

## BECOMING LIKE CLAY (Giving up Control)

**STEP 7 - We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.**

Most of our lives have been devoted to fulfilling our own selfish desires. It is time to set aside these behaviours, come to terms with our inadequacies and humbly seek God's will alone. In step 7, we quit trying to fix ourselves and transfer control of our recovery to God.

Giving up control may be difficult for us. When we get ready for God to remove our shortcomings, we still may want to control how He does it. We are so used to calling the shots that we'll ask for God's help as long as He does it on our terms. We may demand that the changes happen on our timetable, or in the order we feel ready to give them up, or at a speed convenient to us. Or we may wish that God would just wave His magic wand and *poof!*...a perfect person!

God doesn't work that way. That is why humility is such an important part of this step. In the Bible God told Jeremiah to go to the potter's shop to learn a lesson. Jeremiah said, ***"I did as he told me, and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar that He was making did not***

***turn out as he had hoped, so the potter squashed the jar into a lump of clay and started again. Then the Lord gave me this message:...'Can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand'" (Jeremiah 18:3-6).***

God told Isaiah, ***"Destruction is certain for those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot ever argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying, 'Stop, you are doing it wrong!' Does the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be!' "*** (Isaiah 45:9).

When we put our lives in God's hands He will reshape them as He sees fit. It is our attitude of humility that allows us to accept the fact that he is the Creator. His rules for morals and values become ours. Where our old ways of living conflict with God's revealed way in Scriptures, our behaviour changes. Our new life may be similar to the one we left behind, or entirely different. God is the master craftsman. Whatever he does, we can trust he will recreate our life beautifully once we get out of his way!

***"Dear God, I am now willing that You should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that You now remove from me every single defect of character that stands in the way of my usefulness to You and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go from here, to do Your bidding." Amen.***

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Where are the challenges when it comes to humbly giving control of my life to God?
2. What practical decisions and actions display the working out of this step on a daily basis?
3. What character defects am I struggling to let God remove?