

***“More Precious Than Gold!”***  
***1 Peter 1:6-9***

**Introduction:**

1. For Thousands Of Years, One Substance Has Been Sought After & Fought Over More Than Anything Else!
  - Gold!
  - Gold Is Just A Metal! But:
    - It Is A Beautiful Metal! Used In Jewelry!
    - It Is A Useful Metal! Used In Important Electronic & Electrical Components - The Best Conductor Of Electricity!
    - It Is A Precious Metal!
      - If You Want Some For Yourself - Around \$1,000 For Just 1 Ounce!
  - Probably Heard Commercials Recently:
    - On TV & Radio - To Sell Or To Buy Gold!
  - Because Gold Is Extremely Valuable!
    - A Symbol Of Status & Wealth!
2. But, Peter, Under The Inspiration Of God, Explains That There Is Something Even More Beautiful / Useful / Precious Than Gold!
  - A Genuine Faith In Jesus Christ!
    - A Faith That Has Been Tested – Through Suffering / Struggles / Even Strife – And Has Been Proven Genuine!
  - Remember: If Jesus Is Your Savior:
    - Then God Is Your Father!
    - And When God Is Your Father, He Gives You A Gift That Is More Valuable / Precious Than Gold!
      - A Genuine Faith! That Will Last!
3. A Genuine Faith Is More Precious Than Gold!
  - Which Do You Value More?
    - What Is More Important To You?
    - Peter Compares The Two To Show Which One You Should Seek After!
  - A Genuine Faith In Jesus Christ Will Bring:

**1. *A Greater Rejoicing!***

- **IE:** The California Gold Rush Began On January 24, 1848 When Gold Was Discovered At Sutter's Mill - Over 300,000 Men, Women & Children Made The Journey To Strike It Rich - Called The “49'ers” (San Francisco) - Those Who Found Gold Would Cry Out With Excitement: “Eureka!” Which Means “I Have Found It!” They Found Their Joy In Gold! “Eureka” Is Still The State Motto For California!
  - But There Is A Greater Joy That Can Be Found!
- When It Is ***In*** The Lord! And Not In Gold!
  - 1:6 - “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations!”
  - Where Does This Joy Come From?
    - Through Faith / Confidence In:
- God’s Divine Presence!
  - “Wherein Ye Greatly Rejoice!”
  - Their Joy Was Based Upon The Fact That God Was Their Father, Because Jesus Was Their Savior! (From 1:3-5)
    - As A Faithful Father - “I Will Never Leave Thee, Nor Forsake Thee!” (Hebrews 13:5)
- God’s Divine Plan!
  - But What About When There Is Suffering? Can There Still Be Joy? There Can Be!
  - Remember: “Though Now For A Season!”
    - Your Suffering / Sorrow Will Only Last For A Short While!
  - God’s Plan – Problems Are Temporary!
    - His Joy Is Timeless!
- God’s Divine Purpose!

- "If Need Be, Ye Are In Heaviness!"
- God Has A Purpose For Your Pain!
  - Even When It Comes In Different Forms!
    - "Manifold" - Different Kinds - Used Of The Different Colors In A Marble / Or Colored Yarn In A Robe!
- It Doesn't Matter What "Kind" Of Suffering You Face!
  - God Has A Purpose For It!
- And We Can "Rejoice" Through It!
  - Because God Is Still In Control!
  - Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose!"
- A Genuine Faith Is More Precious Than Gold!
  - Because It Will Bring A Greater Joy!
    - Because Our Joy Is In The Lord! And In His Presence / Plan / Purpose For Our Lives – Even For The Sorrow / Suffering Of Our Lives!

## 2. *A Greater Regard!*

- **IE:** When The Gold Prospectors Would Finally Find Gold, Often They Didn't Know How Much They Found! Took It To An Assayer - Who Would Measure & Weigh The Ore / Gold They Found - Determine The Value! Some Gold Ore - Worth More / Other - Less!
  - And As More Gold Was Found, Prices Skyrocketed Also! Often Seemed Like The More Gold You Had, The Less You Could Buy!
  - But There Is A Greater Value / Regard That Can Be Found!
- When It Is **By** The Lord!
  - 1:7a - "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire!"
  - A "Genuine" Faith - One That Has Been Tried & Tested Through Sorrow & Suffering - Is "More Precious Than God!"
    - Because This Is What God Says About It:
- It Has A Superior Price!
  - "More Precious!" - The Lord Values The Faith & Lives Of His People More Than Anything Else!
  - Psalm 116:15 - "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints!"
- It Has A Superior Potential!
  - "Than Of Gold That Perisheth!"
  - **IE:** Most Gold Is Found In Ore - Rocks Made Up Of Other Minerals & Metals With Very Small Particles Of Gold! Very Common To Find Ore With 1-5 Parts Of Gold Per Million! To Get 1 Ounce Of Gold, You Need To Extract It From 30 Tons Of Rock!
  - When Gold Ore Is Refined, It Decreases In Size & Weight!
  - But When Faith Is Refined, It Increases & Grows!
  - This Is Why It Is "More Precious Than Gold!"
    - The More Faith Is Tested, The More Faith Grows!
- It Has A Superior Purity!
  - "Tried With Fire!"
  - Gold Is Only Refined / Made Pure With Fire!
  - Faith Is Only Refined / Made Pure Through Trials!
  - Job Expressed His Faith - Job 23:10 - "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold!"
- A Genuine Faith Is More Precious Than Gold!
  - Because It Is Of Greater Value To The Lord!
  - As It Is Refined, Through Suffering & Sorrow, It Will Increase & Grow!

