



Just Clay Pots - 2nd Corinthians 4:5-17

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- King David faced an event in life that was far past his ability to handle, leaving him speechless, dumbfounded, hopeless
 - **1st Samuel 15:13-14 ESV**, 13 And a messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.” 14 Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword.”

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- What about you? Have you ever faced an event in life that was or is so far past your ability to handle, leaving you speechless, dumbfounded, hopeless
 - Ella Fitzgerald sang, “Into each life some rain must fall, But too much is falling in mine.”
 - You can see it in the life of Joseph in Egypt
 - King David running for his life
 - How about Saul kneeling on a dusty road experiencing a risen Jesus, his whole life crumbling around him, “Now what?”

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- All of them struggled, had times of despair and probably hopelessness but God did awesome things in their lives—How?
 - Joseph was shown a vision seen twice
 - David was the anointing and filling of the Holy Spirit
 - Saul experienced the risen Jesus, heard His voice
- Hear God tell them, “This is who you are regardless of what is happening in your life now”
 - There were times it sure didn’t look like it

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- And you are tempted to say, “Well, if I had received a vision like Joseph, Anointing like David, or heard the voice of Jesus like Saul then I wouldn’t....
 - Fear or worry... as much
 - Doubt God... as much
 - Struggle with me or you...as much

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- What we are saying is this..."There is something we are lacking in our Christian walk"
 - God has not provided everything or enough for my struggles
 - Isn't this what caused Adam and Eve to rebel against God
 - **Psalm 34:10 NIV**, "The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing."
- Let's look at four statements from the Apostle Paul that speaks to who we as born-again children of God are

Every born-again child of God has been infused with the glory of God

- Infused Biblically refers to a quality or grace that God directly pours into a person's soul, transforming them from within
 - Upon salvation we have been filled, sealed, anointed with God's Holy Spirit which is the glory of God
 - **2nd Corinthians 3:18 ESV**, And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
 - Unveiled face so we can experience light in our darkness of sin

Every born-again child of God has been infused with the glory of God

- **2nd Corinthians 4:6 NLT**, 6 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light (*the light of the Lord Jesus Christ*) shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.
- **AMP**, For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of the glory and majesty of God [clearly revealed] in the face of Christ.

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- **2nd Corinthians 4:6 NLT**, 6 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,”
 - **Genesis 1:1-2 ESV**, 1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
 - Look at the words that describe this time - Void, Empty, Dark, without purpose or meaning
 - This describes our life before allowing the Word of God to fill us at salvation

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- **2nd Corinthians 4:6 NLT**, 6 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,”
 - **Genesis 1:3 ESV**, 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
 - Filling the - Void, Empty, Dark, purposeless with His presence and glory
 - This describes our life after allowing the Word of God to fill us at salvation

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- **2nd Corinthians 4:6 NLT**, 6 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light (*the light of the Lord Jesus Christ*) shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.
 - “has made this light (*the light of the Lord Jesus Christ*) shine in our hearts”
 - It’s all God, we just accepted what God offered to us
 - Why would God do this?

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 - “so we could know (*experience, grasp, become intimate with*) the glory of God”
 - Before Christ, the glory of God was seen in the Old Testament Law
 - Now it “is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Every born-again child of God leaks

- **2nd Corinthians 4:7 NLT**, 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves (*in our physical bodies*) are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.
 - **AMP**, But we have this precious treasure [the good news about salvation] in [unworthy] earthen vessels [of human frailty]
 - **MSG**, We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives.

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 - Paul compares our physicalness/humanity holding the knowledge of Jesus to common, cheap, and easily breakable earthenware jars
 - They easily crack, chip, or break under pressure
 - They are unstable
 - They can leak under pressure over time

Every born-again child of God leak

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 - If all we had to trust was ourselves this kind of fragile clay pot would describe us
 - But the Holy Spirit filling us with the knowledge of Jesus Christ brings truth which brings power which brings stability into whatever our life experience
 - God gets all the glory

Every born-again child of God leak

- **2nd Corinthians 4:7 NLT**, 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves (*in our physical bodies*) are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.
 - But please understand, in our weakness we can sometimes leak the power provided by Christ
 - We can sometimes leak the wisdom of Christ by beginning to trust our eyes and feelings
 - We can leak our courage becoming fearful; anxiety filled with feelings of being forgotten

Every born-again child of God leak

- **2nd Corinthians 4:7 NLT**, 7 We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves (*in our physical bodies*) are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.
 - What is the answer?
 - Keep your eyes on who you now are in Christ Jesus by keeping your eyes upon Jesus

Every born-again child of God overcomes

- **2nd Corinthians 4:8-9 NLT**, 8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed (*to be at a loss, confused, or uncertain about how to proceed*), but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.
 - **MSG 8-9**, You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken.

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 - There is a crushing effect when hardships come but our faith and trust in Jesus prevents us from being or staying crushed
 - Yes, there is a battle within us, it may even feel like we are losing but we have already been pronounced as “more than conquerors”, (**Rom. 8:37**)

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 - We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.
 - We may feel lost, confused, unsure but we know we are not because God will never abandon us
 - The world may see someone knocked down but God will raise us to into newness of life
 - Yes, it may take time, but God is faithful so come back to Jesus

Every born-again child of God is promised a glorious future

- **2nd Corinthians 4:16-17 NLT**, 16 That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits (*inner being*) are being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long (*in comparison to eternity*). Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

Every born-again child of God is promised a glorious future

- **2nd Corinthians 4:16-17 MSG**, So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

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 - What keeps you driving in hour 10 of a 12-hour vacation trip?
 - They thought/hope of what awaits you at the end
 - What keeps a born-again child of God continuing when all hope seem gone?
 - Is it not the thought/hope of what awaits us in heaven

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 - Our present troubles are small and in comparison, to eternity, it won't last long
 - But our struggles are not meaningless today
 - They are producing a glory in us that vastly outweighs our present struggles

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 - **Romans 8:18 ESV**, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”
 - **NLT**, “Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.”

Every born-again child of God is promised a glorious future

- **Hebrews 11:8-10 NLT**, 8 It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. 9 And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. 10 Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

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- Satan is very good at making us feel like ordinary, fragile clay pots
 - He is good at getting our eyes upon our struggles and our own limitations
 - He is good at leading us to think we need more from God, something is missing, or God is holding back something good from you (*think Adam and Eve in Garden*)
 - He is good at bringing the word “failure” into our hearts

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- We have a choice to trust, accept, and apply that type of thinking
 - Or you can see yourself as God sees you
 - Colossians 2:10, KJV, “and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”
 - TLB, so you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power.

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- Or you can see yourself as God sees you
 - **Colossians 2:10, KJV**, “and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”
 - **MSG**, Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don’t need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.
 - And this includes you



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