

GRACE
Romans 5:20
SUPER
GLUE



Satan wants to END things
JESUS wants to MEND things



Luke 7:47

God will make you whole if
you give Him all the pieces.

Welcome!
RESTORATION

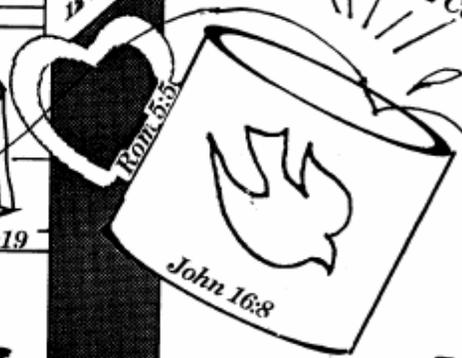


Potter's House
Jer. 18:4

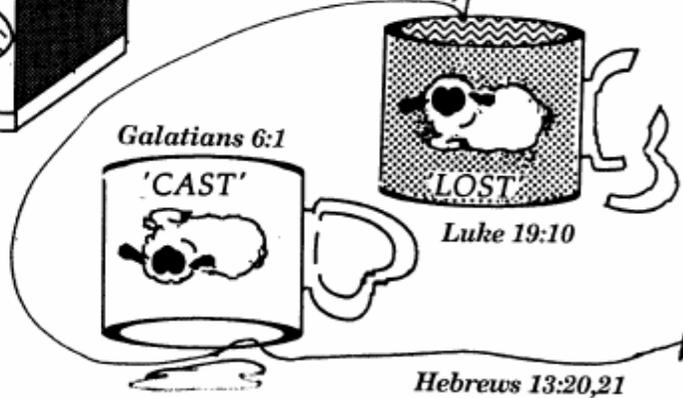
God forgives the
and UN
the **MESS**er
es
Joel 2:25

POUR OUT TO OTHERS...
AS I POUR INTO YOU

GLORY
2 Cor. 4:7



John 16:8



Galatians 6:1

'CAST'

Luke 19:10

Hebrews 13:20,21

CHANNELS ONLY!

Restoring Grace

But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound (Rom. 5:20b, KJV).

. . . I am like a broken vessel (Ps. 31:12b, KJV).

. . . Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little (Luke 7:47, KJV).

Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert (Isa. 43:18, 19, KJV).

. . . Nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37, NIV).

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me (Ps. 31:15, NIV).

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:4, KJV).

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us (2 Cor. 4:7, KJV).

And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it (Jer. 18:4, KJV).

And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten... (Joel 2:25, KJV).

And when he (the Holy Spirit) is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8, KJV).

. . . God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us (Rom. 5:5, NIV).

. . . He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior (Tit. 3:5, NIV).

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen (Heb. 13:20, 21, KJV).

GRACE for the Rest of Your Life

RESTORING GRACE

RESTORING GRACE (Superglue): Nothing Is Beyond Repair; God's Perfect Timing; God's Glory as Goal; Re-Useable Vessel/Channel

Nothing Is Beyond Repair

Flow: Follow the superglue line from upper left to lower right.

Think of God's grace as superglue. Why does one keep superglue (or tape, screws, nails, etc.) around the house? They are used to repair things that are torn or broken. Likewise, grace is needed for repairing broken lives. Grace is needed because, to understate it, things are not quite right in the world. *"Where sin abounded (increased), grace abounded (increased) all the more"* (Rom. 5:20). There is always more grace for repair than the broken object needs—an unlimited supply.

Some people's idea of grace is like a woman who tosses dishes from her cupboards onto the floor to test how good the superglue works when she endeavors to repair them. (See cartoon in notes and quotes, at end of lesson).

How does something break (i.e., around the house)?—By accident, carelessness, undo pressure, wearing out, ignorance in how to handle it, vandalism, neglect, etc. Breakage is usually unintended, but there are ways to **restore** the object to its original beauty.

