

MEDITATION SAMPLES

***“The Bible Is More Precious than Gold”
from GOD SAID IT I BELIEVE IT! series***

***“Who Do You Trust”
from IT ALL BEGAN WITH GOD series***

THE BIBLE IS MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD!

How precious is God's Word?

Psalm 119:72 "The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold."

Gold is a very precious metal, and has been for many years. Did you know that gold is mentioned already in Genesis 2? It says, "The name of the first (river) is Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. The gold of that land is good." Gold is mentioned more often in the Bible than any other precious metal. Gold was used to make idols like the golden calf. I was also hammered into thin sheets to cover furniture in the tabernacle. Solomon's throne was partially covered with pure gold. Sometimes the Children of Israel even turned the gold into gold thread. The Roman gold coin were worth twenty-five times more than silver coins. And we all know that one of the gifts the Wise Men gave to Jesus was the precious gift of gold.

Gold is still precious because it is a very rare mineral. It takes about three tons of rock ore to deliver one ounce of gold. Some have estimated that only 125,000 tons of gold have been mined since the beginning of time. Today an ounce of gold sells for about \$1,300. The United States keeps some of its gold reserve in a special place called Fort Knox where they melt the gold and pour it into molds called gold bricks. Each brick weighs about 35 pounds. It's very unlikely that any of us will ever own much gold. It's too expensive. Certainly we could never dream of owning anything that precious!

Did you know that we have something in this room that is even more precious than gold? It is so precious that King David once said, "[It is] more precious than gold, than much pure gold" (Psalm 19:10). David was writing about God's Word. The sixty-six books we call the Holy Bible are more precious than all the gold in the world. In Psalm 119:72 we read, "The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold."

Why is the Bible so special? Unlike all other books ever written, this book is unique. All other books were written by people. The Holy Bible is entirely the Word of God. These are the very words God spoke. They show us what God thinks, what he plans, what he wishes, what he designs. This book shows us the only way to heaven. Certainly that is worth a great deal to us. That is why the Holy Bible is so precious.

The value of gold goes up and down. Much gold has become lost or stolen. Many people have been buried with huge amounts of gold, hoping somehow it would give them riches they could use in their future. But that won't work. We can't take anything with us when we die except our faith in Jesus.

God's Word will never lose its importance. It cannot be lost when we keep it written in our hearts. It will never become stolen or useless. God's Word is the most precious thing we own. It has the power to change sinful people into redeemed children of God. Someone once wrote a song titled "How Precious Is the Book Divine"! No wonder the psalm writer would rather have the Word of God than thousands of pieces of gold and silver!

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

Can we trust God?

Psalm 9:10 "Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."

Many years ago there was a T.V. game show called "Who Do You Trust?" In it they paired up men and women as contestants. The host would choose a topic from which he would ask a difficult question. But first the man would have to decide if he felt confident answering the question or if he trusted his lady partner to give the correct answer. It was a fun show to watch. Today I will ask that same question, "Who Do You Trust?" Or perhaps I could word the question this way, "Who do you know that is trustworthy?" Most likely we could begin by answering that we trust our parents because they care for us and see to it that our needs are met. Who else might we need to trust? . . . We trust our doctor when he diagnoses us with an ear infection and tells us to take special medicine. No doubt we would trust a policeman if we were in great danger. We might also trust a bank to be a safe place for keeping our money. And if we ever fly in an airplane we really need to trust the pilot, don't we? We might say we usually trust those who seem to be fair, honest, and reputable people. We can put our full confidence in them knowing they will not fail us. Certainly we would not trust a liar or a thief, would we? Trust is only as good as the one in whom we place our faith.

What about God? Can we really trust in him? While we are sleeping, do we trust him to stay awake to watch us during the night? When we pray, do we trust that God will always listen to us? Do we trust him when he says heaven is a reality for us? These are important questions to ask ourselves.

One dark night Jesus decided to visit the disciples who were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. To reach them, Jesus took a shortcut and walked on the water. What a marvelous miracle! Peter was so excited to see Jesus that he climbed out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. He knew Jesus was watching him and he trusted Jesus to keep him safe. Of course, after a wave headed his way, Peter's trust weakened and he began to sink. Peter's action teaches us the importance of placing our trust in Jesus.

Trusting in God is important. The explanation to the first commandment says we should fear, love **and trust** in God above all things. Another word for trust is faith. The dictionary defines faith as complete trust in something or someone. When we say we have faith in God we mean that we trust him completely. We can rely on every word he says, and we can be certain without a doubt that he will keep every promise he has made.

Sometimes our faith and trust need strengthening. Like Peter, we often see a wave coming and begin to doubt that God can help us. At those times we realize we need to know our Father better. The closer we get to him the better we will get to know him. We do that through worship, prayer, and lots of Bible reading. Then we will discover that our trust begins to grow. That's why we can enjoy Psalm 9:10: *"Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you."*