

April 2000

Beloved children,

I read this small story a long time ago and it always comes back to my mind when I think and pray for each of you. Thought I would copy it down here for you, before I lose it.

There is a gold mine hidden in every life.

A young man found a vein of gold in a mountain. He tried to get it out himself but kept failing repeatedly. He felt like giving up, but instead he went into town and asked a mining agency to come take a look at it. The mining company surveyed the mountain and the vein of gold and wanted to buy it. They offered the young man a large amount of cash if he would sell it to them

The young man thought about it and decided that rather than selling it to the mining company, he would keep it and learn all he could about mining, himself. Over the next year he studied practically day and night. He read every book on mining he could lay his hands on, took every course on it he could find and talked to every person who would give him any information about it. He did nothing else for that entire year but learn about mining. He laid aside everything else in his life in order to devote his entire attention to learning how to mine gold.

At the end of the year, he went back to the mountain and began to dig out the gold. It was tremendously hard work, but in the end he had millions and millions of dollars.

Here is the lesson. Many people, perhaps most people, would have taken one look at the mountain and the hard work required to get the gold out of it, and they would have taken the offer of the quick and easy money. They wouldn't have wanted the hassle, the aggravation; they wouldn't have wanted to give up a year of their life to study when they could have been having a good time. Instead they would have taken the 'right now' thing.

How many people never have what they could have had because of that kind of mindset? The young man could have done that too, but if he had, he never would have enjoyed the full benefits of that vein of gold.

Does that say anything to you? Does it light a fire in you? Does it move you to strip off everything else that's been hindering you from staying focused on developing your potential? Like that young man, it may take some effort, but if you stay focused, you will eventually hit gold – the gold of enjoying the benefits of living a totally fulfilled life, living to your potential

I love you both, so much. - Dad