

A Spiritual Pottery Lesson

Isaiah 64:8

Isaiah 64:8 (NASB)

⁸“But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.”

I decided to take a cue from the prophet Jeremiah, who visited a potter’s studio at the Lord’s request (Jeremiah 18:1-6).

Jeremiah 18:1-6 (NASB)

¹“The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD saying,

²“Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will announce My words to you.”

³Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something on the wheel.

⁴But the vessel that he was making of clay was spoiled in the hand of the potter; so, he remade it into another vessel, as it pleased the potter to make.

⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁶“Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter *does*?” declares the LORD. “Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.”

So, I stopped by an art institute to observe a class—my sole purpose was to better understand the biblical metaphor of God as the Potter and people as the clay. Here’s what I learned when I walked into a room full of whirring pottery wheels.

The Potter has power over the clay. He can do what He chooses. We humans do have limited free will, but God’s will is greater. So even if we try to resist His sculpting hand, He continues to work toward His purpose. The master Craftsman has set out to achieve a particular design in us, and He has a plan to make it take shape.

The Potter works the clay with patience. Since God knows that spiritual maturity can’t be rushed, He forms our Christlike character slowly—one experience at a time. That means He must also have perseverance, as human clay sometimes shifts off-center and becomes misshapen. Just as clay can be fashioned only when it sits precisely in the middle of the wheel, Christians must be in the Father’s will to grow spiritually. The Potter maneuvers the drifting believer back into position and begins remodeling. He never discards His vessels but tirelessly works to perfect them.

Our God is a personal Potter. Our God is a personal Potter. His creations reflect His personality and character. And His Spirit is poured into each human vessel, so He can be an intimate part of our life. The result is a work of true beauty—a saint wholly committed to Him.