

Are You Developing A Character Of Gold?

Gold, a precious mineral, pictures well the precious character that the Creator God desires to see created in every human being.

No quest has excited human passions more than the prospect of discovering gold in some far-off place.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Christian Bible speaks about gold, [**Genesis 2:11-12**].

Christians are told to build with it and Laodiceans to buy it, [**Revelation 3:18**].

Part of Abraham's great wealth was measured in gold, [**Genesis 13:2**].

Abraham's servant rewarded Rebekah with gold jewellery, [**Genesis 24:22**].

The Creator God also enjoys the beauty of gold –

New Jerusalem will be made of pure gold, [**Revelation 21:18, 21**].

Many objects in Tabernacle were of pure gold, [**Exodus 25:31-40**].

David amassed an amazing amount of gold for Solomon to use in the construction of the Temple, [**1 Chronicles 22:11-14**].

There is a connection between gold and how the Creator God pictures Christian character.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 [New King James] *“For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**”*

Jesus Christ and our faith in His sacrifice and position as our High Priest is the foundation of our Christian life.

We are to build character on that foundation.

Gold is the foremost building material listed that will allow us to receive a reward. Any Christian who is lax in building character can easily be shaken or destroyed by even small trials, likened to fire.

1 Peter 1:6-8 [New King James] *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, **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, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,**”*

The best gold is purified by the refiner's fire, which trials represent.

Revelation 3:14-18 [New King James] *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, **‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I***

*know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.’ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,’ and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, **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.”*

This group of lukewarm Christians were encouraged to seek trials to reform their poor spiritual condition that they were unaware of thinking that the way they were needed no changing, [verse 17].

It takes trials in our life to reveal our true spiritual condition, [James 1:2-4].

Let us consider the properties and qualities of gold that make it so desirable, and learn what they represent in Christian character.

Gold is beautiful to see and captures visual attention above other metals –

Fashioned by a craftsman it can become desirable jewellery.

A Christian character fashioned by the Holy Spirit also radiates this glowing presence of the Creator God.

Galatians 5:22-25 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

Details nine special attributes of the Creator God that are the “fruits” of our being moulded by the Holy Spirit as we follow His lead, as He re-educates our mind, [Romans 12:2].

Gold does not come easy –

In some mines 20 tons of gold ore have to be processed to yield one ounce of pure gold.

In some South African mines, such ore is only found more than two miles below the earth’s surface.

Building golden Christian character also takes a lot of work to accomplish.

Philippians 3:13-14 [New King James] *“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, **I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**”*

Great continual effort is needed on our part of developing golden character.

Philippians 2:12-15 [New King James] *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”*

We have to work in harmony with the incentive we receive from the Holy Spirit.

Gold is stable –

Golden art objects buried thousands of years ago still have their original lustre and beauty when unearthed by archaeologists or treasure hunters.

Under normal conditions gold will not tarnish or rust, only a few strong acids can spoil the lasting beauty of gold.

Gold's incorruptible nature pictures Christian character at its best.

God is looking for faithful and obedient people, who remain stable no matter what corrosive influences are at work in this world to eat away at the purity of God's character in us.

1 Corinthians 15:58 [New King James] *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

Such steadfast attitude to life will receive a reward from the Creator God.

Gold reflects light –

Gold makes surfaces highly reflective.

Thin gold leaf has been placed on spacecraft to reflect the intense heat radiation encountered in outer space.

As Christians we should give back to the Creator God and fellow human beings the same love, concern and care we have received from God.

John 14:9 [New King James] *"Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Jesus Christ as a human being reflected the very character of God the Father.

Matthew 5:14-15 [New King James] *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."*

We are to reflect the character of Jesus Christ in our daily activities so as to bring glory to God the Father.

Gold, a craftsman's delight –

Pure gold is extremely soft, malleable and ductile.

A pound of pure gold can be drawn into wire so thin it would stretch 900 miles, or it can be beaten into sheets only 3 millionths of an inch thick, so thin that light shines through it.

We are to be sure we are not fooled by counterfeit gold. Iron pyrite looks like genuine gold but is only crystals of common iron ore.

The Ten Commandments, Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount and the list of the "*fruits*" of the Holy Spirit are only a few of the tests given us in God's Word, the Christian Bible, to ensure we are producing God's golden character in our lives, not our own worthless counterfeit self-righteousness like the Pharisees.

Hebrews 12:7-11 [New King James] *"If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful*

for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Allow the trials that God allows to come on us cause us to draw nearer to Him for help to use them to develop in us His very righteous character.

Remember the lesson Jesus Christ gave the lukewarm Laodicean Church to open our eyes to our real spiritual condition and **seek golden character refined by the fire of personal trials, [Revelation 3:14-19].**