

“Son” Flowers... A Devotional by the members of New Hope Church in Cooper, TX

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Scripture Verse Reference: Philippians 1:6 **“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”** (NKJV)

Smooth Stones

My wife Diane hates it when I forget to remove them from my pockets, but something I often carry is a small, smooth stone. I do this for two reasons. One, it shows how God continues to shape and mold me. I am a *work in progress* and should not give up on myself when I stumble in my Christian journey. I remind myself, I am not yet glorified. If I allow the Holy Spirit’s transformational work to continue, I become more useful to God. He prepares me to bring Him more glory through my actions and words. I am thankful God continues His work in me—perfecting my faith until the day.

Second, I share them with people I meet who are struggling or troubled. I offer the story of how stones come from the larger mountains and boulders of God’s creation. How the obstacles and troubles they face over long periods shape them. With time, water, sand, chemicals, and other irritants removes the rough edges and smooths the stone into something pleasing to the touch and the eye.

During the process, minerals can seep into the stone’s cracks and crevices—filling them. These mineral deposits often appear as different colored streaks or spots on the exterior. Appearing like scars—or liver spots as I’ve discovered—on our skin, these external differences help tell the stone’s history. However, the real changes happen inside, where the process continues. The stone’s ongoing internal changes, when subjected to changing seasons and temperature extremes can cause the stone to break apart. Sometimes this creates other stones. Other times, it reveals the beauty stored within.

We are much the same way when we allow God to smooth our rough edges and fill our flaws. Like stones, even after we’ve been “smoothed” and “shined”, scars of our flaws might remain. They become our testimony.

Isaiah 32:2 ends with **“... as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.”** Christ is our “Great Rock.” He gives us protection from the weariness and trials we face during this life’s journey in faith. We “smooth stones in the making” are reflections of our “Great Rock.”



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