



## A Piece of the Rock

### Devotion

*“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord:  
look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look at  
Abraham, your father, and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might  
bless him and multiply him” (Isaiah 51:1–2).*

An insurance company had the Rock of Gibraltar for its logo, encouraging the purchase of a “piece of the rock.” The Rock is seen as sturdy and unmoving, not faltering with each passing storm, which is what the company wants you to believe it is.

Through His prophet, God was telling the people to look at the rock from which they were cut – the rock of faith and reliance on God. Abraham trusted God and God blessed him. The people of Israel were in captivity. God encouraged them to trust and rely on Him, to not lose heart because He was with them.

We, like the people in Isaiah’s day, try to live right and follow the Lord, but because we are sinners, we neither live right nor follow the Lord on our own. That is why we need to look to the Rock — our Rock of Salvation, Jesus Christ, for strength and reassurance. Just as God was with the people of Israel during their captivity in Babylon, He is with each of us every hour of every day.

As I spent about three hours sitting in the emergency room with an adult son, listening to him whine and complain, I began thinking about the many times that I do the same thing with God — trying to do everything on my own without looking to the Rock and trusting His guidance and wisdom. Then I complain and whine to Him when things don’t work out the way I want. God is faithful and has promised to be with each of us always, even when things do not go my way.

Is it really that easy? Yes! The hard part is getting “me” out of the way. The faith that God has worked in my heart through Baptism, His Word, and His Holy Supper is sufficient. That is why we learned in Martin Luther’s explanation of Baptism, that “the old Adam in us... should be drowned by *daily* sorrow and repentance... and that a new man should come forth *daily*...” We must constantly look to the Rock.

**Closing Prayer:** Lord God, Heavenly Father, help us always to remember to look to You, our Rock, trusting Your promises that You will be with us always. Keep us focused to know our strength comes from You. All our petitions we bring in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

**Hymn:** My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less     *LSB 575, 576, LW 368*

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