Restore means: to renew, return or re-establish; to bring into the former or original state. "Restoration described by this definition has become a lost art in our current age of easily disposable items. Mass production of goods has prompted mass reduction of intrinsic value; things are cheap. It is easier to replace something than to fix it. Sadly, this throw-away mentality has even infiltrated our relationships." (*J. Hummel*)

God never intended for us to be broken, but it was inevitable when sin entered the Garden of Eden. Look at the cup with the broken handle (on the upper left of the visual), *"...I am like a broken vessel"* (Ps. 31:12b). Then Grace entered and God provided a way back. Grace is a restoring agent. Notice on the visual how the superglue is aimed at the broken spot—spot welding. God is able to aim His grace at the specific broken areas of our lives. There is a battle for our lives: **Satan wants to END things, but Jesus wants to MEND things!** We should not focus, however, on how it got broken, but on how to get it mended, repaired or restored.

The value of the broken object is in direct proportion to the effort put into restoring it. "Christ's supreme investment on Calvary gives an important clue to the Father's estimation of the value of one soul. Jesus counted the cost and paid it in full with His own lifeblood. Christ's climactic victory on the Cross eloquently expresses His heart of love for the world." (*J. Hummel*)

The famous marble statue, *The Pieta* by Michelangelo, was shattered by vandals into hundreds of pieces. The situation looked hopeless, but Vatican authorities called in experts. Over a period of three months the experts restored the Pieta so that the damage can hardly be detected. The beauty of Grace is that no matter how shattered one's life, it is restorable or rebuildable because of our inestimable value to Him.

This leads to the next picture of the severely broken cup. *"...Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little"* (Lk. 7:47). Those who are forgiven much are usually more thankful than those who are forgiven little. Those who have had more mending done are more thankful because they recognize the miracle of restoration. **God is able to make us whole if we give Him all the pieces...**from big pieces to thousands of tiny splinters. (Read *Broken Dreams* poem on notes and quotes, at end of lesson)

When we give Him all the pieces, we need to leave them with Him until such time as He is finished with the restoring process! Let us wait in faith and not interrupt His special work.

**Give them all, give them all, give them all to Jesus.
Shattered dreams, wounded hearts, broken toys.
Give them all, give them all, give them all to Jesus.
He will turn your sorrows into joy!**

The Potter's House (Jeremiah 18)

We now move to the large cupboard: Welcome, RESTORATION. Let's symbolically put all our broken pieces into a bag and entrust it to the Potter. Notice the bag on the shelf labeled 'Rapha El,' which means 'God Who Heals.' *"Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert"* (Isa. 43:18-19).

Restoration calls for a miracle, but that is where God excels. *"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need"* (Heb. 4:16). God is always there in Person to greet us, never putting us on hold or substituting voice mail.

Often, when our hearts or lives are broken and shattered, we feel abandoned, valueless and useless. But God does not see us that way. Look at the various vessels on the shelves at the Potter's House. Now, carefully read B.V. Cornwall's poem, **CHOSEN VESSEL** (in Notes and Quotes).

Let's reiterate the last several lines:

***Then gently he lifted the vessel of clay,
Mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day.
Spoke to it kindly – "There's work you must do!
Just pour out to others, as I pour into you."***

As earthen vessels, we are made from dust and will return to dust. *"And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it"* (Jer. 18:4). Dr. Walter Kaiser comments, "The marvelous truth of this passage is that spoiled, ruined, or marred vessels were not tossed aside and discarded in favor of those that emerged perfect. They were remade! GOD CAN USE CRACK-POTS!"

"And as Jeremiah attested (Jer. 3:19-42), no one or no object restores tenderly and totally the wounded, weary soul of a man except His Creator and Savior." (*Roy Hession*)

"You complain of weakness, feebleness, of emptiness. Never mind, that is what you were made for—to be an emptied vessel in which God can put His fullness and His strength." (*Andrew Murray*)

“Out of the surrender of our Lord in Gethsemane did come a cross, but beyond the cross lay an empty tomb and a redeemed world! As you look at your life you may see your own broken heart. Be glad that it is broken. TAKE IT TO CALVARY! There under the warm glow of His love, your broken heart can be welded together again, and your sorrow be turned into rejoicing. Be thankful for your broken heart, if by becoming broken we are led to Christ for the mending.” (*Charles Allen, God’s Psychiatry*)

God can remake our lives when we come to Him empty of our own resources. **“Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the Cross I cling.”** Sometimes the situation looks impossible to us, but nothing is too difficult for God. *“Ah, Sovereign Lord, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You” (Jer. 32:17). “I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for Me?” (Jer. 32:27). “For nothing will be impossible with God” (Lk. 1:37).*

*Down in the human heart, crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Cords that are broken will vibrate once more.
(Fanny Crosby)*

