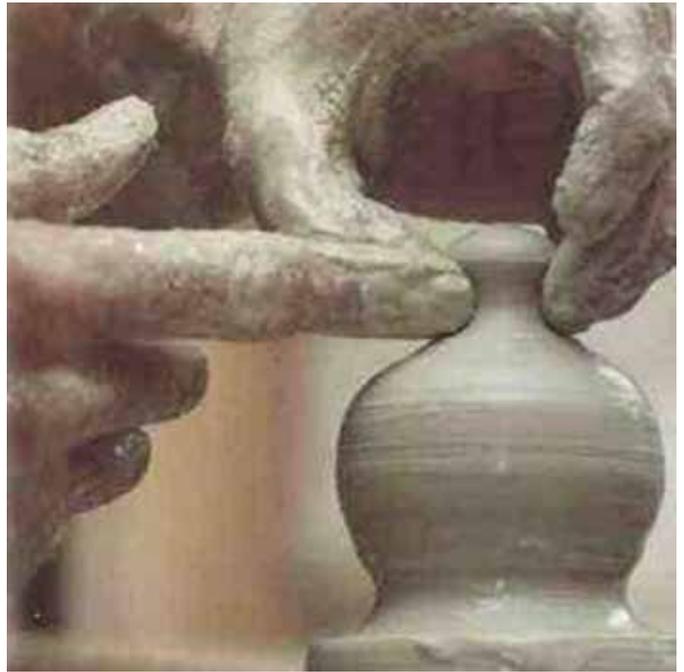


*"But now, O LORD, Thou Art our Father; We Are The Clay, And Thou Our Potter; and we all Are the Work of Thy Hand." Isaiah 64:8 KJV*



The clay is at the potter's mercy. Once selected for the wheel, it must conform or be cast aside. We must be malleable in the Potter's hands if we would become a "vessel of honor." To be made malleable the clay must be mixed with water. Water is used to soften and wash the clay of impurities before being put on the wheel. The potter then decides how the vessel is to be formed and what its purpose will be. The clay is pressed and bent and must yield to the pressure of the potter's touch and accept the form he chooses. *"And the LORD God Formed man of the dust of the ground, and Breathed into his nostrils the Breath of Life; and man Became A Living Soul."* It Was God's Design that man became a "Living" soul. A vessel to contain the very Breath and Spirit of the Almighty. One day man decided that he knew better and severed the connection that had been his very Life. God Was Grieved and Implemented His Predetermined Plan for man's Restoration. There are times that we know someone will disappoint us, and are grieved when it happens, but, nonetheless, we will have made plans to deal with the disappointment. God knows our frame is dust, but Desires to Breathe the "Breath of Life" into our clay vessels that we might once again Be Restored to the Fellowship of the Son. We must forsake the Whisperer and the thoughts of doubt and unbelief that he brings and cling solely to the Word of God. If we disobey, we "will surely die;" become separated from the Fellowship of Light and Truth until we repent and confess our sin. Repentance restores. Confession cleanses, because it once again brings us into agreement with the Word of God. Jesus said, *"Now ye Are Clean Through The Word Which I Have Spoken Unto you." Christ Also Loved the Church, and Gave Himself for it; That He Might Sanctify and Cleanse It with the Washing of Water by the Word, That He Might Present It To Himself a Glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that It Should Be Holy and without blemish.* God Desires to Have our companionship, but cannot tolerate sin. *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord Will Not Hear me."* I must abhor the besetting sin and evil that my carnal body is sold under. I will sin as long as I am in the flesh, but I need not enjoy nor tolerate it. It must be as distasteful to my soul as scraping dog poo off of my shoe. It must be an abomination which I endeavor to avoid at all cost. If we liked dirty clothes, we wouldn't do laundry. To love God is to forsake sin. I must be careful to launder my own soul with God's Word before I seek to judge another. In this life, we are never guiltless before a Perfect God, but we can be perfect in our love of the brethren. *"Love one another as I Have Loved you. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves"* with a selfless forgiving love.

The clay must yield to potter's hand,  
To be a vessel that is grand,  
Else it will be a castaway,  
Just broken shards beside the way. –CGP

Paul wrote, *"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."* Like the country preacher said, "We need to stay 'fessed up or we'll be messed up!"

*"If we confess our sins, He Is Faithful And Just To Forgive us our sins, and To Cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 KJV*