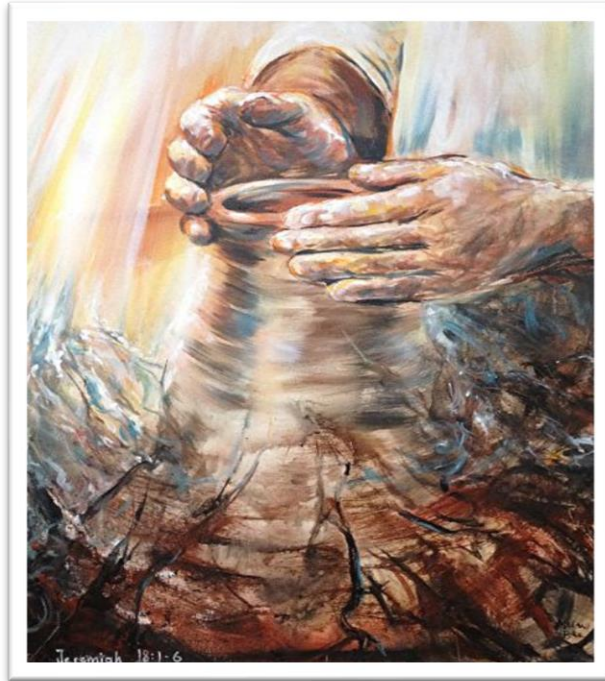


The *Potter's* Hand



***“Yet You, Lord are our Father.
We are the clay, and You are our potter;
we are all the work of Your hand.” Isaiah 64:8***

Bring yourself into the gentle presence of God. Be guided by the Holy Spirit. Place your life in His hands and seek to see your life through His eyes.

Scripture

Jeremiah 18: 2-6

'Get up and make your way down to the potter's house, and there I shall tell you what I have to say.' So, I went down to the potter's house; and there he was, working at the wheel.

But the vessel he was making came out wrong, as may happen with clay when a potter is at work. So, he began again and shaped it into another vessel, as he thought fit.

Then the word of the Lord came to me as follows,
'House of Israel, can I not do to you what this potter does? The Lord demands. Yes, like clay in the potter's hand, so you are in mine, House of Israel.'

Reflection

Before creative work begins, there must be a spark of imagination, an envisioning of the finished product. The potter already has something in mind for his creation. We are, and we are becoming, the fullness of God's imagination.

Can you imagine being 'the gleam in the Father's eye', long before you were born?

Can you see a little of God's imagination in the shape of your life?



The truth is that creativity needs material in which to become incarnate. God cannot bring to life his creation without us, the clay.

What God wants to make of us depends on our unique makeup, and like any skillful potter, God has absolute power over the clay.



Do you know just how unique you are in God's eyes?

Can you see how important this uniqueness is to God as He works in and through your life?

The first thing a potter must do is centre the clay on the wheel. In centering the clay, the potter transmits his own centre of calmness, infusing his creation, making it pliable and workable. His actions are smooth and deliberate, a kind of choreography. This transmits to the vessel whose shape becomes evident and pleasing to the eye. It is only in trusting ourselves to the potter's hands that we can become 'centered'. This means that though the world may be spinning fast around us, we achieve an equilibrium of calmness.



Can you remember times in your life when you have been aware of this God-transmitted calmness?

A master potter not only manipulates the clay but learns from it as he works. He adapts his touch according to the clay's density, moisture content and pliability. If his pressure is too strong, he will destroy his creation; too weak, and he will fail to produce the imprint he desires. God is the master potter. The sensitivity with which He deals with us is incomprehensible.



Isn't it wonderful that God can learn from us?

Can you remember a time when you were aware of His touch, and how sensitive it was to your needs?

When God works with us, he leaves his imprint on our lives. This imprint is not just a mark that is left on the clay. It is the presence, the consciousness of the potter that is transmitted into the clay, making it unique in itself. God's stamp, His imprint goes to our very heart.



Are you aware of your uniqueness in God?

Looking back, can you see how you have been shaped by God's imprint on your life?

As God shapes us, he reveals himself to us and that process goes on throughout our lifetime. We are constantly being shaped and reshaped and God constantly reveals more and more of himself along the way. Then, as we ourselves create the God in us, our own true self is revealed.



Think of one area of your life where you feel that God has molded you.

Think of a time when you created and molded another. Does your creation reveal something beautiful in you, something that may surprise even you?

Reflection Song

Prayer

We are the clay that has been slammed onto a hard, spinning wheel, flying around, seemingly out of control. Under pressure most times, being squashed and squeezed for the fire that lies ahead.

But Your gentle voice says:

Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with the right hand of my goodness.

Lord, teach us that you have carefully thrown us into the right spot for our imperfections to be smoothed out as we spin. And as, by the tender, loving pressures of Your hands, You are holding and moulding us to become Your beautiful creation. And the fire that lies ahead will only enhance our beauty.

We will make You proud, loving Father. We will follow Your footsteps and Your plans for us, as You reveal them day by day. We desire to be a reflection of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ in our world today.



“I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Psalm 139: 14