God’s Perfect Timing

Notice the clock on the shelf in the Potter’s House and the calendar on the right side wall. These represent the timing factor in the restoring process. The clock is set for 7:00, and the calendar shows the seventh day of the seventh month. Seven is the biblical number of perfection. After 120 years of building the ark, Noah had to wait seven days for the rains to come. The first six days must have seemed like wasted time! Consider the walls of Jericho; there was not even a crack in them until the seventh time around on the seventh day. Naaman’s hand did not gradually heal between the first and sixth baths in the Jordan; his healing took place on the seventh bathing in the Jordan River (2 Kings 5:10). Nebuchadnezzar saw seven years of discipline and deprivation (Dan. 4) until he acknowledged God’s sovereignty. Saul failed to wait for Samuel on the seventh day and as a result he lost his kingdom (1 Sam. 13). Along with others, these examples from Scripture should encourage us to trust God’s perfect timing as He does His work in His time in our lives.

*In His time, in His time,
He makes all things beautiful in His time.
Lord, please show me ev’ry day, as You’re teaching me Your way,
that You’ll do just what You say in Your time.
In Your time, in Your time,
You make all things beautiful in Your time.
Lord, my life to You I bring, may each song I have to sing
be to You a lovely thing in Your time.
(Diane Ball)*

Illustration:

A missionary was interviewing a young man from Romania regarding the horrors of life under Ceaucescu and the dramatic dismantling of his regime. He asked, “During the months immediately preceding the Revolution, did you ever anticipate that all this would ever happen?” The young Romanian answered, “Not for a moment.” “What about just a few weeks

before...did you have any idea what was about to take place?" Again, he insisted, "We had no idea." Then, "What about just a day or two before the Revolution?" His answer made it clear that right up until the very moment when God intervened, the whole situation looked utterly impossible to those who were involved.

God's Glory as the Goal

"The deeper the need and the more bitter the extremity, the greater the opportunity for God to show forth His mighty power in our lives." (*R. Goforth*) The glory of restoration bypasses the restored object and goes to the restorer. Referring back to *The Pieta*—anyone who had seen the hundreds of pieces and then saw the restored statue would most likely ask with awe, "WHO was able to put this back together again?"

From missionary Ruth Hitchcock in her book, *Touch of the Master's Hand*: "Some of the critics in the villages said that we Christians were like the junkman who goes around gathering up old broken iron or copper pots and pans to make them over into something useful. We did not object to the criticism, for we knew that God is able to take sinful, broken lives and make them over."

"Jesus gets His glory—not in the number of good Christians He pats on the back, but in the failures He restores." (*Roy Hession*)

"Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work" (2 Tim. 2:20-21 NASB).

Re-Useable Vessel/Channel

Notice that the restored cup is now turned to the other side with the Dove displayed. "*And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us*" (Rom. 5:5). The Spirit is active in our lives now, and we are used as His channel, or vessel, to reach the lost sheep (Lk. 19:10) and the cast sheep (Gal. 6:1).

"POUR OUT TO OTHERS...AS I POUR INTO YOU!"

"My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God" (Jas. 5:19-20 The Message).

"...And when you have turned back (been restored), strengthen your brothers" (Lk. 22:32b).

Emptied that Thou shouldst fill me,
A clean vessel in Thy hand,
With no power but as Thou givest
Graciously with each command.

(*Mary E. Maxwell*)

The Holy Spirit in us "*will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment*" (Jn. 16:8). The Holy Spirit in us will rescue the perishing, care for the dying, and grace the failing.

It is the Holy Spirit's work, but He does it in and through us. It is the *Holy Spirit in "ewe."* The Book of Acts teaches how God uses people to reach other people. Philip found the Ethiopian eunuch reading Isaiah 53 and led him to JESUS. The Holy Spirit used Peter to present to

Cornelius and his family the truth regarding The Way (ch. 10). Paul remained blind until God used Ananias to restore his sight (ch. 9). **Each one—Reach one!**

Most of us also came to know the Lord through at least one person. God uses people to lead others to Him—people to people. *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us”* (2 Cor. 4:7). It is not that we have it all, or know it all, but that we are channels for the Lord to use—the mended, restored cracked pots. CHANNELS ONLY!

