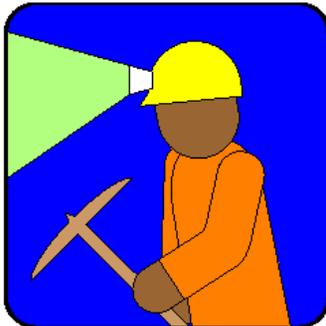


# A Gem of Great Value

Do you have a favourite gemstone? Is it a red **ruby?**  
Or perhaps a deep green **emerald?** How about a rich blue **sapphire**  
or a bright blue **topaz?**

*There are so many beautiful stones to choose from, wouldn't it be fun to have one of each?*

Gemstones are so beautiful. And that's no accident. God made them that way – they are some of His really spectacular creations. **And He allows us to admire and enjoy them.**  
*In some ways, God's children are a little like His gemstones.*



A rare and valuable gemstone doesn't just drop into a person's lap.

Someone has to go searching for it, often putting his life at risk by entering dangerous mines and tunnels.

Just so, the **Lord Jesus Christ** seeks each one of us.

In fact, He died doing it.

*(Thankfully for us, God brought Him back to life and to us.)*

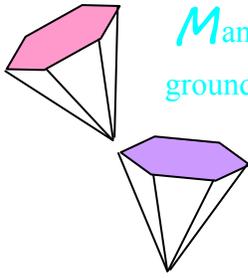
A fine jewel doesn't just come out of the ground looking like a crystal clear gem.

An **EXPERT** must clean it, cut it to display its facets, and polish it until it is just right.

With us, it is the job of the expert – the **HOLY SPIRIT** of God – to clean us up and make us beautifully holy to God.



"Gold there is, and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel." – Proverbs 20:15



Many precious jewels – **diamonds**, for instance – are formed deep in the ground, under much heat and pressure. In a similar way, God's children grow when they experience the heat and pressures of life.

*God uses these to strengthen our faith in Him.*

A gem is most beautiful when it is held up to the

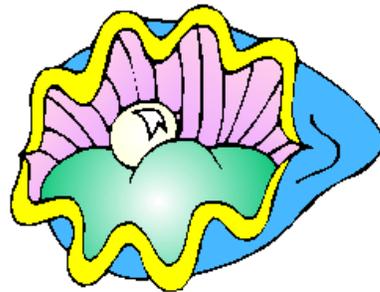


So too, we are our best when **Christ's light** shines through **us**.

Gemstones are **durable** and **long-lasting** – often around for hundreds or even thousands of years. We who put our faith in Christ will last even longer than that!

*Our spirits will never die but will live forever with God in heaven.*

God tells us in the Bible that magnificent gemstones will be used in **heaven's walls**, and heaven's gates will be made of huge **pearls**.  
*Believers in Christ will be like living jewels – precious to God and important citizens of heaven.*



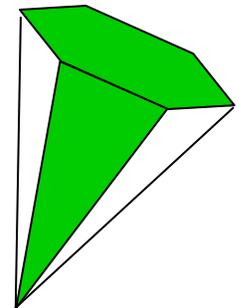
Now, do you know who is the most wonderful, beautiful, awesome jewel?

It is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only jewel without flaw. All earthly gems have flaws, and we too have our flaws.

*Jesus is the rarest of treasures – there is no other like Him.*



We could never afford to buy Him, not if we had billions or trillions of dollars. He is so **precious**, yet He offers Himself to us as a gift of love – **at no charge!**



*If you have Christ in your heart, you don't need diamonds, or rubies, or emeralds, or sapphires. You are already rich in what really matters.*

**Dear God, thank you for the greatest jewel in all the universe:  
Thank you for my Saviour Jesus. Amen.**