



**BETWEEN 6:00 AM—9:00 AM: A DIAMOND STORY.**

“Nooo!” That’s the anguished sound Becky made when she realized it was gone. She was driving home from Chipotle with Caroline last Sunday — hands on the steering wheel in the recommended 9 and 3 position! — when she noticed that the metal prongs in her wedding ring looked strangely empty. Yep, the diamond was out there somewhere in the big, wide world.

Here’s the back story. In 1995 when Becky and I were dating, I was a poor law student with no money to pay for an engagement ring. That’s when my generous father stepped in. He said, “That reminds me, I have a diamond ring in my drawer that my dad gave me. Take it to a jeweler and you can have it for Becky.” Yes, on another note, that’s the kind of guy my dad is.

So, I took the ring to a jeweler and discovered that it’s very high quality. So, I had the diamond set on a ring and used it to propose to Becky on a beach in Carmel. She knew how I got it and was thrilled. For the last 27 years, that stone has shimmered on Becky’s finger, that is, until last Sunday afternoon.



OK, back to the present. Let me tell the story in a vivid present tense! Shaken up, Becky swings the van around and zooms back to Chipotle. She rushes in and searches the floor while Caroline rummages through the car. A concerned woman asks what she’s doing. Becky explains and the woman says that she will pray (definitely a sister in the Lord). Becky calls home and gets the other kids on the search mission. However, despite everyone’s diligent efforts, the diamond doesn’t show. So, we pray together (“Lord, help us find it”).



After much looking, Becky and I call off the search so we can drive Anna to Santa Cruz to visit some friends. We say all the normal things as we eat dinner on Soquel Blvd. (“It’s sad, but it’s just a thing,” etc.). But secretly, we feel like you would if, well, you lost your wedding ring. We pray again.

Here’s the great part. Back at home, Caroline can’t get the lost diamond out of her mind and continues to hunt around. She scours the floor, taking short breaks before going back over everything again. Then, our prayers and her efforts are rewarded. Caroline opens the kitchen cupboard to get a drinking glass and guess what’s sparking next to the cups and bowls? You guessed it. Somehow the diamond had come loose and rested at

about eye level on a smooth shelf. It wasn’t on the floor. It wasn’t down the sink (Becky washes a lot of dishes each day.) It wasn’t in the driveway. It wasn’t at Chipotle with the chip and tin foil fragments. Caroline called us and when Becky heard the news, she made another loud sound, but this one of exuberance.

**Luke 15:8** *“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?”*

**Luke 15:9** *And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’*

**Luke 15:10** *Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

**BETWEEN 9:00 AM—12:00 PM: FACETS OF A DIFFERENT DIAMOND.**

God has revealed himself in the skies, but more specifically in the Scriptures. His Word teaches us about his reality and remarkable qualities. Let's read Psalm 19:7-9. Read the verses and then we'll gain appreciation by commenting on the colors.

**Psa. 19:7**      *The **law** of the LORD is **perfect**,  
reviving the soul;*

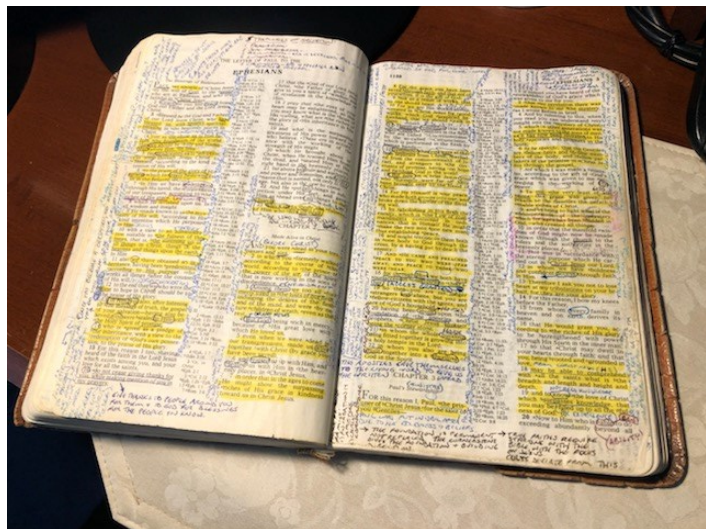
*the **testimony** of the LORD is **sure**,  
making wise the simple;*

