

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 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. So death is at work in us, but life in you. 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (ESV)*

## **Jar Of Clay**

That is what I am like, of that there is no doubt. **What's that?** I am like a jar of clay. **How so?** I am weak. I am frail. At one time I foolishly thought that I could be self-reliant and self-sufficient. **What convinced you otherwise?** I experienced all the separation and suffering and sin that is part of living a life without you. I went my own way. I did my own thing. I was discouraged, depressed, and defeated. My sinful life was receiving its payment in full, which is death. I was bruised and battered and broken by the life I was living without you. **What happened to you?** You turned my life around. You drew me to yourself. You helped me to turn my life over to you. I left my sinful life in the world so that I could love and follow and serve you. You gave me a new life to live. You filled my life with hope and peace and joy. You made me to be your child. You adopted me into your family. You filled me with your Spirit. You are helping me to know you. I am now living in an intimate relationship with you. I can hear your voice speaking to me. You are leading me through life. Now, nothing that life throws at me can stop me. You are with me to help me. You are sustaining and strengthening me. You are empowering me to live the life you have called me to live. **Yes, I have done and will continue to do all these things for you.**

**In your jar of clay do you carry a treasure?** Yes, I do. You live in me by your Spirit. You have given me a valuable message to share with others. Because I am weak, your power can be seen. Because I am weak, others can see that you are living and working in and through me. Because I am weak, your light and life can shine through me in the darkness of this world. Because I am weak, others will come to know and love and follow and serve you as I rely on your power to fulfill your purpose and accomplish your plans in and through my life. **Yes indeed, you do have this treasure in you. Keep on relying on me.** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

*Lord, there is no doubt. I am weak and like a frail clay pot. Yet your treasure is in me. You have filled me with your Spirit. You are working in and through me to fulfill your purposes and accomplish your plans. I will rely on you to sustain and strengthen me. Amen*

## The Sacramental Life

*The Life Of Jesus*

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

NIV

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*The Life Of Jesus*

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. Yes, we live under constant danger of death because we serve Jesus, so that the life of Jesus will be evident in our dying bodies. So we live in the face of death, but this has resulted in eternal life for you.

NLT

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*The Life Of Jesus*

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

NRSV

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*The Life Of Jesus*

However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur *and* exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves. We are hedged in (pressed) on every side [troubled and oppressed in every way], but not cramped or crushed; we suffer embarrassments *and* are perplexed *and* unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair; We are pursued (persecuted and hard driven), but not deserted [to stand alone]; we are struck down to the ground, but never struck out *and* destroyed; Always carrying about in the body the liability *and* exposure to the same putting to death that *the Lord* Jesus suffered, so that the [resurrection] life of Jesus also may be shown forth by *and* in our bodies. For we who live are constantly [experiencing] being handed over to death for Jesus' sake, that the [resurrection] life of Jesus also may be evidenced through our flesh which is liable to death. Thus death is actively at work in us, but [it is in order that our] life [may be actively at work] in you.

AMP

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*The Life Of Jesus*

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death works in us, but life in you.

NASB

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*The Life Of Jesus*

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

ESV

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*The Life Of Jesus*

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. *We are* hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed--always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you.

NKJV

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*Jesus' Life*

If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. As it is, there's not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we're not much to look at. We've been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we're not demoralized; we're not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we've been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn't left our side; we've been thrown down, but we haven't broken. What they did to Jesus, they do to us—trial and torture, mockery and murder; what Jesus did among them, he does in us—he lives! Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us. While we're going through the worst, you're getting in on the best!

MSG

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*The Power Of Jesus*

But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in a perishable container, that is, in our weak bodies. Everyone can see that the glorious power within must be from God and is not our own. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. These bodies of ours are constantly facing death just as Jesus did; so it is clear to all that it is only the living Christ within [who keeps us safe]. Yes, we live under constant danger to our lives because we serve the Lord, but this gives us constant opportunities to show forth the power of Jesus Christ within our dying bodies. Because of our preaching we face death, but it has resulted in eternal life for you.

TLB

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

## The Sacramental Life

*The Life Of Jesus*

We have this treasure from God, but we are like clay jars that hold the treasure. This shows that the great power is from God, not from us. We have troubles all around us, but we are not defeated. We do not know what to do, but we do not give up the hope of living. We are persecuted, but God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed. We carry the death of Jesus in our own bodies so that the life of Jesus can also be seen in our bodies. We are alive, but for Jesus we are always in danger of death so that the life of Jesus can be seen in our bodies that die. So death is working in us, but life is working in you.

NCV

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

# The Life Of Jesus

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Sacramental Life** – 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

**In Context:** *Read 2 Corinthians 4*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 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. So death is at work in us, but life in you. 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (ESV)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, | to show that | the surpassing power | belongs to God | and not to us. | We are afflicted in every way, | but not crushed; | perplexed, but not driven to despair; | persecuted, but not forsaken; | struck down, but not destroyed; | always carrying in the body | the death of Jesus, so that | the life of Jesus | may also be manifested in our bodies. | 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. | So death is at work in us, | but life in you. 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (ESV)

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, there is no doubt. I am weak and like a frail clay pot. Yet your treasure is in me. You have filled me with your Spirit. You are working in and through me to fulfill your purposes and accomplish your plans. I will rely on you to sustain and strengthen me. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

**Why would it be a foolish and tragic mistake to live your life solely under your own power?**

How encouraged are you in knowing that God will powerfully work in and through your life?

How has God overcome your weakness to powerfully accomplish His will through you?

How has God's power sustained and strengthened you through every adversity in life?

**How are you relying on God's power so that you will be able to go and do His will?**

How has God's power been working in you to transform your thoughts and words and actions?

**What has God accomplished in and through your life that you could have never done by yourself?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Rely on the Lord to work in and through you to fulfill His purposes and accomplish His plans.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will powerfully work in and through your life.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are relying on the Lord to powerfully work in and through you.

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**Close With Prayer:** ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you rely on the Lord to work in and through you to fulfill His purposes and accomplish His plans.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will rely on you to work in and through me to fulfill your purposes and accomplish your plans.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how do you want to work in and through me to fulfill your purposes and accomplish plans?*

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