

### Worship

#### **Romans 12:11**

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

- Bring yourself as a living sacrifice

#### **Mission Offering**

- We are trained to be a blessing

#### **Deuteronomy 30:2-5**

*and when you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors.*

- Make a hearts decision to change your attitude
- When you connect with losers you will also lose but if you connect with winners you will start to have a winning attitude
- Ensure that you are in the company of the right people

Jerome:

- I just sensed the overwhelming love of God
- I asked God what more I can give Him
- God said he has given us everything He has
- I asked God, why we live a defeated life?
- He said that it is because we do not go out to battle
- You can only receive the victory if you go to battle and face the giant

### Word

#### **Jeremiah 18:1-7**

*This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands, so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the Lord. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed,*

#### **The clay in the Potter's hand**

- God is the Potter and we are the clay
- There is a process that the clay goes through in the hand of the potter that brings a permanent change to the clay
- The final product is no longer weak but strong enough to be used
- God is asking us, can I be that Potter in your life?

- When God identifies himself as the Potter, it tells us that He has an idea for a design in our lives and wants to put His hands on us
- It needs to be our desire to be the clay
- We cannot make anything of ourselves or of our lives without God

## **The Process**

### **1. Searching**

- We are always in the hands of the Father, He always has the desire to work with us
- We at times struggle to let go of the control over our lives
- The Potter has to go and look for the clay – He is the good Shepherd who will leave the ninety nine to find the one that is lost
- God wants to take us on this journey and adventure
- God is holding you in his hand
- The clay needs to be surrendered

### **2. Position**

- Sometimes there are a lot of things happening in our lives
- God positions your life, back to His heart
- We position ourselves by the word and prayer, God is our focus

### **Ephesians 2:10 AMP**

*For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].*

- It takes a decision to surrender, being obedient, making time for God, going to church, going to cell, reading the word
- We need to surrender our lives to the plan and the process of God
- The potter cannot work with your life if you are not surrendered
- If we are not positioning ourselves we remain the unmoulded clay in the Fathers hand
- Being positioned we learn to be obedient, make time to spend with Him and allow Him to finish what He has started

### **Isaiah 64:7-8**

*No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand.*

- May we be a church, a people who stir ourselves up to take hold of Him and chase after God
- God is on your side, He is not against you
- God is not yet finished with us. He is still busy with His process in our lives
- God is looking for a heart that recognises that it is clay, ready to be moulded

### **3. Pressing**

- The potter presses and pushes the clay and gets the basic design going
- God needs to get rid of the wrong things in our lives
- He needs to make room for us to receive the good things
- The enemy in our life is many times routine and habits
- We are so busy with what we have to do every day that we are not sensitive to the Holy Spirit and God pressing and pushing, telling us what He wants to change
- We are not open for the Holy Spirit and the moving of God

- Thank God that we are not where we used to be
- Stop worrying about the end result
- We are so focused on being that somebody that we forget the process
- Allow God to take you through the process

### **2 Corinthians 4:16**

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day*

- God is busy with an ongoing process in your life
- Get a hunger and thirst for God
- We have to keep pressing in and not lose heart
- As we surrender to God he will renew us

## **4. Forming and shaping**

- The potter begins to shape and mould
- Before this point it was preparation and now it's the finishing work of God in our lives
- God shapes each person according to His will and purpose
- We do not get to choose what God is making of our lives
- The choice we have to make is: are we going to co-operate and allow God in making you what He wants you to be
- We can get destroyed in our lives but God can remake our lives
- It is our stubbornness, our will and fleshly desires that will hinder God from doing what he desires

### **Romans 8:28-29**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

- God has chosen each and every one of us to do a great work for Him
- If you are not going to love Him and walk in His purpose, you are going to struggle to see things work out in your life
- When you find your purpose and you allow God to shape you, it is a beautiful thing
- The outcome of your life is not only dependant on God, it is also dependant on your cooperation with Him
- It's not what others do to me it is what I do to others
- When we flee from sin and the things that are disruptive in our lives, then we become a vessel of honour
- We are not perfect, we make mistakes but we strive to not make mistakes
- Decide to run to God and cooperate with Him
- If we co-operate with God and we fall, He will always pick us up

## **5. Fire (Oven)**

- The pot is made and finished, now the Potter puts it in the fire
- The pot that doesn't make it to the fire remains weak and useless
- In the fire it becomes strong, it comes out useful
- Transformation happens in the fire
- The fire is difficult times, when we are persecuted, mocked and tempted in our lives

### **1 Peter 4:12-13**

*Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

### **Zechariah 13:9**

*This third I will put into the fire, I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them, I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The Lord is our God.'*

- God wants to put you through the fire to test your faith, purify and refine you
- The fire is also the presence of God or the hand of God in your life

### **Revelations 1:8**

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*

- We need to be at the feet of Jesus
- God still wants to do many things in your life
- God wants to fulfil His promises