



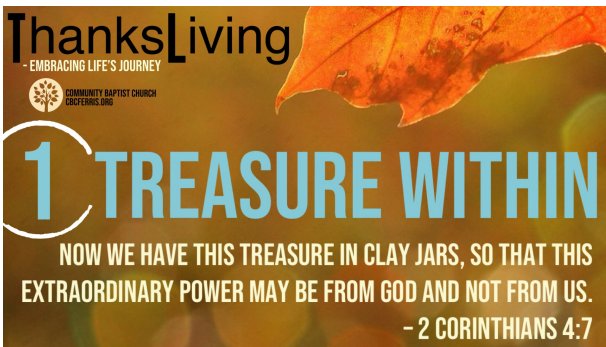
2 Corinthians 4:7-10

Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us.

[8] We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair;

[9] we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed.

[10] We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed in our body.



Recognize the Treasure Within

Life often feels fragile, like a jar of clay, easily broken. Yet, within us lies a divine treasure—the power and presence of God. This reminds us that our ability to endure life’s challenges does not come from our strength but from His. Every trial we face becomes an opportunity to reveal God’s power at work in us.

2 ENDURE WITHOUT LOSING HEART

WE ARE AFFLICTED IN EVERY WAY BUT NOT CRUSHED;

WE ARE PERPLEXED BUT NOT IN DESPAIR; WE ARE PERSECUTED

BUT NOT ABANDONED; WE ARE STRUCK DOWN BUT NOT DESTROYED.

-2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9

Endure Without Losing Heart

Paul acknowledges the struggles of life—pressure, confusion, persecution, and hardships. Yet, he emphasizes that these trials do not defeat us because God sustains us. Endurance isn't about avoiding pain; it's about trusting God to carry us through it. By holding onto His promises, we can find hope even in the darkest moments.

3 REJOICE IN JESUS

WE ALWAYS CARRY THE DEATH OF JESUS IN OUR BODY,

SO THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS MAY ALSO BE DISPLAYED IN OUR BODY.

-2 CORINTHIANS 4:10

Rejoice in the Revelation of Jesus

As we endure, we reflect the life of Jesus. His suffering and resurrection are mirrored in our own journeys. Every difficulty allows us to become a testimony of His grace and power. When we endure with faith, we maintain a heart of gratitude, knowing our struggles are not in vain—they are part of His purpose.

Conclusion:

Endurance isn't easy, but it's essential for our journey of faith. By focusing on the treasure within, trusting God through every challenge, and allowing His life to shine through us, we can embrace each day with thanksgiving. Let us persevere with a spirit of gratitude, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

JARS OF CLAY

Fragile earthenware jars were common in Paul's day. Thus, they provided an apt metaphor for illustrating the fragility of human messengers in contrast to the valuable treasure of the message of salvation. The light of the gospel is the treasure that even Satan cannot take away. Clay pots leak, they chip, they aren't very attractive. By design they are simply functional. Their plain appearance doesn't detract from their contents. Often, we are discouraged by our imperfections. Feeling inadequate, we feel ineffective. These verses teaches, however, that our imperfect humanity is no hindrance to God's holy purpose. A person's flaws, scars, chips, and cracks allow the presence of an all-sufficient God to leak out. List everything about you that you wish were different. In what areas of your life do you feel inadequate? Can you thank God for the way he has "wired" you? Many will see Christ in you and be drawn to him because they relate more easily to someone who isn't perfect.