“I am but an earthen vessel, but in that vessel I carry a treasure of unspeakable worth, even the Lord of glory. All the worry and fret of God’s children would end if their eyes were opened to the wealth of resources they carry with them, resources sufficient for every demand they will ever meet. Has it dawned upon me yet that the Spirit of God within me is a Person?”
(Watchman Nee)

The potter worked at his task
With patience, love and skill.
A vessel, marred and broken,
He altered again to his will.

I know a mender of broken hearts,
And of lives that are all undone;
He takes them all, as they come to Him
And He loves them, every one.

It was blackened, bent and old
But with traces of beauty left,
So he worked, this mender of pottery
To restore the charm bereft.

With patience, love and skill
That surpasses the knowledge of men,
This Master Potter gathers the lost
And restores to His image again.

Till at last it stood transformed
And he viewed it with tender eyes,
The work of his hands and love,
This potter, patient and wise.

O Lover of folk with broken lives,
O wonderful Potter Divine,
I bring my soul for Thy healing touch;
In me, let Thy beauty shine.
(Anon)

“God forgives the messer and unmesses the mess.” *(Roy Hession)* It doesn’t matter how bad the mess is or how long it has been a mess: *“I will restore the years the locusts have eaten”* (Joel 2:25). ***Our God is a God of Restoring Grace!***

Review and reinforce this lesson by incorporating the following notes and quotes pages and by reading the Scriptures.

Chosen Vessel

by B. V. Cornwall

**The Master was searching for a vessel to use;
Before him were many, which one would he choose?**



**“Take me,” cried the gold one, I’m shiny and bright.
I’m of great value and I do things just right.
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,
And for someone like you, Master, gold would be best.”**



**The Master passed on with no word at all,
And looked at a silver urn narrow and tall.
“I’ll serve you, dear Master, I’ll pour out your wine
I’ll be on your table whenever you dine.
My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true,
And silver will always complement you.”**



**Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass,
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass.
“Here! Here!” cried the vessel, “I know I will do,
Place me on your table for all men to view.”**



**“Look at me,” called the goblet of crystal so clear,
“My transparency shows my contents so dear.
Though fragile am I, I will serve you with pride,
And I’m sure I’ll be happy in your house to abide.”**



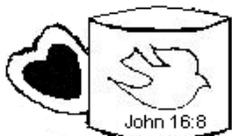
**The Master came next to a vessel of wood,
Polished and carved, it solidly stood.
“You may use me, dear Master,” the wooden bowl said,
“But I’d rather you used me for fruit, not for bread.”**



Isaiah 43:19

**Then the Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay,
Empty and broken it helplessly lay.
No hope had the vessel, that the Master might choose
To cleanse, and make whole, to fill, and to use.**

**“Ah! This is the vessel I’ve been hoping to find.
I’ll mend it and use it and make it all mine.
I need not the vessel with pride of itself,
Nor one that is narrow to sit on the shelf,
Nor one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud,
Nor one that displays its contents so proud.
Nor the one that thinks he can do things just right,
But this plain, earthen vessel, filled with power and might.”**



John 16:8

**Then gently he lifted the vessel of clay,
Mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day.
Spoke to it kindly – “There’s work you must do!
Just pour out to others, as I pour into you.”**



Me genoito! (Romans 6:1,2)

(...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ME GENOITO!...)

Broken Dreams

*As children bring their broken toys
With tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God
Because He is my Friend.*

*But instead of leaving Him
In peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help
With ways that were my own.*

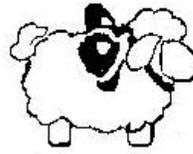
*At last I snatched them back and cried.
"How can You be so slow?"
"My child," He said, "What could I do?
You never let them go."*

Author Unknown



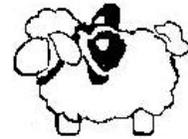
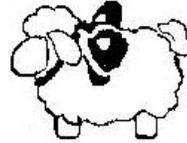
You complain of weakness, feebleness, of emptiness. Never mind, that is what you are made for – to be an emptied vessel in which God can put His fullness and His strength.

