

The Will of God



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Scripture Readings:

- 1) *Jeremiah 18:1-6, “The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, **2**Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. **3**Then I went down to the potter's house, and behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. **4**And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. **5**Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, **6**O’ house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O’ house of Israel.”*
- 2) *Jeremiah 29:11-13, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. **12**Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. **13**And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”*
- 3) *Romans 12:1-2, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **2**And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Food for Thought:

What is God’s Plan For Us As Individuals and As A Community?



The process of the potter and the clay involves preparing raw earth, centering it on a wheel, shaping it with water and pressure, and firing it in a kiln. The duty of the potter is to guide, purge impurities, and form a useful vessel, while the duty of the clay is to stay soft, responsive, and submissive to the maker's hands.



Choosing Clay:

When choosing clay the potter will decide in selecting the right clay to use. He will need to consider the end product, cost and skill level or purpose. When choosing a clay, there is a need-to-know what type of kiln you have access to and its temperature limits. Each clay has a specific temperature range specifications. He may use more than one clay body if using a variety of construction methods such as potter's wheel or hand building. We learned that before selecting the clay that will be best to use, there are many variables to consider.

“The Process of the Potter”



Preparation:

The potter digs raw clay and kneads or wedges it to remove air pockets and hard lumps.

Centering:

The potter places the clay on the spinning wheel and applies firm pressure to make it stable.

Shaping:

Using water and gentle force, the potter opens the center and pulls the clay upward to build walls.

Reforming:

If the clay becomes marred or flawed, the potter squashes it down and starts the design over.



The Duty of the Clay:

Surrender:

Yield completely to the hands of the potter without rigid resistance.

Pliability:

Remain soft and moist with water so the potter can shape it easily.

Cooperation:

Allow the maker to cut out impurities, pebbles, and flaws during kneading.

Trust:

Endure the spinning wheel and the intense heat of the fire to reach the final form.



The Final Product of a Potter's Work

In pottery, the final product is the completed vessel — a functional or decorative object made from clay that has been shaped, decorated, and fired to durability. This could be a bowl, cup, jar, vase, or sculptural piece, depending on the potter's design and purpose.

From Clay to Finished Vessel

The process begins with raw clay, which the potter works on the wheel or by hand to form the desired shape. The clay is then trimmed, decorated (often with paint or slip) and left to dry. Once dry, the piece is fired in a kiln, transforming it from a fragile, water-absorbent material into a hard, durable object



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