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Geologists of the Soul

What are your finest treasures? Most of us don't own thoroughbred race horses, or sculptures by Michelangelo, or a Honus Wagner baseball card from 1909 (which, by the way, is apparently the most valuable card of all time, last traded for a cool \$2.8 million.) Yet, the notion of having something extraordinarily valuable within our grasp is exciting and intriguing, isn't it?

What sort of treasures do you wish to own? Is there something you are hoping one day to acquire?

Of course, not all treasures are materially valuable. We all know that. We can remember a time when the most prized artworks in our home were the joyfully scribbled crayon drawings from our children's preschool projects. We hung them on the refrigerator door for all to see, with as much pride as the curator of the Louvre.

Treasures are valued not only by their commercial potential, but by also their potential to touch our hearts, stir our pride, excite our imaginations, teach and guide us, or offer us some contact with those aspects of life so priceless that they that defy appraisal. The terrific thing about these sorts of invaluable treasures is that, with a little effort, they are actually accessible to all of us.

Rabbi Zalman Schachter says there are great treasures to be found in our very souls: faith, love, awe, wisdom. All these are treasures for which we can dig. But if we don't know where to dig, says Schachter, we just dig up mud. If we really want to get to the gold, which is awe before God; or the silver, which is love; or the diamonds, which are faith; then we have to find a geologist of the soul who tells us where to dig. Still, Schachter concludes, the digging we must do for ourselves.

Have you done any digging, lately? Do you have a geologist of the soul to point you to the place to start the spadework? Who, or what, do you trust to direct you in unearthing treasures like awe, love, faith, and hope?

Some of us are fortunate enough to have already found companions on the spiritual journey who serve as our geologists of the soul. Together we've begun the excavations. But others of us are still trying to go it alone, digging a trial hole here, another there, but mostly coming up empty. Or maybe we haven't even recognized that there's a rich vein of treasure waiting to be mined, if we are only willing to find a guide to its location and put in some effort to claim it.

We hope your efforts are already underway on your treasure hunt. If you wind up with a Michelangelo sculpture or a Honus Wagner baseball card, that's great. But if you unearth the precious treasures God has placed for you to find, so much the better. And imagine this: when you've found a few of God's priceless and lasting treasures, you'll be capable of directing others to the best sites for digging- and you'll become a geologist of the soul, too!