**Psa. 19:8**      *the **precepts** of the LORD are **right**,  
rejoicing the heart;*

*the **commandment** of the LORD is **pure**,  
enlightening the eyes;*

**Psa. 19:9**      *the **fear** of the LORD is **clean**,  
enduring forever;*

*the **rules** of the LORD are **true**,  
and **righteous altogether**.*



*This Bible belongs to a man in our church. His text is mangled but he's fresh and thriving. I've noticed that there's an inverse correlation between how beaten up someone's Bible is and how vital and fruitful he or she is. What does your Bible say about you? Ask me why I recommend physical Bibles.*

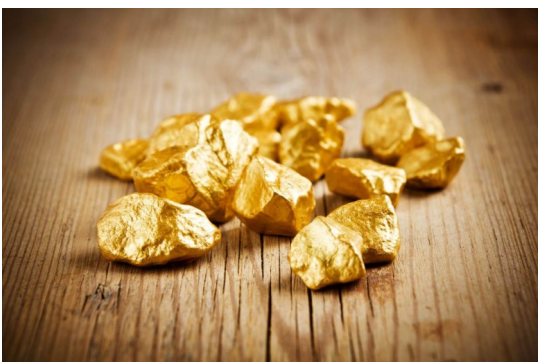
Reread the six different terms in **red** for God's revelation to us. Although they're synonymous in many ways, each word gets at a slightly different aspect of God's rich and diverse revelation. Speaking of diamonds, God's Word is multifaceted and illuminating. It's full of divinely inspired stories, poems, proverbs and codes. Praise him for his speech.

Now read the six words in **blue** where the Psalmist gives attributes of God's revelation. One comment on "**perfect.**" It's a word that is often used in reference to sacrificial animals which are to be unblemished. God's Word has no flaws. Consider soberly how much you really trust what it says about life, sex, sin, salvation, gender roles, etc.

Now read the six words in **green** where God's disclosure to us is described with adjectives. Which one or ones do you relate to the most today?

**BETWEEN 12:00—3:00 PM: MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANY METAL.**

Let's read the next two verses where the Psalmist compares God's Word to two valuable commodities.



**Psa. 19:10**      *More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.*

**Psa. 19:11**      *Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.*

Thank God for the troubles his Word has kept you out of. Talk to him about present warnings from his Word that you need to heed.

**BETWEEN 3:00 PM—4:00 PM:** Join the **AFTERNOON Joel Moment Prayer Gathering**. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com) and enter Meeting ID and Password.

**BETWEEN 7:00 PM—8:00 PM:** Join the **EVENING Joel Moment Prayer Gathering**. Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com) and enter Meeting ID and Password.



### 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM Prayer Gatherings

**DR. DEREK BROWN** [*This pastor, professor and child of God will share his testimony, a little about the four people he loves in the picture, and some thoughts about the absolute reliability of the Scriptures.*]



**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #1 (7 min.):** [Luke 15:24](#) *For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to celebrate.*

Let's start with praise for our Heavenly Finder. Like Becky's lost diamond, each one of us was loose and in the dark. But his Son retrieved us and set us up to reflect his glory back to him in worship and also out to the dark world in witness. Let's worship him with words of heartfelt appreciation.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #2 (7 min.):** [Acts 16:14](#) *The Lord opened her heart...*

Let's pray for our seven guests that Frank Chen and Glen Low are befriending in our Alpha meetings. Ask God to make his Son shine in their hearts. Pray by name for those you know who need to be found.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #3 (7 min.):** [Prov. 2:4](#) *if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,*

We need truth on every issue. But we have to seek it with diligent prayer, Bible study and wise counselors. Ask God to make our young people hungry for wisdom that starts with fearing God and obeying his commands.

**GROUP PRAYER PROMPT #4 (7 min.):** According to Revelation 5:8, angelic creatures hold our prayers in "golden bowls." Our prayers often seem feeble to us, but they must be precious to God. So, ask and plead with confidence about all urgent personal, family, church, work, national and international concerns.