

The Exchanger

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THE NEWSLETTER

OF

FELLOWSHIP
BIBLE CHURCH
WHITE ROCK

The Mission of
FBCWR:

*Connecting People to
God's Life-Changing
Power*

*We've Got
Connections!*

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels (clay pots), so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves.

2 Corinthians 4:7

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Crackpots and Cracked Pots

Some of you know I move furniture once a day (it's my exercise program). Well I have broken lots of things. This week I broke a platter that had a crack in it. Usually I throw it out and move on, but this time I just sat down on the floor and stared at it and let the tears roll.

That still small voice whispered in my ears, "You are a cracked pot, Terri". I responded with self-pity, self-examination and self-hatred and answered, "You made me and You did not use the best material.

It's Your fault I am such a mess. I am so tired of struggling with how I handle hardship and trials. If I could just set myself aside, I would be great." That voice interrupted, "You have a brother in scripture who's a lot like you."

Paul said in 2 Corinthians that He was under pressure far beyond His ability to endure, so that He despaired even of life. He felt the sentence of death, so he wouldn't rely on himself but on God. This "death feeling", whether others think our trials are hard or not, is still a "death feeling". We each have our own death to die. That death brings out our real treasure in our jars of clay, Christ in us. I guess my jar of clay is needed even if it drives me and others crazy.

Where Is God?

Where is God's comfort during this dying time? When He was on the cross, Jesus said, "Why have you forsaken me". Death is a lonely time.

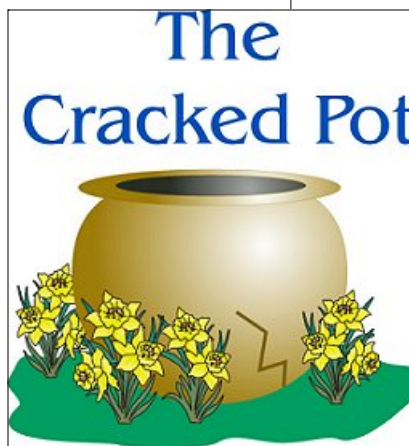
Yet as I open my heart to God's comfort I see it in HIS PEOPLE.

God's Comfort

Blessed *be* the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in *any* affliction with the comfort with which *we ourselves are comforted by God* (2 Corinthians 1:3).

The Comfort of Prayers

Paul said, "On Him I have set my hope that He will continue to deliver me as you help me with your prayers" (2 Corinthians 1:10)... I feel people praying!!!!



The Comfort of Acceptance

Then I thought of one of the best ways people minister to me is to stop and listen to my frustrations. I was sure they would reject me at some point, yet their love seems to grow towards me. I am such a basket case during trials that my greatest fear is saying something to offend people. He does not get offended with clay pots. So if He is in His people they aren't offended with my frustration and weaknesses.

I realize people only can give the comfort that they have received from God during their trials. It is God's comfort that comforts, using clay pots to pass it on.

-Terri Fornear