Fragile, But Full

2 Corinthians 4:7-10

Church, sometimes we forget that the greatest gifts of God don't come wrapped in gold—they come hidden in clay. The most precious treasures aren't found in vaults or behind glass displays, but in ordinary vessels that might seem unremarkable at first glance.

Paul said, "We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." He's saying something profound but straightforward: we are fragile, but we're filled. We are ordinary, but what's inside us is extraordinary. This paradox lies at the heart of our Christian experience, that the Almighty would choose to reveal Himself through weakness rather than strength, through vulnerability rather than invulnerability.
Paul said, *"We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."*

That phrase, *"all-surpassing power"*, isn't just poetic language. It's the heart of Christian reality. Paul is saying there's a power at work in us that's greater than anything we could ever produce on our own. It doesn't originate from education, experience, or emotional strength; it comes from God Himself.

This power is not natural; it's supernatural. It's not self-made; it's Spirit-given. It doesn't come from personality; it comes from presence.

Paul wants us to know that whatever we have, whatever we are, whatever we accomplish in the Kingdom, it's not because of us, but in spite of us.

That's why he calls it *"all-surpassing."* It surpasses what's normal. It surpasses what's expected. It surpasses what's humanly possible.

See, when Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians, he was addressing a church that valued strength. They admired eloquence. They respected knowledge. They thought power was about appearance. They thought success was about status. But Paul comes in and says, **"No, real power doesn't look like that. Real power wears weakness like a garment." (The Lamb of Revelation)**

He says, "If you want to see power, don't look at the gold, look at the clay. Don't look at the pulpit, look at the prison. Don't look at the crown, look at the cross." Because God's way of showing strength has never been through human display—it's always been through divine demonstration.

And that's why He places His power in fragile people.

Think about it: God could have chosen to show His glory through angels or through perfect beings who never fail. But instead, He chose to pour His glory into you and me, dust-made, sin-stained, easily broken, easily tired, easily tempted human beings, just so that when the light shines, nobody mistakes the source.

That's what Paul means when he says, *"to show that this power is from God and not from us."*

It's as if God says, *"I'll use the weak to show I'm strong. I'll use the broken to show I can restore. I'll use the empty to show I can fill. I'll use the least to show I can make the most."*

Because when you look at a cracked jar still carrying glory, you know it's not the jar, you know it's the treasure on the inside. When you see a weary saint still worshiping, you know it's not willpower, it's divine power on the inside. When you see somebody who's been through hell and high water but still lifting holy hands, you know that's not survival, that's supernatural strength reigning on the inside.

That's the all-surpassing power of God.

Let's pause right there and make it plain:

Human power breaks under pressure, but God's power breaks through the pressure.
Human power gives up, but God's power stands up.

And Paul says that's why the treasure is in the clay. Because clay has limits. Clay has cracks. Clay can't handle glory without grace.

But every time that jar keeps standing under the weight of life, every time you keep shining when darkness presses close, every time the church keeps loving when the world has grown cold, it's proof that God's power is holding what human strength could never sustain.

You see, this isn't just theology, it's testimony.

How many of you can look back and say, "If it had been up to me, I'd have fallen apart a long time ago. If it had been my strength, I'd have quit. If it had been my understanding, I'd have lost my mind. If it had been my plan, I never would have made it. But God!"

That's Paul's whole message in this verse: **You're standing because He's strong. You're still here because He's faithful. You're still shining because He's inside.**

Think about a flashlight with dying batteries. You can shake it, you can turn it, you can press it, but once the power inside fades, the light dims. That's us without God. But when the Holy Spirit fills you, He becomes your power source. You don't shine because the casing looks good; you shine because the power within is alive.

Or imagine a clay lamp from ancient times, fragile and easily broken, yet filled with oil. Once lit, the light shines through every crack. The more cracks, the more light escapes. That's you, that's me, that's Paul. We're not the flame; we're the fixture. We're not the power; we're the proof that power exists.

So, if you're feeling weak, remember weakness is not a disqualification; it's an invitation. God's strength only shows up when yours runs out.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool