

# ***Treasures in Earthen Vessels***

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

## **Introduction**

Within every Christian God has placed special treasures designed to show both us and the world the glory and power of our God.

### **I. Our jars of clay**

**Romans 9:21 NIV** Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

#### **A. The design of the potter**

1. Infinite variety -- There are no clones
  - a. Humans come in different shapes and colors
  - b. Each of us has a unique background
  - c. Our families are unique
2. Different purposes -- crankshaft vs. steering wheel
  - a. Not every one can be a Sunday School Teacher, Royal Ranger leader, etc.
  - b. We are of different design for a different purpose  
Example: "Star" shaped screwdriver for headlights on my Buick
3. Fragile and easily damaged

### **II. The treasure he places in us**

**2 Corinthians 4:7 NIV** But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show this all - surpassing power is from God and not from us.

#### **A. A new life from God**

1. Because we have been saved
2. Because the Holy Spirit is at work within us

#### **B. The power of His Spirit**

#### **C. Spiritual gifts**

1. Ministry gifts -- Ephesians 4:11
2. Manifestational gifts -- 1 Corinthians 12:8-10
3. Motivational gifts -- Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:28
  - a. Serving
  - b. Exhortation
  - c. Giving
  - d. Leadership
  - e. Mercy
  - f. Helping
  - g. Administration

#### **D. Special talents**

1. Music
2. Office skills
3. Teaching children
4. Driving a van

### **III. The purpose of these treasures**

**Ephesians 5:27 KJV** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

#### **A. To give God glory in His Church**

#### **B. Some guidelines**

1. Be under authority -- Don't be autonomous
2. Be in relationship -- Don't be independent