

A. Living Stones are Precious

- a. Jesus came as a living stone (1 Peter 2:1-6, Isaiah 28:16, Daniel 2:34-35)
- b. How do you become a living stone? Jesus is a foundational living stone. When you get saved, you come alive and your life touches the stone and life of Jesus.
- c. Your living experience is for a purpose – to become a stone that is set upon the chief Cornerstone, Jesus.
- d. God goes through a process of building a spiritual house with all of us that He can inhabit.
- e. When we say I'm going to church, what do we think about? Is it the building made of man's hands? (Acts 7:48)
- f. A spiritual house is one that cannot be seen.
- g. You are a spirit, living in a body and you have a soul; the real you is a spirit. You were taken out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light (2 Corinthians 4:18, 2 Corinthians 5:4, John 1:4)
- h. Living part of you is a living stone precious.
- i. The church of God is precious. God is building you and building you into a church.
- j. The church is a house; not only is this house living to house God, but this house is put together to worship God.

B. Our Responsibility in the House of God

- a. Each person is important to God because they are precious and God is building them up.
- b. The work that God is doing to build this house is either enhanced or brought down by our actions.

- c. The people that we interact with in this house, do allow them to be more committed or more loving to God?
- d. You can never be successfully part of a greater body, the holistic church, if you haven't been *the* church in your local area.
- e. You have a responsibility to know that God lives in you and He made you a house and a dwelling place for Him to come in and live in you. (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- f. You have to watch how you live, what you think about, what you see and what comes out of your mouth. What makes you carnal? When there is envying, strife and divisions; when you always have something to complain about. What happens when that takes place? The building is not where it needs to be for God. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
- g. What are you doing when you get together with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you speaking positively? Speaking the Word? Are you committed? Are people leaving your life more committed than when they entered? Do they complain less? When we think that we can voice our opinions, the way we feel, etc. is the wisdom of the world. It's carnality.
- h. God is a labourer together with us. (1 Corinthians 3:9) God is looking for a person that's always looking for good. It's not that we don't recognize where we need to improve, but what's your focus? How does a person leave you feeling?
- i. How do we build this house together with God? It's by how we interact with one another. What are your interactions with the people in this house?
- j. Can we truly say that we know one another after the spirit? (John 5:19, 2 Corinthians 5:16)
- k. Our speech, what we do, attitude, motives and commitments or non-commitments affect this house.

C. Is the Church Most Important in Your Life?

- a. Is the church more important than your job? Is this house more important than your natural house? There is an order and flow of anointing where everything benefits as a result of the church being the most important.
- b. When your job is on the same level as the church and house of God, you've done a disservice to your job.
- c. Is your wife just as important as your job? Correct order where the house of God and the body of Christ is the most important affects your wife, your relationship with your husband, children and job.
- d. Today, people are not committed to a body or a church. Imagine in your natural family if your children under your care were uncommitted?
- e. With our commitment to the church, our value and preciousness increases.
- f. It's important for our wife, children, etc. to come up to that level where they find themselves a part of the church. As a result they come up to the place of preciousness.
- g. When natural family is in God's home, it brings it together.
- h. If my family is not part of the home, it's a different kind of relationship. I'm going to love them from a natural place more than anything in the world.
- i. When you invite someone into your home, is it natural where they feel understood? Natural things are subject to change, but in the spirit it's eternal. (Romans 8:13) We don't trust the Holy Spirit can do His work even when someone leaves us. (Galatians 6:8)

D. Be Healed of Your Hurts

- a. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Healer. We must be healed of our hurts so that this house will become healthy.
- b. Jesus was vulnerable till the very end. The more you get hurt, the more vulnerable you become. You can't help but be vulnerable when you're spiritual, that's the healthiest thing to do and to be. That's when the best of God can come out of you.
- c. Why we can't be led by the Holy Spirit is because He's afraid to be in His house (your body).

Scripture References:

- 1 Peter 2:1-6
- Isaiah 28:16
- Daniel 2:34-35
- Acts 7:48
- 2 Corinthians 4:18
- 2 Corinthians 5:4
- John 1:4
- 1 Corinthians 6:19
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 3:9
- John 5:19
- 2 Corinthians 5:16
- Roman 8:13
- Galatians 6:8