

TOPIC : More Precious than Gold (Part 1)

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Introduction

What is More Precious than Gold?

It is our Faith that is more precious than Gold.

1 Peter 1:6-7

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 ...

Definition of Faith

Faith is to believe in God and his Word and to act and do what he says.

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

Evidence of Faith

To be hearers and doers of the Word.

Matthew 7:24-25

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.

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.

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

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

2 Peter 1:2-4

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.

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

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Faith in God (Hebrews 11:6)

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Grace Received

**4. In reality, we struggle in our faith because of obstacles in our lives.
What are the obstacles to faith?**

A. The evil one.

Matthew 13:18-19

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.

Know that there are **3 sources** of all thoughts:

- God
- Evil one
- Self

B. Failure to grow roots of faith.

Matthew 13:20-21

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.

Proverbs 4:20-23

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.

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.

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.

Examples:

- Condominium
- Credit cards
- Cash
- Car

- Country club membership
- Friends
- Health
- Not having enough
- Stress
- Anxieties
- Fear

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.

The Sin is our:

- Flesh
- Carnality
- Soulsh
- Self-life
- Spiritual infancy
- Sinful nature
- Worldliness
- Immaturity

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

E. The weight/baggage that holds us down (Hebrews 12:1).

Examples:

- Unhealed hurts
- Unmet needs
- Unresolved issues
- Certain people
- Certain activities

5. For faith to manifest in our lives, we must:

A. Partake the Word on a regular basis.

The Hand illustration:

- Hear
- Read
- Study
- Memorize
- Meditate

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.

Galatians 3:2-3

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

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?—

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.

D. Starve our doubts and grow our Faith.

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

Body	Soul	Spirit
Provision	Clarity of mind	Relationship with God
Protection	Emotionally healthy-	Sensitive conscience
Relationships	spirituality (EHS)	Sharp discernment
Healing & health	Will aligned to God	

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.

ii. Be rooted and established in the Father’s love.

1 John 2:15-16

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For 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.

iii. Grow in our faith and His Word.

1 John 5:4-5

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

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.

CONCLUSION

Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?

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.

Questions for Discussion

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, put a number to your faith level and give reasons for your answer.
2. What are the obstacles and hindrances that you face in growing your faith?
3. How did or do you overcome the obstacles and hindrances?
4. What are the lessons you have gathered from the sermon and what are some of the applications you can draw from it?