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### God's Masterpiece - Potter and Clay

When I look at the faceted beauty of a diamond, it is hard for me to imagine that it used to be just a lump of coal hidden in the earth. Like the diamond, you and I were hidden in our mother's womb. Psalm 139:15-16 says it best: "My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

We are God's masterpiece in the making. Each of us is made in the eternal image of God for relationship with Him. It is through that relationship that He begins the process of conforming us to His image.

Jeremiah was instructed to go to the potter's house so God could talk to him through a visual illustration. Jeremiah 18:3-4 says: "*Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.*" Though God is speaking about Israel, we can apply it to our lives. Jeremiah 18:6 says: "*...cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand*".

I used to do wheel pottery. There are many steps before a piece is turned on the wheel. The clay has to be mixed with water, then kneaded, then centered on the wheel. Centering requires consistent pressure to squeeze out all the little pockets of air, etc. It was thrilling to have the clay take shape in my hands.

God is the Potter in our lives, and we are the clay. Like a potter, God centers us. He uses the pressures of difficult circumstances, the fiery trials, the disappointments, and the broken expectations to squeeze out unbelief, doubt and fear; purifying our faith. He alone is in control. No matter what we go through, we are always in His hands. Though we may be marred by circumstances, He does not throw us away. No life is wasted. We are all created for God's glory.

Ephesians 2:10 says: "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*" Isaiah 64:8 says, "*But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.*"

We are God's work in progress. He isn't finished with us yet. The more we yield to Him in our lives, the more pliable we are in His hands. The more we center our thoughts on Him, the more enduring strength we have for the circumstances He is using to shape our lives. Nothing is in vain. God uses every situation for our good. I think of Joseph. His brothers were envious of him and sold him into slavery. The circumstances of his life were hard. Yet, in the end, he told his brothers, "*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good...*" Genesis 50:20.

Have you resisted God? He has made a way for you to have eternal life, simply by believing that Jesus died for your sins. He is personally offering you forgiveness from the wrath to come by accepting Jesus as your personal Savior. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again for you. You are His potential masterpiece!

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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.**  
**John 16:13**

Rowan Jennings, Abbotsford, British Columbia

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