

A collection of various clay jars and vessels, some filled with white powder, set against a dark background. The jars are of different shapes and sizes, some with narrow necks and others with wider openings. The white powder is piled high in several of the jars, creating a stark contrast with the dark background and the reddish-brown color of the clay. The overall scene suggests a workshop or a storage area for these vessels.

Jars of Clay

2 Cor 4:6-7

Jars of Clay

- What trials/challenges are you facing today?
- What weaknesses do you see in your life today?
- How could God use the trial or your weakness for your good and His glory?

2 Cor 4:5-12

⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:5-12

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

2 Cor 4:5-12

¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Weakness and Trials

- Paul is challenging us not to lose heart (2 Cor 4:1,16)
- Paul reminds us that God's power is seen in our weakness. (2 Cor 4:7)

An Opportunity for Christ to Be Seen in Us

2 Corinthians 4:7 **“But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.”**

“so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.” (4:10, 11)

An Opportunity for Personal Transformation

2 Corinthians 4:16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, **our inner self is being renewed day by day.**

Don't waste suffering. "Ask, how can I grow in the midst of this trial?"

Putting Our Trials into Perspective

2 Corinthians 4:14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

Putting Our Trials into Perspective

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 For **this light momentary affliction** is preparing for us **an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**,¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.