


## Introduction

What is  
**“More Precious than Gold”?**

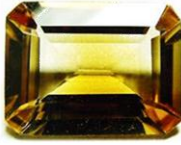


## Introduction


**Red** Diamond is the most expensive followed by **Green**, **Purple** and then **Blue** Diamond.

## Introduction




**Yellow** Emerald from Brazil discovered since 2009?



## Introduction

**1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** that the **genuineness of your faith**, being **much more precious than gold** that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ ...


1 Peter 1:6-7



## Definition of Faith

**Hebrews 11:1** Now **faith** is the **substance of things hoped for**, the **evidence** of things **not seen**.


Faith is to **BELIEVE** in God and His **WORD**  
 AND to **ACT** and **DO** what He says.



## Evidence of Faith

**Matthew 7:24** Therefore whoever **hears** these sayings of Mine, and **does** them, I will liken him to a **wise man** who **built** his house on the rock: **25** and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

Matthew 7:24-25




## How do we build and grow in faith?

1. Faith is a **gift** from God.

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through **faith**, and that **not of yourselves**; it is the **gift of God**, **9 not of works**, lest anyone should boast.


Ephesians 2:8-9



## How do we build and grow in faith?


1. Faith is a **gift** from God.

**Romans 12:3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, **as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**




## How do we build and grow in faith?

2. From God's perspective, He has already given us **all** the faith for **all** the needs in our lives.



## How do we build and grow in faith?

3. From the believer's perspective, our faith "**grows**" as we journey in **revelation** and **experience** with God.



## How do we build and grow in faith?

**2 Peter 1:2** Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the **knowledge of God** and of **Jesus our Lord**, **3** as His divine power has **given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have been given to us **exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:2-4

How do we build and grow in faith?

**Faith of God**  
(Gift - Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 12:3)

▼

**Faith in God**  
(Hebrews 11:6)

▼

**Grace Received**

How do we build and grow in faith?

4. In reality, we struggle in our faith because of **obstacles** in our lives:

What are the **obstacles** to faith?

Obstacles to Faith - What are they?

A. The **evil one**.

**Matthew 13:18** Therefore hear the parable of the sower: **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the **wicked one** comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

Matthew 13:18-19

Obstacles to Faith - What are they?

Thoughts, Ideas, Suggestions, Proposals, Plans, Decisions...

Know that there are **3 SOURCES** of all thoughts

Obstacles to Faith - What are they?

B. Failure to grow **roots** of faith.


**Matthew 13:20** But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has **no root** in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

Matthew 13:20-21

How to overcome  
(A) Evil One and  
(B) No Roots?

**Proverbs 4:20** My son, **give attention** to my words; incline your **ear** to my sayings. **21** Do not let them depart from your **eyes**; keep them in the midst of your **heart**; **22** for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. **23** Keep your **heart** with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.


Proverbs 4:20-23



### Obstacles to Faith - What are they?

c. Love of the **world**.

**Matthew 13:22** Now he who received seed among the **thorns** is he who hears the word, and the **cares of this world** and the **deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and he becomes unfruitful.



### Obstacles to Faith - What are they?

c. Love of the **world**.

**Mark 4:19** and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the **desires for other things** entering in **choke the word**, and it becomes unfruitful.




### Obstacles to Faith - What are they?

c. Love of the **world**.

Examples:


Condominium	Credit Cards	Cash	Car
Country Club Membership	Friends	Health	
Not Having Enough	Stress	Anxieties	Fear



### How to overcome love of the **world**?

i. Do not be **double-minded**.

**James 1:8** he is a **double-minded** man, **unstable** in all his ways.




### How to overcome love of the **world**?

ii. Be rooted and established in the **Father's Love**.

**1 John 2:15** Do not **love the world** or the **things in the world**. If anyone loves the world, the **love of the Father** is not in him. **16** For all that is in the **world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.

1 John 2:15-16




### How to overcome love of the **world**?

iii. Grow in our faith in **God** and **His Word**.

**1 John 5:4** For **whatever is born of God overcomes the world**—**our faith**. **5** Who is he who overcomes the world, but **he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God**?


1 John 5:4-5



How to overcome love of the **world**?

iv. Appropriate the **Divine Exchange** in Christ.


**John 16:33** These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me you may have peace**. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I **have overcome the world**."



Obstacles to Faith -  
What are they?

d. The **sin** that so easily entangles.

**Hebrews 12:1** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and **the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us ...




d. The **sin** that so easily entangles.

The sin is our:

Flesh	Carnality	Soulish	Self-Life	Spiritual
Sinful Nature	Worldliness	Immaturity	Infancy	


**Romans 6:11** Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus** our Lord.



Obstacles to Faith -  
What are they?

E. The **weight / baggage** that holds us down.


**Hebrews 12:1** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight**, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us ...



Obstacles to Faith -  
What are they?

E. The **weight / baggage** that holds us down.

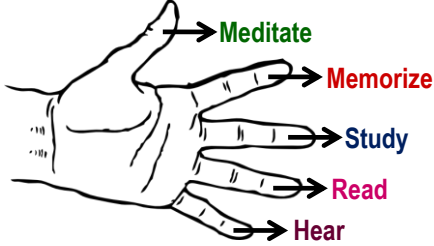
e.g. i. **Unhealed Hurts**  
ii. **Unmet Needs**  
iii. **Unresolved Issues**  
iv. **Certain People**  
v. **Certain Activities**



How do we build and grow in faith?

5. For faith to manifest in our lives, we must:  
A. **Partake** the Word on a **regular** basis.

A. Partake the Word on a **regular** basis.



→ **Meditate**  
→ **Memorize**  
→ **Study**  
→ **Read**  
→ **Hear**

How do we build and grow in faith?

5. For faith to manifest in our lives, we must:  
B. In the partaking, hear the **Word** of Faith.

**Romans 10:17** So then **faith comes by hearing**, and hearing by the **Word of God**.

How do we build and grow in faith?

5. For faith to manifest in our lives, we must:  
B. In the partaking, hear the **Word** of Faith.

**Galatians 3:2** This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the **hearing of faith**? **3** Are you so foolish? Having **begun in the Spirit**, are you now being made perfect by the **flesh**?

How do we build and grow in faith?

5. For faith to manifest in our lives, we must:  
B. In the partaking, hear the **Word** of Faith.

**Galatians 3:5** Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the **hearing of faith**?—

How do we build and grow in faith?

5. For faith to manifest in our lives, we must:  
c. Continue to nurture the **Spirit** of Faith.

**2 Corinthians 4:13** And since **we** have the **same spirit of faith**, according to what is written, "**I believed** and therefore **I spoke**," **we** also **believe** and therefore **speak** ...

How do we build and grow in faith?


5. For faith to manifest in our lives, we must:  
d. **Starve** our doubts and **grow** our faith.



How do we build and grow in faith?


6. We will be increasingly **wholesome** as we grow in faith? **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Body	Soul	Spirit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Provision</li> <li>&gt; Protection</li> <li>&gt; Relationships</li> <li>&gt; Healing &amp; Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Clarity of Mind</li> <li>&gt; Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (EHS)</li> <li>&gt; Will aligned to God</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Relationship with God</li> <li>&gt; Sensitive Conscience</li> <li>&gt; Sharp Discernment</li> </ul>



**Conclusion**

**Luke 18:8** .. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"



**Conclusion**

**Revelation 3:18** I counsel you to buy from Me **gold refined in the fire**, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.