

The Potter and the Clay

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all surprising power is from God and not from us." 2 Corinthians 4:7



Have you ever watched a potter at his wheel? It is amazing how he forms a lump of clay into something which can be useful as well as beautiful. He shows great patience as he molds the piece, keeping one hand inside the object, as well as one hand outside. When the basic shape has been formed, he then individualizes it with tools which make beautiful patterns. Painting, firing and glazing finish out the job.

The use of the finished product is what holds my attention. As God (the potter) shapes us (the clay), so we shape the people around us. We touch the lives of our spouse, children, in-laws, friends, casual acquaints, and those we come in contact with briefly. Sometimes we touch their lives intentionally - when we make a conscious decision to act in a Godly manner- believing these actions will touch their lives in a positive manner.

Have you thought about how you treat others, spend money, give of your time and talents to God, and how you approach other issues of life? If so, you have done some intentional shaping. However, we mold the lives of others with unintentional acts. We may not think and plan how we act, or react, as we resolve financial problems, relate to others, with our levels of patience, and our dependence on God.

If we ask Him anew each morning to abide with and in us, we are reminded to live in awareness of Him. So, whether our shaping is intentional or not, we can be assured when we have allowed God to be in control, He will use us (the clay vessels) to touch the lives of others.