

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

“Don’t lose heart: there are reasons why God uses jars of clay”

1. **Manifesting** (what God is showing)

Treasure in <u>jars of clay</u>	—————▶	surpassing power belongs to God
Pressed		but not crushed/restricted
Perplexed		but not despairing
Persecuted		but not abandoned/forsaken
Struck down		but not destroyed/perishing
Carrying death of Jesus	—————▶	life of Jesus manifested in our bodies
Being given over to death	—————▶	life of Jesus manifested in our mortal flesh

2. **Reaching** (who is this all for)

Death is at work in us	life in you
We have that spirit of faith	present us with you
All this is	for your benefit
	grace reaching more → thanksgiving → glory of God

3. **Preparing** (what we are being fitted for)

Outwardly wasting away	inwardly renewed day by day
Light and momentary affliction	surpassingly surpassing eternal weight of glory
Seen, temporary	unseen, eternal

Lamenting

1. Calling on God to listen
2. Laying out the complaint
3. Asking for help
4. Speaking gospel truth
 - a. to our own hearts
 - b. to the Lord
 - c. to one another

PSALM 116 (Septuagint)

I love the Lord, because he has heard
the sound of my plea.

²Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

³The labour pains of death encompassed me;
the perils of Hades found me;
I found affliction and anguish.

⁴Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, deliver my soul!”

⁵The Lord is merciful and righteous;
our God is merciful.

⁶The Lord preserves the simple;
when I was humbled, he saved me.

⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the Lord has done good to you.

⁸For he has delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
and my feet from stumbling;

⁹I shall be pleasing before the Lord
in the land of the living. Halleluiah!

¹⁰I believed, therefore I spoke:

“I am greatly humbled”;

¹¹I said in my amazement,
“Every man is a liar.”

¹²What shall I give to the LORD
for all his giving to me?

¹³I will take the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,

¹⁴I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.

¹⁶O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your
maidservant.

You have burst my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer to you the sacrifice of
thanksgiving
and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁸I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.