

### Appendix 3

When looking at the analogy of a diamond and a Christian in the making, you may be surprised by their similarities.

A side by side comparison reveals before conversion that coal is black and whatever it touches gets dirty. A Christian before conversion is a sinner and whatever he touches gets dirty. The sinful nature of the old man influences others to miss the mark or sin. Under pressure there is a turning point. Coal turns into a diamond and the sinner turns into a saint. Both are not pretty. A diamond is just a hard uncut rock which does not show its prized optical properties. It has to go through a four step process of cutting and polishing. These steps include cutting, bruting, polishing and final inspection. It is a process which determines its carat, cut, clarity and light reflecting qualities it can produce.

The Christian is a lost soul which does not reflect its treasured godly characteristics. The Christian also has to go through a process of cutting, bruting, polishing and final inspection. This process determines the growth in position (both subjectively and objectively) of justification, righteousness, sanctification and the Shekinah glory refracting qualities he/she can produce.

I am sure there are many other ways to compare the qualities of a diamond and a Christian through each stage of experimental change. Think of your own experiences to see how you have been cut, shaped, and polished to produce the Christ-like characteristics which reflect God's Shekinah glory in your life and to the lives of others.

Diamond	Christian
They have an old nature	
Coal	Natural man
1) Is black and the outer layers gets everything dirty.	1) Is a sinner and influences everyone around them to sin and become dirty.
2) Ends up in a fire.	2) Ends up in an eternal fire.
Under pressure	
Has a turning point in which it turns into a precious stone, a diamond.	Has a turning point in which he turns into a precious stone, a Christian.
Unpolished	
1) Has a carat, size	1) Has God's grace
2) Needs to be cut	2) Receives imputed justification, cut
3) Has imputed color and clarity	3) Receives imputed righteousness, color
	4) Receives imputed sanctification, clarity
They refract light	
The diamond can refract light through its many facets; the light quality it refracts depends on its cut, color and clarity.	The Christian can refract God's Shekinah glory, the light quality depends upon his growth in God's multi-faceted bundle of grace.

The best diamond with the best quality sparkles vivaciously. The most mature Christian refracts God's Shekinah glory with grace and a lifestyle of vivification. Let us learn to grow in the knowledge and grace of God so we can let God's light shine through us.

“Not as though I already attained, either were already perfect: but follow after, if that I may apprehend that which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:12-14).

Press in and press on for the high calling of God in Christ Jesus; be that living stone refracting God's Shekinah glory as a light on a hill. (1 Peter 2:5; Matthew 5:14-16).