

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn.” Isaiah 51:1 (NIV)

The granite of our family home in Kemnay, Marshall College Aberdeen, The Cenotaph London, part of the Thames Embankment London and King Edward the 7th Bridge in Newcastle all share the same beginnings. They were all cut from the same quarry (pictured). Each of these amazing and impressive creations are different, serving different purposes - a home, offices, a memorial, flood defences and a bridge. The granite from this quarry is said to be exceptional and after polishing it takes the appearance of white marble.

Like these granite structures, we as Christians are hewn from the same place, our creator God. Genesis 1:27 tells us, “So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” Believers in God are “built” of the same material: 1 Peter 2:4 says “As you come to him, the living stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him” and Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” As Christians we share a likeness in that we strive to know God better and develop a relationship with him, to be moulded, shaped and polished by him into the creations that he wants us to be - Isaiah 64:8 “Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” As Christians we strive to be like Jesus and to share the good news of the Gospel. Following the teaching of Jesus, “To love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

In many ways, we are not dissimilar to a piece of granite being lovingly shaped and polished by an expert stone mason. God wants us to experience transformation. We learn this from Ephesians 4:24, 1 John 3:2 and Hebrews 12:10. God desires for us to be changed from our sinful human natures to partake of God's glorious perfect divine nature. To be quarried, smoothed and polished into the appearance of stunningly beautiful white marble, radiating his light and love into our homes, communities and across the world. “For you are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5: 14-16).

As we read in 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 there are many parts but only one body - in this example, there are many monuments, bridges and buildings but only one quarry. All of us have different roles and purposes in glorifying God. 1 Peter 4:10 “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”. We are all exceptional, chosen by God from before the dawning of time, we do not need to be super religious, superior humans or highly spiritual to be used by God. We are only asked to be open to the will of God and like Elijah in the books of Kings completely committed.

Pursue righteousness - Deuteronomy 32:4 “He is the rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”

And

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Seek the Lord - Isaiah 55:6 “ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”

And

Matthew 7:24-27 The parable of wise and foolish builders.

Look to God - 1 Samuel 2:2 “There is no one holy like the Lord, there is no one besides you; there is no rock like our God.”

And

1 Chronicles 16:11 “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”

Acknowledge where you have come from - Psalm 18:2 “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliver; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

And

Hebrews 12:2 “We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne.”

In our pursuit to know God better, to learn his word and share the gospel with others, we do well to keep focused on the rock from which we were cut. For we are blessed to say “I am a child of God” (1 John 3:1).