

Grace Unraveled
Jars of Clay
2 Corinthians 4:1-15

Life can be very frustrating and even depressing. Things do not always happen the way we think they should. With every decision we encounter either the encouragement of success or the discouragement of failure and what makes it so difficult is that even in our successes, there are always those who criticize. We might feel like we are fragile jars of clay, ready to break at any moment, but grace reminds us that our weakness is a necessary treasure to highlight and promote the power of God.

1. We have boldness in spite of _____
 - A. We maintain _____ with the gospel
 - B. We maintain _____ with the gospel
 - C. We maintain _____ in the gospel

2. We have boldness in spite of _____
 - A. Divine power is displayed through our _____
 - 1) _____ but not _____
 - 2) _____ but not _____
 - 3) _____ but not _____
 - 4) _____ but not _____
 - B. Divine power is displayed through our _____
 - C. Divine power is displayed through our _____

To the world, our lives might not be much to look at on the outside. We might not achieve success or power or influence the way the world defines these things. We might even be pushed to the margins of society. But if we have embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ, then we have a treasure on the inside that far outweighs any outward appearances. The challenge for us is to allow the grace of God to do what God intends for it to do—let the light of the gospel that is inside of us shine through so that others might believe.

Reflection

Think about your attitude towards the gospel and the mission God has given to those who claim to follow Christ. Are you more worried about outward appearances than the advancement of the gospel? Do you find yourself comparing your walk with Christ to others and feeling inadequate in your comparison? What steps can you take to regain your confidence in the mission or ministry to which you have been called? How can you pray differently so that the grace of God is reflected towards those who create frustration for you?