

Why are we here on earth?

2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.”

**Treasure
All-surpassing Power
Jars of Clay**

**Hard pressed on every side
Perplexed
Persecuted
Struck down**

So often we feel inadequate as we face difficulties

My own experience living among the Asmat tribal people in Papua.

Often our experience is what is described in the passage we just read:

**Hard Pressed on every side – a lot of pressures to succeed
Perplexed - confused – frustrated –
Persecuted – discriminated against – talked about – falsely
accused - offended
Struck down – disappointed – discouraged – want to quit – resign-
downhearted**

**The result is that we feel inadequate to function like we should.
We feel that we need more love, more faith, more power, more courage,
more knowledge, more holiness, more of everything!**

Often our attitude is that we need a big improvement.

Yet in the passage we read it mentions about a Treasure in jars of clay. We are the jars of clay and the Treasure is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Treasure is described as having all-surpassing power.

The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 28: 18, “All authority (power) in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

This all-powerful Lord Jesus Christ wants to live in you and me. He desires to function in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

So what is the key to our inadequacies?

Of course the answer is in the Word of God. So let us discover the key to our dilemma

First discovery:

1 John 4:7-8, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

**It says ‘God is love’ not God has love. LOVE IS A PERSON!
A person only loving and that’s certainly not me. Neither is it you!
So we need God in order to love. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God. When we receive Jesus Christ into our lives we receive love and then is it possible to even love our enemies and the unlovable. This includes the militant Moslems who call us infidels. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 5:44, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”**

Second discovery is that Power is also a Person.

1 Corinthians 1:24, “but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

Not Christ has power but He is Power. We have no power over sin, no power over temptations, no power to live a life of victory. We all need the source of power and that is Jesus. He is never defeated and never discouraged. He never gives up. He is never frustrated.

In the same verse it also says that Jesus Christ is wisdom. We all lack wisdom. Some of us may have a lot of knowledge but still lack wisdom.

A Hebrew king was once given the opportunity to choose something he did not already have. He choose wisdom. Some of his wisdom we find in the book of Proverbs. When we receive Jesus Christ as Lord into our lives we receive Love, Power and Wisdom.

Third discovery is in Colossians 3:5-11

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.”

‘Christ is all’ not Christ has all. We are told to put off the old self. This involves repenting from our bad behavior. Next we put on the New Self and this is receiving Christ as Savior and Lord.

A final discovery in the Bible is from our earlier reading; we, the clay jars must contain the Treasure. The only reason for our existence is to contain the creator.

Romans 1:20, “for since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

An immense distortion in the world today is the promotion of self, our ego. Man is out to glorify self. We have so many seminars on self improvement. Perhaps the Lord is laughing at all our efforts to improve self,

PS 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven **laughs;
the Lord scoffs at them.**

PS 2:5 Then he rebukes them in his anger

and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

**PS 2:6 "I have installed my King
on Zion, my holy hill."**

**PS 2:7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.**

**PS 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear
and rejoice with trembling.**

**PS 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry
and you be destroyed in your way,
for his wrath can flare up in a moment.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

We need to install the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ as the one in charge of our lives. We must allow Him to control and reign in our lives.

He is Love, He is Power, He is Wisdom, He is all and in all. He want to fill your life with Himself, so that we can say with the Apostle Paul,

“For me to live is Christ”