

Your Pot—His Power

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 4:7-15.
- B. This passage reveals how to exercise the power of God.
- C. The believer is the light of the world, according to Jesus.
- D. Paul seeks to combat the "god of this age" who deceives people with regard to the Lordship of Jesus.

II. The transcendent power belongs to God and not to people.

A. It is God's deliberate program that His power might be displayed through a "clay pot"--all people are nothing more than clay pots.

- 1. A vessel is made to hold something.
- 2. Man is not made to operate on his own. He is made to hold something--that is, God himself.
- 3. God's purpose is that we would live in a way that would baffle people--we are knocked down, but not knocked out.
- 4. Believers have a quiet power within.
- 5. It takes weakness in order to have this strength.
- 6. The believer will experience afflictions, which he cannot choose.

B. The believer must have the death of Jesus in him in order that he might experience the life of Jesus.

- 1. The purpose of this power is endurance with joy.
- 2. By the dying of Jesus, Paul is referring to a place of physical weakness, obscurity and dependence upon God. It is the place where one gives up all the things that make him important before other people.
- 3. The cross teaches that we have to come to the end of dependence upon ourselves.
- 4. We struggle because we want recognition for the things we do.
- 5. The believer must consciously agree to give up his desire for significance so that it will be given back in the right way.

6. Yet there are also times when the believer will be put in circumstances that he has no choice to triumph in--he must be lead in triumph by God.

C. As one loses himself in costly service, life is given to someone else in the body of Christ.

D. The difficulties can result in increased thanksgiving, and praise in the midst of trial impresses the world with regard to God's power.

Application questions:

1. What do you think it means that a believer was made to hold God? Explain.

2. Who is a Christian example to you in your own life that lives in a way that baffles the world? How do they do this?

3. Why is dependence so important in the Christian life? How has God taught you to rely upon Him for fruit?
