



# FRANKLIN ROAD

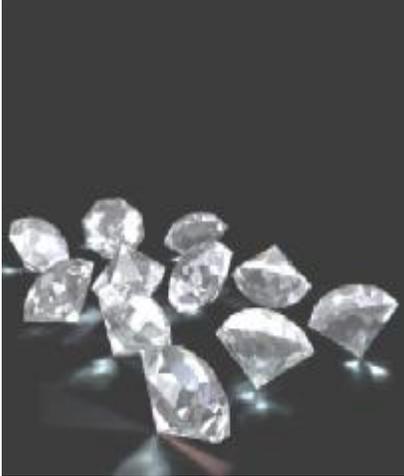
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NEWSLETTER

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## DIAMONDS ON VELVET



I'M PRETTY SURE THAT THOSE WHO WORK IN JEWELRY STORES RECEIVE SPECIAL TRAINING ON HOW TO PRESENT DIAMONDS TO CUSTOMERS. I'M SURE YOU'VE NOTICED THAT THEY ALWAYS DISPLAY DIAMONDS ON BLACK VELVET AND WHEN TAKEN OUT OF THE CASE THEY HAVE SPECIAL LIGHTING THAT MAKES THE DIAMOND DAZZLE. IN FACT A GOOD SALES ASSOCIATE WILL TWIST THE RING BETWEEN THEIR THUMB AND FOREFINGER AND KEEP THE RING MOVING EVER SO SUBTLY SO THAT THE LIGHT STUNNINGLY SHIMMERS FROM THE SETTING. IT IS BEAUTIFUL!

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE IN THE DIAMOND SHOPPING MODE THIS VALENTINES SEASON BUT I DO WANT TO THINK WITH YOU FOR JUST A MOMENT ABOUT SOME OF GOD'S DIAMONDS.

IN PSALM 130:7-8 WE READ "O ISRAEL, HOPE IN THE LORD; FOR WITH THE LORD THERE IS LOVINGKINDNESS, AND WITH HIM IS ABUNDANT REDEMPTION. AND HE WILL REDEEM ISRAEL FROM ALL HIS INIQUITIES." THERE ARE SEVERAL DAZZLING DECLARATIONS HERE. FIRST THERE IS THE REALITY OF HOPE. GOD HAS GREAT THINGS IN STORE FOR HIS PEOPLE, WE INDEED OUGHT TO HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS. HOPE IS AN UNSEEN BUT NOT UNCERTAIN CONFIDENCE. LET'S HOPE IN GOD! ANOTHER GEM IN THIS TEXT IS THAT OF LOVINGKINDNESS. THIS IS GOD'S STEADFAST, LOYAL LOVE. IT INVOLVES THE RADIANCE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THAT NEVER FAILS OR FADES. THEN TOO THERE IS REDEMPTION. WHEN GOD REDEEMS HE RANSOMS OR PAYS THE PRICE TO COVER OUR SIN AND CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. NOTE TOO THAT THIS REDEMPTION IS ABUNDANT NOT JUST A DAB OR A DRIZZLE, BUT A DOWNPOUR . . . MORE THAN ENOUGH! THAT REALLY SHINES AGAINST THE DARKNESS OF OUR OTHERWISE DAMNED CONDITION.

THIS PSALM STARTS WITH DESPAIR. "OUT OF THE DEPTHS I HAVE CRIED TO YOU, O LORD." (V. 1) INITIALLY THE WRITER WAS OVERCOME BY THE DARKNESS. THINK OF OTHERS LIKE THAT. JEREMIAH WAS IN A DARK DUNGEON (JEREMIAH 38) AND DANIEL WAS IN A DARK LION'S DEN (DANIEL 6) THEN TOO JONAH WAS IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA INSIDE A WHALE (JONAH 2:1) WHEN HE CRIED OUT TO GOD. IN EVERY CASE WHAT STARTED WITH DESPERATION ENDED WITH DELIGHT. THAT'S DIAMONDS ON VELVET. THE DARKNESS ONLY ACCENTUATES THE LIGHT!

LOOKING UP,  
*Pastor Chuck Circle*