



Phil. 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him **a name which is above every name:**

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

Prov. 18:10 **The name of the LORD is a strong tower:** the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Last week, we considered how the Lord Jesus is “An Anchor of the Soul.” When the storms of life are ravaging the soul of the believer, the stabilizing strength and assurance that is the anchor of the believer’s soul, “...both sure and steadfast...” is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Tonight, we observe how the Lord Jesus is “The Potter” and is in complete control of who we are as His clay, and how He is working upon us on the potter’s wheel called “life.”

Isa. 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; **we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**



<https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/God-the-Potter.html>

❖ Making pottery can be a messy endeavor. What a beautiful picture this is of our God the Potter! He doesn't mind getting His hands dirty; He wants to be involved in our lives. His hands are where the ordinary becomes extraordinary!

❖ Life can feel like a lump of clay. How often we find ourselves unable to see beyond our everyday failures to our God-given potential. We feel helpless, directionless and hopeless, spinning around on this wheel called life.

- ❖ There is hope though, because there is a Potter. He is the one that shapes, molds and brings meaning and purpose to life. He can be trusted. He waits for us to place ourselves in His hands.
- ❖ God the Potter places on each of us a tag that says, “Handmade with Love.” Value is not found in just uniqueness or even the material from which an item is made; value is based on its creator.
- ❖ All things in life must begin with the Potter.

# I. THE PREEMINENCE OF THE POTTER

- ❖ God the Potter brings us out of the mound of miry clay and places us on His wheel where He begins the process to deliver us from nothingness to the vessel He has designed for us to be!

Isa. 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou *art* our father; **we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**

Isa. 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.**

❖ The process of making pottery begins with preparing the clay. This includes both the adding of water and a practice called wedging which consists of kneading the clay to remove any bubbles while also causing the clay to become less sticky.

Psa. 40:2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, **out of the miry clay**, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.



- ❖ Our spiritual life begins with the Living Water, Christ, coming into our lives; then a spiritual wedging begins filling the empty places in our life while causing us to no longer stick or cling to the world as before.
- ❖ He never takes His hands away from His clay. His hands remain on the clay constantly molding and shaping.

Psa. 139:14 I will praise thee; for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**: marvellous *are thy works*; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.

❖ When we yield ourselves to being placed on the center of the wheel – God’s will, He is able to pull and stretch us, mold and form us, protect and purge us of anything that shouldn’t be there. All that stretching and pressure placed on the clay leads to something beautiful being created. (Rom. 12:1-2)

Psa. 119:73 **Thy hands have made me and fashioned me:** give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

Eph. 2:10 For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works,** which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- ❖ When the Potter finishes the molding and shaping of the believer, He then puts it through the fire. Firing brings about the maturity of the clay causing it to endure and last even thousands of years.

1 Pet. 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning **the fiery trial which is to try you**, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

Isa. 48:10 **Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.**

11 For mine own sake, *even* for mine own sake, will I do *it*: for how should *my name* be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

- ❖ It changes the clay on a molecular level transforming it from a soft, pliable substance to that which is strong and durable.
- ❖ There are actually two phases to firing: bisque firing and glaze firing. Once a piece is fired there is no going back!
- ❖ The Lord Jesus breathed on the disciples after the Resurrection, and they received the Holy Spirit. In the same way, we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment we receive Christ into our lives. We are transformed into a new creation, 2 Cor. 5:17, and sealed by the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

- ❖ Glaze firing adds a second layer of strength and durability. Those tough, hard times which seem like walking through fire, have purpose; they actually make us stronger not weaker.
- ❖ Walking through the fire teaches the believer that the Lord is always there.

Isa. 43:1 But now thus saith **the LORD that created thee**, O Jacob, and **he that formed thee**, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, **I will be with thee**; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: **when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.**

- ❖ This last step consists of adding the glazes and paints; it's where the color begins! Any artist will tell you there are limitless combinations of colors and glazes making each piece not only hand-formed unique, but also individually decorated, and individually unique, a masterpiece of the Potter.

- ❖ Each believer is a personal representation of the Potter and His work.
- ❖ Just as the clay is surrendered to the potter's hands, so believers in Jesus Christ submit themselves and rest in God the Potter's capable hands.
- ❖ We have abandoned our own useless ways and accepted that which is better - the will and design of God the Potter.
- ❖ We are safe in His hands from the beginning of the process to the day we are finished. In the meantime, we are loved and valued by our Creator and are given purpose through His design.

## Summary

- ❖ The Lord Jesus is “The Potter” and is in complete control of who we are as His clay, and how He is working upon us on the potter’s wheel called “life.”
- ❖ Are you presently in the Potter's hands? It's the safest place to be; He is waiting for us to yield ourselves to His love and purpose.
- ❖ Are you walking through a time of fire? The Potter is with you; He can bring purpose from the fires.
- ❖ Are you enjoying His work in and through you? There is joy in creativity even when we are the product!
- ❖ Know you are valued and loved; God has purpose for you!



## Conclusion

Psa. 40:1 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, **out of the miry clay**, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

4 **Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust**, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

5 **Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward:** they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: *if* I would declare and speak *of them*, they are more than can be numbered.

1 Pet. 4:19 Wherefore **let them that suffer according to the will of God** commit the keeping of their souls *to him* in well doing, **as unto a faithful Creator.**

Jer. 29:11 For **I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.**

12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, **when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**