
DON'T GIVE UP**2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (NKJV)**

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

⁸ *We are* hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed--

¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

¹² So then death is working in us, but life in you.

We Have a Valuable Treasure

The treasure within the vessel gives the vessel its value. God made us the way we are so that we can do the work that *He* wants us to do.

Acts 9:13-17 (NKJV)

¹³ Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.

¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Don't complain to God and don't compare with others our lack of abilities, gifts, or our handicaps, or limitations. (Lack of money, education, physical or spiritual resolve) Our physical make-up, DNA, and propensities are in God's hands.

Psalms 139:13-15 (NKJV)

¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

We have responsibilities as a vessel. We must be clean, empty, and available.

2 Timothy 2:19-21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

²⁰ 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.

²¹ 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.

Put our focus on the treasure and not the vessel – God guards the vessel if we guard the treasure.

1 Timothy 6:17-20 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.

¹⁸ *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,

¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

²⁰ O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—

Isaiah 52:12 (NKJV)

¹² For you shall not go out with haste, Nor go by flight; For the LORD will go before you, And the God of Israel *will be* your rear guard.

God permits trials, God controls trials and God uses trials for His own glory. God is glorified through weak vessels.

A great missionary, who opened China to the word of God, spoke these words, "All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being there."

A ministry that doesn't cost you something accomplishes nothing.

We must constantly remind ourselves that we are privileged to have the treasure of the gospel in our vessels of clay.