[7] But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. [8] We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; [9] persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4:7-9

Sometime during this year, you will be faced with a situation that will cause you to question your value, question your worth. I don't know why it is easier to believe the worst about us than it is to believe the best about ourselves. We just seem to give that more energy than we should. At some point in our lives we must begin to believe what God says. That we are made in His image. That we are somebody. That we belong to somebody.

We sometimes believe because life beats us up, or wears us down, that we lose our importance. We believe because we get older we lose significance. We have no impact upon life and living. This is not so at all. The text tells us regardless of age or condition we have a treasure within us. The text tells us that we have purpose and even though the treasure is in an earthen vessel, it is a treasure, nonetheless. But what is most significant is the treasure that was given to us by God.

There will be times when the circumstances of life will press us hard, but we will never be crushed. Life will perplex us and make us wonder what in the world is going on, but we do not have to despair. We shall be persecuted and misunderstood but God will not abandon us. We will get struck down, but the striking down will not destroy us because of what God has placed inside of us. God created us to be resilient,

regardless of the storm. God created us to endure. Regardless of the journey. God created us to be examples to the world because He knew the world would need examples to live by. We must never forget in the worst of times God created us to shine.

“A popular speaker started off a seminar by holding up a $20 bill. A crowd of 200 had gathered to hear him speak. He asked, ‘Who would like this $20 bill?’ 200 hands went up. He said, ‘I am going to give this $20 to one of you but first, let me do this.’ He crumpled the bill up. He then asked, ‘Who still wants it?’ All 200 hands were still raised. ‘Well,’ he replied, ‘What if I do this?’ Then he dropped the bill on the ground and stomped on it with his shoes. He picked it up, and showed it to the crowd. The bill was all crumpled and dirty. ‘Now who still wants it?’ All the hands still went up.

‘My friends, I have just showed you a very important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth $20. Many times in our lives, life crumples us and grinds us into the dirt. We make bad decisions or deal with poor circumstances. We feel worthless. But no matter what has happened or what *will* happen, you will never lose your value. You are special – Don’t ever forget it!’

Therefore, no matter what happens to us in life, God’s Child will always be of value to the world. A Child of God will always be important. Because when others, fall we stand. When the world goes dark, because of the treasure inside of us we shine. When circumstances in life knocks us down, God’s Child gets back up. When others see hopelessness, God’s Child sees hope. We see

hope and we have hope because of the Spirit of God that is inside each of u1s. This new year, continue in that hope, continue in this strength, continue to let your light shine.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool