

Jars of Clay

5-31-26

2 Corinthians 4:7 (ESV)

But we have this treasure in Jars of Clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

As we look at this verse, we see a powerful connection between God and HIS people. We are compared to the earthly Jars of Clay. However, within our jar of clay, we have the treasure of the infinite majesty of God HIMSELF. Elsewhere revealed as Christ in us or the Holy Spirit in us. God shows us that HE takes residence in Jars of Clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God alone and not to us. God is totally excited about showing HIS power through us, but HE just doesn't want us taking credit for it. We see this throughout the Bible.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (ESV)

²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; ... ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

This is so important that God even brings hardship to teach us to depend on HIM.

2 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV)

Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

We receive hardship to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. When we learn to humble ourselves to God, God HIMSELF will exalt us.

James 4:10 (ESV)

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and HE will exalt you.

God tells us to make decisions for HIM. When we trust God, HE moves on our behalf. The benefits of trusting God and God alone are unimaginable.

Ephesians 3:20 (ESV)

Now to HIM who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

Therefore, our life on earth will have unlimited possibilities, because under God's direction, nothing is impossible for us.

Philippians 4:13 (ESV)

I can do all things through HIM who strengthens me.

How does this happen? How does God work through a jar of clay? Look at Gideon. He was a typical Jar of Clay that God gave an impossible task that he was totally unequipped to perform. These are the people God desires to use. We should pay special attention to what happened to Gideon to understand what God will do with us.

Judges 6:34 (ESV)

LITERALLY, "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CLOTHED HIMSELF WITH GIDEON."

God put on Gideon like a suit. The idea seems to be that the Spirit of the Lord incarnated Himself in Gideon and thus empowered him from within. Let us make the same application in the NT.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (ESV)

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own.

As Ian Thomas said, "Let God be God in the man."

When we understand this, we look at our weaknesses differently. Our weaknesses become opportunities.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV)

I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Boast! Say something. Talk to God! Pray HIM into situations. Verbally bring HIM in. HE likes engaging with us. God's power rests on us in our weaknesses. Weaknesses become opportunities.

Romans 4:17 (ESV)

God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

As Jars of Clay, we believe, and so we speak. Jar of Clay, believe and say something.

2 Corinthians 4:13 (ESV)

As written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak.

God is relational, say something.

1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV)

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.