

## GOD'S POWER THROUGH OUR KINDNESS!

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

INTRODUCTION: Do you know what matters most in life according to God's Word? It is why God is leaving us on this earth: Matthew 22:36-40. Do you know what counts with God? Galatians 5:6: The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Love is useless until it is given away: until it turns to kindness. 1 Corinthians 13:3; 1 Corinthians 13:4. Nothing is more destructive of God's love than envy. Isaiah 64:8: If we remember that God is the Potter and we are the clay it will help us overcome envy in our hearts.

### I. DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHER POTS!

There are three principles that we can learn from pottery that will help us overcome envy in our hearts. The first one is we must stop comparing ourselves to other clay pots. Comparing is the root of all our envy. The Bible says there are three reasons we ought not to compare ourselves with others: 1.) Because each one of us is unique. Isaiah 45:9. 2.) Comparing ourselves with others leads to either pride or envy both of which are not good. 3.) Because we are all made of the same stuff; clay! Romans 12:15: Do you find it easier to rejoice with those who rejoice or to mourn with those who mourn?

### II. TRUST THE LOVING HANDS OF THE POTTER!

We must learn to trust the loving hands of our Potter! When we are envious of others blessings we are doubting God's goodness to us. Envy is the fever that shows up in our lives when God blesses others but the infection that causes the envy is our doubting our God desires to bless our lives also. You see often in life the very problems we resist are the very things our Potter uses to bring blessings into our lives: James 1:2-5. Yes, God is forming you for His plans for your life! He is the Master Potter and each of us are His unique creation. Jeremiah 18:1-4. Kindness is love in action and sometimes it is tough love. God molds us to be like His Son: Romans 8:28-29. Now how was Jesus, the Son of God made perfect? Hebrews 2:10. Our problem is when God is working on us to shape us to Christ-likeness we look over at the other pots and say: "Why aren't you working on him the same way you are on us: John 21:18-23. When you come under a lot of pressure realize that your Potter is shaping you to be like Jesus.

### III. FOCUS ON THE POTTER'S PLAN FOR YOU!

Have you ever felt like jumping off the Potter's wheel? Yes, we all have felt that way at times. Instead of jumping off we must keep focused on the Potters plan for each of us cracked pots: romans 12:1-2. Do you believe that God knows best what kind of pot He wants you to be? Ephesians 2:10: God has created us anew in Christ Jesus so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago. God created each of uniquely to give back to this world; to make a difference for His glory: Matthew 20:16, 26-28. This is the great reversal. The things that we admire in this world are coming to nothing. We must keep our minds on what God says is of value to Him. If you desire to be great in heaven; serve people down here for the glory of the Lord. We need to rethink what is of true value. What is going to last for all eternity not just for the next ten years. Success in this world's eyes is not success in God's eyes. Striving for person wealth, fame, or position will prove to be fruitless in the sight of God. We need to strive for service to others for God's glory. Romans 9:5: What God is saying here is I will call nobodies and make them somebodies! I'll call the unloved and make them My beloved!" My friend, no matter how you may feel about yourself today, in God's eyes you are becoming His masterpiece!