

# **The Power of Identity**

## **4) A Vessel of Honour**

***'But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us'***  
**(2 Cor.4:7)**

**Each of us are blessed to minister  
the life of Christ to others**

**God is preparing us for that**

**He is the Potter and we are the clay**

***'But now, O LORD, You are our Father;  
we are the clay, and You our potter; and  
all we are the work of Your hand'***

**(Isa.64:8)**

***'Surely you have things turned around!  
Shall the potter be esteemed as the  
clay; for shall the thing made say of him  
who made it, "He did not make me"? Or  
shall the thing formed say of him who  
formed it, "He has no understanding"?'***

**(Isa.29:16)**

**In the natural realm there are several stages the clay passes through in the process of preparation**

**Each stage tells us something about God's working in our lives. God does not wait until the process is finished before He uses us**

**But these stages help us to understand His working in us throughout our lifetime**

## **1) The Choosing**

***'You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain'***

**(Jn.15:16)**

***'For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them'***

**(Eph.2:10)**

**Clay in its raw state has no resemblance  
to what it will be in its finished state**

***'He also brought me up out of a  
horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set  
my feet upon a rock, and established  
my steps'***

**(Psa.40:2)**

**But the potter sees the clay differently  
to the untrained eye. He has a vision for  
it...to release its potential**

## 2) The Preparing

- ✓ **The weathering**
- ✓ **The washing and soaking. After the weathering, clay is soaked in water, and then put through a sieve to remove stones, roots, stick etc. This represents *'...the washing of the water of the Word'* (Eph.5.27)**
- ✓ **The smiting**

### 3) The Wheel. Note the following about the wheel:

- **It goes anti-clockwise.** *'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts'* **(Isa.55:8-9)**
- **It is monotonous.** **But,** *'All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose'* **(Rom.8:28)**



- **It is for centring**
- **It is for stretching**
- **It is for shaping. Yield to the pressure of the Master. Don't resist what God is doing. *'Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, "He has no hands?"'* (Isa.45:9)**

## 4) The Shelving

The pot is then put on the shelf and left for a while so that the clay can dry out before firing. Until then it cannot handle the purpose the potter has for it. But...

*'...those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint'*

**(Isa.40:31)**

## 5) The Firing

**Next the pot is placed in the furnace where it is baked hard. This is the work that most changes the vessel**

***'In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ'***

**(1 Pet.1:6-7)**

***'When He has tested me I shall come  
forth as gold'  
(Job 23:10)***

**In the oven the heat of the firing process  
is increased gradually. The potter  
controls the air and the oil. The pot is  
only able to withstand the thermal shock  
with slow heat increases.**

**Sanctification is a gradual process.  
We are being...**

***'...changed from glory to glory'  
(2 Cor.3:18)***

## **6) The Glazing**

**Finally the potter puts on the glaze and  
the pot is fired again. This is what makes  
the pot able to hold water  
It also gives it its beauty**

**False ideas of beauty are based on  
idolatry, competition, fear of man, etc.**

**True beauty is the radiance of Jesus  
seen in one another  
It is the beauty of holiness**

**David longed to see the beauty  
of the LORD**

***'Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God'***

**(1 Pet.3:3-4)**

***'Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day'***

**(2 Cor.4:16)**

**When someone admires a beautiful piece  
of pottery it is not the vessel itself that  
they praise, but the one who made it**

**The potter's heart is filled with joy at the  
beauty of the finished product which was  
once just clay**

***'He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
He will quiet you in His love, He will  
rejoice over you with singing'  
(Zeph.3:17)***

***'But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work'***  
**(2 Tim.2:20-21)**