

## **B. Be still.**

*Psalms 46:10 NIV* “Be still, and know that I am God.”

## **C. Resist self-exaltation and selfish ambition.**

*1 Peter 5:6 NIV* “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

## **6. SEARCHING THE CLAY**

Many potters will take a very thin wire and press through the clay searching for air bubbles. If they don’t the pot could crack, break and explode.

This is a time when the Holy Spirit checks and investigates and burrows through our motives; He uses the sword; the Word to cut through our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12-13 NIV* “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (13) Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

*Proverbs 16:2 NIV* “All a man’s ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord.”

## **MAKING IT THROUGH**

### **A. Welcome the Holy Spirit to examine your heart.**

*Psalms 139:23-24 NIV* “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

### **B. Get to the root of your motives and don’t allow for self-justification.**

### **C. Learn immediate repentance.**

*1 John 1:9 NIV* “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

## **7. RE-MOLDING THE CLAY**

After the potter pokes wire through the clay he molds and shapes it again.

# **THE POTTER’S WHEEL**

## **Part 2 – The Process: Preparing & Positioning the Clay**

Sunday February 8, 2004 - Debby Baril

### **REVIEW**

*Jeremiah 18:1-6 NIV – (1) This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord. (2) Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message. (3) So I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the wheel. (4) 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. (5) Then the word of the Lord came to me: (6) O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does? Declares the Lord. Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand. O house of Israel.*

**THE POTTER IS A PERSON**

**THE POTTER HAS POWER OVER THE CLAY**

**THE POTTER HAS A DIVINE PLAN**

**THE POTTER HAS INCREDIBLE PATIENCE**

**THE POTTER HAS A PASSION FOR USING PEOPLE**

### **THE PROCESS**

#### **1. DIGGING OUT THE CLAY**

The Potter digs the clay out of the ground.

*Genesis 2:7 NIV* “The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

*Psalms 40:2 NAS* “He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.”

#### **2. SOAKING THE CLAY IN WATER**

The Potter must soak the dirt in water in order to make it stick together and become pliable and easily molded.

Isaiah 44:3, 4 NIV “For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.”

John 7:38-39a NIV “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. (39) By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.”

### 3. WEDGING AND SLAMMING THE CLAY.

The potter begins to knead the clay, working it over, wedging it in half and then slamming the halves back together to rid it of impurities and air bubbles.

1 Peter 1:6-7 NIV “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. (7) These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

James 1:2-3 NIV “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. (4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Romans 5:3-4 CEV “We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. (4) And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope”

### MAKING IT THROUGH:

A. Determine you are going through and that you will make it, no matter what happens.

Job 13:15a NIV “Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him...”

Psalms 16:8 NAS “I have set the Lord continually before me; because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”

B. Fix your eyes on Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”

### C. Submit to the skillful hands of the Potter.

Luke 1:38 NAS “And Mary said, Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word.”

### 4. CENTERING THE CLAY

After the Potter has thoroughly worked the clay, He places the clay on the wheel. He adds some water and places his hands around the clay holding it, and bringing it in the middle as he begins to spin the wheel.

Hebrews 12:5-6 NAS “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reproved by Him; (6) for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.”

Great callings require great sacrifices.

### MAKING IT THROUGH

A. Allow the Lord to draw you to himself.

Jeremiah 31:3 NIV “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving kindness.”

B. Recognize His love in disciplining you.

Hebrews 12:5-6 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.

C. Listen carefully to what areas in your life must be brought into divine alignment.

### 5. FORMING THE CLAY

The potter begins to form the clay, pulling up he makes it rise and forms a pot, jar, or vessel.

### MAKING IT THROUGH

A. Resist running ahead of the Lord.

Exodus 33:15 NIV “If your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.” If you aren’t going with me, then I am not going.