

C. Misunderstanding Test

- Feel you don't fit in anywhere, or into the regular scheme of things... you don't fit the so-called mold.
- People misunderstand you, your personality, your calling
- Must learn to stand when no one else stands with you
- Must know the voice of God and obey

D. Security Test

- Sometimes we find our security in what we do.
- **While we are looking for someone to DO God is looking for someone to BE.**
- Sometimes we find our security in a person

Isaiah 2:22 NAS “*Stop regarding man, whose breath of life is in his nostrils; for why should he be esteemed?*”

- Joyce Meyer *****When we place our confidence and trust in people that should be in God – God is obligated to show forth their weaknesses.*****

E. The Trust Test

- Often times things don't make sense; you feel like you are going in the opposite direction than what God has spoken over and into your lives.
- Learn to trust him in the times of silence, in the times of darkness, through the confusion and through the many questions.
- Be still and know that He is God!

Isaiah 50:10-11 NIV “*Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.*” (11)
But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.”

THE POTTER'S WHEEL

Part 4 – The First Fire

Debby Baril - Sunday May 2, 2004

REVIEW

1. **DIGGING OUT THE CLAY**
2. **SOAKING THE CLAY IN WATER**
3. **WEDGING AND SLAMMING THE CLAY.**
 - A. Determine you are going through and that you will make it, no matter what happens.
 - B. Fix your eyes on Jesus.
 - C. Submit to the skillful hands of the Potter.
4. **CENTERING THE CLAY**
 - A. Allow the Lord to draw you to himself.
 - B. Recognize His love in disciplining you.
 - C. Listen carefully to what areas in your life must be brought into divine alignment.
5. **FORMING THE CLAY**
 - A. Resist running ahead of the Lord.
 - B. Be still.
 - C. Resist self-exaltation and selfish ambition.
6. **SEARCHING THE CLAY**
 - A. Welcome the Holy Spirit to examine your heart.
 - B. Get to the root of your motives and don't allow for self-justification.
 - C. Learn immediate repentance.
7. **RE-MOLDING THE CLAY**
8. **DRYING THE CLAY – SHELF TESTS**
 - A. Time/Patience Test
 - B. Hiddenness / Humility Test
 - C. Frustration/Self-Pity Test
 - D. Loneliness Test
 - E. Self-Will Test
9. **SIGNING THE CLAY**

INTRODUCTION

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 FIRST FIRE

- Promoted from the shelf to the kiln.

Isaiah 43:1-2 AMP – *Thus says the Lord, He Who created you...and He Who formed you...Fear not, for I have redeemed you (ransomed you by paying a price instead of leaving you captives); I have called you by your name; you are Mine. (2) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned or scorched, nor will the flame kindle upon you.*

Daniel 3:25, 27 AMP – *Behold, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt! And the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods! (27)...the fire had no power upon their bodies, nor was the hair of their heads singed; neither were their garments scorched or changed in color or condition, nor had even the smell of smoke clung to them.*

- God never fires one vessel at a time!
- He will place in the fire the church, a family, a group and sets them on fire to expose everyone's hearts.

A. Wilderness Test

- Your love for Him will be tested.
- You will develop an ear for His voice

- You must die to your own ambitions, desires and ways

Matthew 4:1-2 AMP – *Then Jesus was led (guided) by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness (desert) to be tempted (tested and tried) by the devil. (2) And he went without food for forty days and forty nights, and later He was hungry.*

- Jesus was tested with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

I John 2:16 AMP – *For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh (craving for sensual gratification) and the lust of the eyes (greedy longings of the mind) and the pride of life (assurance in one's own resources or in the stability of earthly things) – these do not come from the Father but are from the world itself.*

- Will you pay the price?

B. Discouragement Test

- Dreams are tested
- Messengers of negative words are sent
- Must learn to encourage ourselves in the Lord

Psalms 42:11 AMP - *“Why are you cast down, O my inner self? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted within me? Hope in God and wait expectantly for Him, for I shall yet praise Him, Who is the help of my countenance, and my God.*

- Important to focus and discipline ourselves-determine not to give up
- Discard the rumors of the enemy and believe the report of the Lord – Watch your words!

Proverbs 18:21 AMP – *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it (for death or life).*