

This Is Us Series  
A Bunch of Cracked Pots  
2 Corinthians 4:7-12  
October 7, 2018

**2 Corinthians 4:7-12** — *7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.*

**Trials don't mean FAILURE - They put the focus on JESUS!**

1. It was never about **THEM**.

**2 Corinthians 4:6** — *6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2. It was to show off **GOD'S POWER**.

*7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;*

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3. It is about the **LIFE OF JESUS**.

*10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

**Galatians 2:20** — *20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

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4. It is for **OTHERS**.

*12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.*

Let's talk about jars of clay...

1. What does being compared to “jars of clay” say about us (v.7)?
2. What is the relationship between the treasure and the jar of clay that causes it to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not us (v.7)?
3. How can a believer help others see that the strength they see in their lives really doesn't come from them?
4. Describe a situation where you were afflicted but not crushed or perplexed but not driven to despair or persecuted but not forsaken or struck down but not destroyed (v.8-9)?
5. Why should these kinds of experiences in life not surprise the believer (v.10)?
6. How does the life of Jesus show up in the life of a believer who is going through trials (v.11)?
7. What is the purpose for demonstrating the life of Jesus through trials in our lives (v.12)?