

TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSEL

(ATM PART 3)

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

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God wants to do great work by using us as vessels of honor. He desires that each of us carry out a special assignment. We are chosen and set apart for His glory and service. Thus, He has put treasures within us so that we will be effective and fruitful in fulfilling the role that He has for us.

1. THE GREATEST TREASURE.

- 1.1 It is the glory of God brought to light through the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- 1.2 It is the divine Word of God which became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.
- 1.3 It is the Holy Spirit and His illuminating work. God gave the Holy Spirit to us when we accepted Jesus so that He would shine in us.

2. THE EARTHEN VESSEL

- 2.1 It is an ordinary "jar of clay" which is frail and of little intrinsic value. Its main purpose is to store certain things. It is molded by a potter and refined by fire until the clay becomes hard.
- 2.4 The Word Incarnate does not need any material container. God created man in His image and likeness to become His vessel. He made man from the dust on earth, formed him with His hands, and breathed the life-giving Spirit to make him the "earthen vessel."

3. THE TREASURE IN THE EARTHEN VESSEL

- 3.1 God has chosen to house His Spirit (treasure) in the hearts of man (earthen vessels) to show that the grandeur and power that works in us belongs to God and not to us (2 Corinthians 4:7).
- 3.2 God's glory is revealed through the weak, cracked, human vessels. He increases His power and grace so that we can overcome imperfections (2 Corinthians 12:10).

3.3. Our afflictions, struggles, persecutions and even death will surely come but we must not despair. The Master Potter has placed us in His kiln where the fires of life refine us to become stronger vessels. We cannot be destroyed because we carry the treasure that is glorious (2 Cor 4:8-9).

3.4 The troubles and pains which Jesus endured shall also be our lot. They are not meant to bring us down; rather, to show the power of God so that we will come out victorious (2 Corinthians 4:10).

4. GOD'S GIFT AND CALLING ARE IRREVOCABLE. God's purpose to use us as His vessels will be fulfilled in us. He does not change His mind after He gives His grace to those who heed His call (Romans 11:29).

5. WHAT KIND OF VESSEL ARE YOU? There are vessels of gold and silver; there are also those of wood and clay. Some are for lofty use and others for humble use. Those who separate themselves from people with corrupting influence will be set apart and used for honorable purposes, profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work (2 Tim 2:20-21).

Conclusion: We may be flawed or fallible. However, when we humbly embrace God's plan, we will experience His awesome power working in us and through us. The power of the gospel lies in God Himself. As faithful carriers of this treasure, the transforming work of the Spirit will be manifested in our lives and that of others.

Reflection: How have you used the treasure to fulfill your divine assignment?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, fill us with your mercy and wisdom so that Your gospel shines brightly in our brokenness and frailty. May we be the earthen vessel of honor that You want us to be, fit for the Master's use. In Jesus' Name. AMEN!*