

“SPIRITUAL GOLD”

Many yearn for the faith they once had in God, but are unable to find it. In the 18th century, Rabbi Jacob Kranz, the renowned Maggid of Dubno, offered this parable:

Once a wealthy man, fearing for his fortune, secreted all his wealth in different places in his house. When he died, his son, not knowing the father's strategy, was left with very little. He grew increasingly desperate and one day was counting out his last few silver coins. One of the coins dropped, and he crawled on the floor after it. In desperation he pulled up the floorboards and found a cache of golden coins his father had hidden. He searched systematically all through the house, and found vast treasures even though he never found his original, lost silver coin.

The same is true of our own search, explained the Maggid. We may not find what it is we think we lost. But along the way, if our search is sincere, we will uncover vast riches. Had we not searched, those greater riches would have been lost to us.

If we 'know' in advance what it is we must derive from prayer, from study, from community, the result may disappoint. But if we search realizing that rewards are often unexpected, spiritual gold awaits.