

## What's Beautiful About Being Broken?

**Step One: We admitted that we were powerless over our dependencies -- that our lives had become unmanageable.**

God made us to be beautiful people who can bring joy and hope and freshness to life around us. God has made us to live in relationship with Him, with His love, with His power. God made us to be a beautiful treasure. However, that treasure seems to get covered up by pressures and problems. Bad things happen to us and we react in negative ways. We hurt and disappoint others because we have been hurt and disappointed. Life is broken and we seem to cause more harm than good.

We are afraid to look at the difficulties and the dark things in our lives. We are terrified to admit that the bad seems to have overcome any possibility for good. To admit that we are powerless and that our lives are unmanageable seems to be just the excuse we need to carry on in our addiction rather than to seek help to get well. How can we admit that we are powerless and still look for a way to go on?

In the Bible we find a lovely picture that speaks about this puzzle.

*We who have this spiritual treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed. At all times we carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus, so that his life also may be seen in our bodies.* (From 2 Corinthians 4 NIV)



The story has circulated on the internet for some time about a water carrier in India. He had two large water pots, each hung on an end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots was perfect and delivered a full load of water each time. But the other pot was cracked and only brought half a load. The good pot was



proud and the cracked pot felt sad and inferior. After a time the cracked pot apologized to the water carrier about this. The water carrier asked the pot to notice the flowers along the path where they walked every day and pointed out that the flowers only grew on the side of the path where the flawed water pot hung. The carrier had noticed the flaw early on and had used it to bring beauty that would otherwise have been impossible.

It's no surprise to God that we have problems in our lives - even huge overwhelming ones. God's invitation to us is to recognize it ourselves, admit that things are no longer manageable and turn to Him for a new perspective.

We may not experience it immediately, but the promise is there for us, in the Bible and in the life of many others who are living successful lives in recovery today, that God can make something good out of even our broken and confusing life.

*(God says): My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness. (Paul replies): So now I am glad to boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may work through me.* (2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV)

We are cracked and broken clay pots but we have the potential, with God's grace, to make life around us a path filled with beautiful flowers. Even though we can clearly see our flaws and our mistakes, we can affirm God's presence in our life and God's ability to bring value and beauty out of our lives. God wants us to receive His love and acceptance today, just as we are so He can use us, cracks and all.

We are powerless on our own to make good things happen. Our lives are unmanageable wrecks in our addictive habits but we are not too far gone for God to make something beautiful and useful of even us. God has all the power we need.

*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens ... what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.* (Psalm 8:1,4,5 NIV)

### Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What is unmanageable in my life today? How am I powerless?
2. How is my life like a cracked and broken clay pot?
3. What can I do today to invite more of God's power and love into my life?