

Vessels of Honor.  
Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
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**2 Corinthians 4: 7-9-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.

**Passion** - We are like common clay jars that carry this glorious treasure within, so that the extraordinary overflow of power will be seen as God's, not ours.

Though we experience every kind of pressure, we're not crushed. At times we don't know what to do, but quitting is not an option.

We are persecuted by others, but God has not forsaken us. We may be knocked down, but not out.

**2 Timothy 2:20-21-Passion**

In a palace you find many kinds of containers and tableware for many different uses. Some are beautifully inlaid with gold or silver, but some are made of wood or earthenware; some of them are used for banquets and special occasions, and some for everyday use.

But you, Timothy, must not see your life and ministry this way. *Your life and ministry must not be disgraced, for you are to be a pure container of Christ and dedicated to the honorable purposes of your Master, prepared for every good work that he gives you to do.*

**The power of God in you as a carrier of the Holy Spirit.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-Passion**

Have you forgotten that your body is now the sacred temple of the Spirit of Holiness, who lives in you? You don't belong to yourself any longer, for the gift of God, the Holy Spirit, lives inside your sanctuary.

**Judges 7:16-22-Passion**

16 He divided his three hundred men into three groups and *gave each man a shofar and a clay jar hiding a torch inside it.* 17 He told them, "Follow me! When I get to the edge of the camp, watch me closely and

do exactly what I do. 18 When my group and I blow our shofars, then you blow yours all around the camp and shout, 'For Yahweh and for Gideon!' " 19-20 Just before midnight, after the changing of the Midianite guard, Gideon and his hundred men came to the outskirts of the camp. Then each of the three groups *blew the shofars and broke the clay jars that hid the torches inside.* They held their torches in their left hands, the shofars in their right, and *shouted a thunderous battle cry, "A sword for Yahweh and for Gideon!"* 21 Each man held his position surrounding the camp. And the entire enemy army was shocked awake by the thunderous noises of Gideon's army! They all panicked and fled, yelling as they ran away! 22 When they sounded their three hundred shofars, Yahweh made the enemy troops turn against each other with their own swords. The Midianites fled toward Zarahah as far as Beth Shittah, as far as the outskirts of the town of Abel Meholahr near Tabbath.

God has already promised the victory but there is something that needs to be done to claim the victory.

We are but clay vessels, who must be broken open so that Christ, our burning torch inside, can display His light.

**2 Kings 4:4-6-TLV**

4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and behind your sons, and pour into all those vessels, setting aside what is full."

5 So she left him and shut the door behind her and behind her sons. They kept bringing the vessels to her and she kept pouring.

6 When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." But he said to her, "There isn't another vessel." So the oil stopped.

Gathering empty vessels is spreading the gospel and Discipling People.