## 3. *A Greater Reward!*

- **IE:** Recent Commercials On Radio & TV - "Get Cash For Your Gold!" - Send You An Envelope / You Send In Your Gold Jewelry / They Send You Cash! But Most Of The Time, The Cash You Get Is Far Less

- Than What It Is Worth! Some Reported 10% Or Less!
  - There Is A Greater Reward To Be Found!
- When It Is **From** The Lord!
  - 1:7b - “Might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ!”
  - God Will Reward Genuine Faith In His Son, Jesus Christ!
    - Which Was A Gift To Begin With! Eph. 2:8-9!
- Reward Of Praise!
  - He Will Give His Children Public Recognition & Approval!
  - Simply Because Their Faith Was In Jesus Christ!
- Reward Of Honor!
  - He Will Give His Children A Greater Reputation & Responsibilities!
- Reward Of Glory!
  - He Will Give His Children A Home In Heaven With Him!
- This Great Reward Will Be Given “At The Appearing Of Jesus Christ!”
  - Remember Parable Of Faithful & Unfaithful Servants - Matthew 25:21 - “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord!”
  - The Faithful Servants Reward: Praise / Honor / Glory!
- A Genuine Faith Is More Precious Than Gold!
  - Because It Will Bring A Greater Reward!
    - Of The Lord’s Praise / Honor / Glory!
  - “It Will Be Worth It All It All When We See Jesus!”

#### 4. ***A Greater Relationship!***

- **IE:** Gold Is Very Versatile & Useful! Primary Use - Jewelry! My Wedding Ring, Like Many Of Yours, Is Made Of Gold! But This Gold Is Just The ***Symbol*** Of My Relationship With My Wife – It Can Never Be A ***Substitute*** For That Relationship!
  - You Can’t Marry Gold!
  - There Is A Greater Relationship To Be Found!
- When It Is **With** The Lord!
  - 1:8-9 - “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: / Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls!”
  - Through Faith, God Offers To Us:
- A Relationship Of Favor!
  - “Having Not Seen, Ye Love!”
  - An Unusual Love! But A True Love! An Abiding Love!
- A Relationship Of Feeling!
  - “Though Now Ye See Him Not, Yet Believing, Ye Rejoice With Joy Unspeakable And Full Of Glory!”
  - An Overwhelming, Indescribable Joy!
  - **IE:** King Tut Exhibit At The Children’s Museum - Many Priceless Artifacts Of Gold - First Discovered By Howard Carter In 1922 - When He Held Up A Small Candle To See What Lay Beyond The Ancient Doorway, Was Struck With “Dumb Amazement” – Because – “Everywhere The Glint Of Gold!” When Asked: “Can You See Anything,” He Replied: “Yes, Wonderful Things!”
  - By Faith, Your Relationship With God Through Jesus Christ Is Even More Wonderful Than This!
- A Relationship Of Fulfillment!
  - “Receiving The End Of Your Faith, Even The Salvation Of Your Souls!”
  - Nothing Else Is Satisfying!
  - Because, By Faith, You Are Slowly But Surely Growing In The “Salvation Of Your Own Soul!”
    - **IE:** Like The Blossom Of A Flower - Starts Small, With A Bud, Then Slowly But Surely Grows Into A Full Bloom!
  - Your Salvation By God Continues!

- You Have Been Saved From The Penalty Of Sin!
  - Through Justification!
- You Are Being Saved From The Power Of Sin!
  - Through Sanctification!
- You Will Be Saved From The Presence Of Sin!
  - When You Are Glorified!
- This Is Why Genuine Faith Is More Precious Than Gold!
  - You Receive A Relationship Of Love / Joy / That Continues To Grow!

**Conclusion:**

1. These Are The Blessings Of A Genuine Faith In Jesus Christ!
  - A Genuine Faith *Is* More Precious Than Gold!
2. But Which Do You Value More?
  - Jesus Said: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!" (Matthew 6:21)
  - If Your Treasure Is In Gold:
    - The Prosperity It Offers / The Power It Brings / The Possessions It Buys!
      - It Will Show! But Know This:
      - It Will Disappoint You!
  - But When Your Treasure Is In God:
    - You Will See Suffering / Sorrow In A Whole New Way!
    - God Is Refining Your Faith!
      - To Prove That It Is Genuine!
    - And You Will Receive:
      - That Greater Joy!
      - That Greater Value!
      - That Greater Reward!
      - That Greater Relationship!
3. Matthew 6:19-20 - "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: / But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal!"
  - A Genuine Faith In Jesus Christ Is More Precious Than Gold!

*Grace Baptist Church*

*Stephen Elmer, Pastor*

*4245 North 200 West*

*Greenfield, Indiana 46140*

*317-326-2362*

*[www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace](http://www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace)*

*[www.growatgrace.org](http://www.growatgrace.org)*

*[pastor-elmer@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor-elmer@hotmail.com)*