

GOD USES BROKEN VESSELS

--Irma B. Williams

A dear friend of our family is a gifted singer, brought up and surrounded by parents, grandparents, and family members who were dedicated pastors, teachers, and musicians in leadership positions in the Church of God. He realized his musical giftedness, and he committed his life and talents to be used for God's purposes.

In the late 1980's he was on staff at a megachurch in the South. His responsibilities were varied, but his primary purpose was leading in worship. Unlike his family members, he found himself in the middle of a divorce with the possibility of losing his daughter. He said, "My Pentecostal upbringing weighed heavy on me, and the shame and guilt were devastating, depressing, and debilitating. It was almost more than I could take."

"The sanctuary at the church seated almost 7,000, and on one Sunday morning during this dark time in my life, the sanctuary was full. The people of the church were worshipers, committed to honoring and adoring Christ in their worship. That morning I was asked to sing a song I had recorded, '*O the Glory of His Presence*,' written by Steven Fry. The only way to describe what followed is to say, 'The Presence of God came in such a supernatural way, I was transported to a place free from the pain and loss.'

"I finished the song; the congregation continued worshiping. I walked back to my seat and praises to God continued like a roar. As I sat down, I put my face in my hands in awe of what God was doing.

I asked the Lord, "How could You use such a messed up human being?" Immediately, I had the first and only vision I have ever had. What I saw was a garden setting with a large clay pot in front of me. The pot was damaged, broken in many places. Above the pot was a flow of water or oil that overwhelmed the capacity of the pot. The fluid was spilling out through all the cracks and broken places. That is when the Lord clearly spoke to me and said, '**I use broken vessels!**'

"To this day, almost 30 years later, remembering that glorious visitation, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and am still carried by that truth! I am still using my gift He gave, to glorify Him whenever I have opportunity."