2. So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Verse 2. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, NLT
Verse 3. now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness. Verse 4. You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

NLT
Verse 5. And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

NLT
Verse 6. As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Verse 7. Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him.

NLT
But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." Verse 8. And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because
they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.

Verse 9. But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result,
you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Verse 10. "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." NLT
Verse 11. Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Verse 12. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior.
and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. Verse 13. For the Lord's sake, respect all human authority -- whether the king as head of state, Verse 14, or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.
Verse 15. It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. Verse 16. For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. NLT
Verse 17. Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. Verse 18. You who are slaves must accept the authority of your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you -- NLT
not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. Verse 19. For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment. Verse 20. Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong.
But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. Verse 21. For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, NLT
and you must follow in his steps. Verse 22. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. Verse 23. He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the
hands of God, who always judges fairly. Verse 24. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.

NLT
Verse 25. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.