

Man – A Vessel for God

But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before both the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; - Acts 9:15

In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory, - Rom 9:23

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not out of us. - 2 Cor 4:7

For the foolish, when they took their lamps, did not take oil with them; But the prudent took oil in their vessels with their lamps. - Matt 25:3-4

That each one of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor; - 1 Thes 4:4

If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work. - 2 Tim 2:21

That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, - Eph 3:17a

Reading

Man was made a vessel with a human spirit as a receptacle to receive God. The creation of man was just to make man a vessel with a receptacle, that is, our spirit, to receive God into us as our life. Genesis 2:7 says that when God created man, He formed man's body of the dust of the ground and breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life. God breathed into man the breath of life because man needs a spirit in order to contain God. Within us there is a "receiver" for God, and this receiver is our spirit.

God created us as vessels—vessels of mercy, vessels of honor, and vessels unto glory to contain Him. God had mercy upon us, and He wanted us to be His vessels, so we are the vessels of mercy (Rom 9:23). We are vessels of honor because we contain the God of honor. Eventually, we all will be filled with God's glory and glorified in the glory of God to become the vessels unto glory.

There is an emptiness, a vacuum, within man. This is because they were made to be vessels of God. Nothing can fill man up and satisfy him but God Himself. God is Spirit and He created man with a human spirit so that we are able to take Him into us and contain Him as our life and life supply. A vessel is a container. It is different from a utensil or an instrument. A vessel is not used to do something but to contain something.

The Bible says that we have a treasure in our earthen vessel (2 Cor. 4:7). An earthen vessel is meaningless without a treasure. We are merely vessels in need of content. Just as a car is a vessel in need of a person who can drive, we are vessels in need of Christ as our person. The shining reality of Christ is the treasure in us, the earthen vessels. Outwardly we are earthen vessels, but inwardly we have a priceless treasure—Christ as the embodiment of the processed Triune God to be the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit. This treasure has a power, and this power is excellent. Christ as the life-giving Spirit in us is the One who shines and works. This is the treasure we have in us.

Zechariah 12:1 ranks the spirit of man with the heavens and the earth. It says that the Lord is the One who stretched forth the heavens, laid the foundation of the earth, and formed the spirit of man within him. We have a spirit that is as important as the heavens and the earth!

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Man is made in God's image. When God enters into the vessels created by Him, He finds that they are a proper match for Him. For example, God has emotion, and His vessel, His container, also has emotion. Hence, in the vessel God has a place to dispense His own emotion. In this way human emotion and divine emotion become one. Christ can make His home in our hearts through faith (Eph 3:17).

The five prudent virgins in Matthew 24 not only had oil in their lamps but also took oil in their vessels. Having oil in their lamps signifies that they have the Spirit of God dwelling in their spirit (Rom. 8:9, 16), and taking oil in their vessels signifies that they have the infilling of the Spirit of God saturating their souls. Through regeneration we have the Spirit of God in our spirit. This causes our lamps to burn. However, the question is whether we have the extra portion of the Holy Spirit filling our soul. Although we have oil in our lamp, we still need an extra portion of oil in our vessel, our soul. This means that the Spirit must spread from within our spirit to every part of our soul. Then we will have an extra portion of the Holy Spirit in our soul. If we have this extra portion, we are prudent.

Vessels need to be filled. The way to be filled is found in Romans 10:12 - "For there is no difference between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord of all is rich to all who call upon Him." Every vessel has a mouth, an opening. As empty vessels with a mouth we should open our mouth wide that we may be filled with the riches of the Lord. There is a verse in the Psalms which says, "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it" (81:10). When we call upon Him, we participate in and enjoy His riches. If you will open your mouth wide and call upon the Lord, the riches of divinity will be your portion.

Consecration means that we offer ourselves as vessels to the Lord to let Him fill us, occupy us, and be expressed through us. Consecration does not mean that we should give up studying and eating, leave the world, and retreat to the mountains. That is a religious concept of consecration. The consecration that the Lord desires is for us to give ourselves to Him as vessels and let Him be our person. When we allow the Lord to cleanse and empty us, He will be enlarged in our being.

We must cleanse ourselves from the unrighteous things and from the dishonorable vessels of wood and earth. If we cleanse ourselves from these negative things and negative persons, we shall be vessels unto honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared unto every good work. (2 Timothy 2:21).

God's selection and redemption have a goal—to have many vessels to contain God and to express Him eternally. His love is not only shown to save us, but to make us His vessels. God created us in such a way that we are able to take Him into us and contain Him as our life and life supply, to the end that we be one with Him to express what He is and that He be glorified in us and with us. This is the eternal goal of God's selection. It is also our eternal destiny.

References: Conclusion of the New Testament Messages 12 and 14, Life Study of Romans Chapter 23, The Living and Practical Way to Enjoy Christ Chapter 1, Basic Lessons on Life Chapter 1

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