

God Can Use Even Me

Do you have joy in your life every single day? This is God's will for you...and He has provided the keys that will bring happiness, contentment, and joy regardless of your circumstances. Are you convinced that your particular circumstances make happiness and enjoyment impossible for you? Well, it is not true! The keys that God offers you are designed to open the doors that you may have thought were forever locked.

Learning to be happy with yourself is a very important key to enjoying your life. If you know that God wants you to enjoy life, why does it sometimes seem impossible? Could it be that you are unhappy with yourself because you're not perfect? God doesn't require us to be perfect—He made us and He knows we are human and will make mistakes. Our job is to get up every day and do our best to use the keys He has provided for us. And when we fail, we must get right with God, receive His forgiveness, and go on. We need to quit being so hard on ourselves and enjoy our lives right where we are.

Many people feel that God can't use them because they are not perfect—but this is a lie. God uses cracked pots to do His work. As Christians, we are containers that God wants to fill with His goodness and light. Then we are to carry that goodness and light to a dark world, sharing it with people everywhere we go. Don't be afraid of your flaws—acknowledge them and allow God to use you anyway. Quit worrying about what you're not and give God what you are.

But this precious treasure--this light and power that now shine within us--is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies (2 Corinthians 4)

A water bearer in India had two large pots hanging at the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck. One

of the pots was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house. The other pot had a crack in it, and by the time it reached its destination, it was only half full. Every day for two years the water bearer delivered only one and one-half pots of water to the master's house. The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. The poor little cracked pot was ashamed of its imperfections and miserable that it could accomplish only half of what it had been designed to do. It spoke to the water bearer and said, "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you." "Why?" asked the bearer, "What are you ashamed of?"

"Well, for these past two years, I have been able to deliver only half a load of water each day because this crack in my side allows water to leak out all the way back to the master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all this work without getting the full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot and, in his compassion, he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot noticed the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because half of its load had leaked out once again. Then the bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path and not on the other pot's side? That's because I've always known about your flaw and took advantage of it by planting flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day as we walked back from the stream, you watered those seeds and for two years I have picked these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just what you are, he would not have had this beauty to grace his house."

Like that cracked pot, we too can accomplish wonderful things. We can make somebody happy. We can encourage, and bless those around us. We can use our gifts and talents to serve God. And as a bonus, we will learn to enjoy every day of our life.

Questions For Reflection and Discussion

1. What do I think makes it difficult or impossible to bring beauty to life?
2. How have I seen God work with even my flaws to accomplish something helpful?