Andrew Murray



**Down in the human heart,
Crushed by the tempter,
Feelings lie buried that
Grace can restore:
Touched by a loving heart,
Wakened by kindness,
Cords that are broken
Will vibrate once more.**

Fanny Crosby:



Broken

By Laurie A. Katz

*Broken in spirit
The candle burns dim,
To relinquish my rights,
I struggle within.*

*Broken in spirit
Shine down from above.
Let me hide in the shadow
Of Calv'rys great love.*

*Broken in spirit
Make clear the right way.
LORD, capture my heart
To do what You say.*

*Broken in spirit
There's no strength in me.
Must I surrender?
All others will see.*

*Broken in spirit
He crushes my pride,
Then lifts me to heaven;
Grace cradles His child.*

*Broken by Jesus
Stripped down to real me.
Not broken in spirit –
But broken for Thee.*

Re: *The Potter's House, Jeremiah 18:1-12*

The marvelous truth of this passage is that spoiled, ruined, or marred vessels were not tossed aside and discarded in favor of those that emerged perfect. They were remade! GOD CAN USE CRACKED POTS! Walter C. Kaiser



From a missionary in China:

Some of the critics in the villages said that we Christians were like the junkman who goes around gathering up old broken iron or copper pots and pans to make them over into something useful. We didn't object to the criticism, for we know that God is able to take sinful, broken lives and make them over.

Ruth Hitchcock

That's what GRACE is all about!

"I will restore to you the years the locusts hath eaten" (Joel 2:25).

How many years we are not told; only this: *"I will restore the years."*

Human lives are often laid bare – barren patches produced by our own failures; a wilderness stretching across our life. But what comfort in these words: *"I will restore the years the locusts have eaten."*

Have you been brooding over some sorrow? Has it darkened your life as a swarm of locusts might darken the sun at midday? And have you cried out in your anguish *"The sun will never shine again?"* But read the word He has promised.

Turn to Him, dear reader – turn to the One whom you may have been inclined to forget when you lived in the larger house. He is waiting; and if he does not see fit to give you back the earthly possession once so highly prized by you, remember this: *in a higher and better way He will restore those years.*

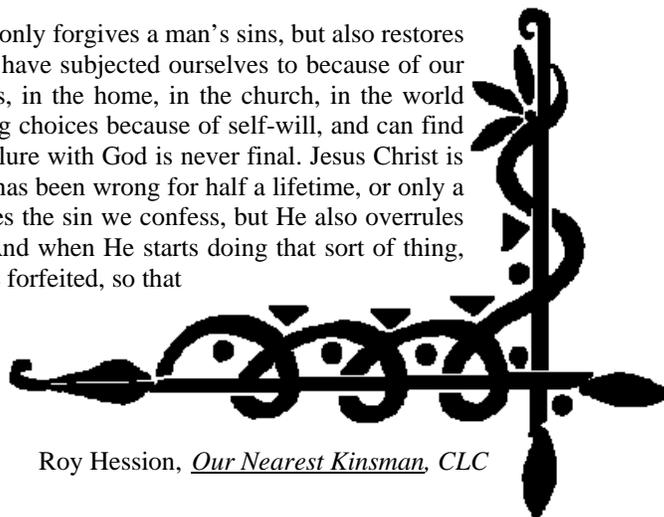
The years that the locust hath eaten sometimes take another form: years spent away from God in pursuit of worldly pleasure and self-gratification! How many have tried this! No wonder the fields are bare! Can God restore these years? Did He not restore the years for Naomi?

GOD CAN!

The blue water-lily abounds in several of the canals in Alexandria, Egypt, which at certain seasons become dry; and the beds of these canals, which quickly become burnt as hard as bricks by the action of the sun, are then used as carriage roads. When, however, the water is admitted again, the lily resumes its growth with redoubled vigour and splendour.

To create He had only to speak; but to redeem He had to bleed!

Redemption/Restoration is that activity of the grace of God that not only forgives a man's sins, but also restores and overrules all the loss occasioned by his sin. And what loss we have subjected ourselves to because of our folly, sin and pride... We lose our happy relationships with others, in the home, in the church, in the world outside, and we set people against us. We make mistakes and wrong choices because of self-will, and can find ourselves in grievous and complicated situations as a result. But failure with God is never final. Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of lost men and lost situations, whether the situation has been wrong for half a lifetime, or only a day. And when He moves in to redeem/restore, He not only forgives the sin we confess, but He also overrules for good the whole situation in which we have landed ourselves. And when He starts doing that sort of thing, He does it in style. He so often gives back to a man far more than he forfeited, so that he cannot go on blaming himself, but is lost in wonder, love and praise for all that grace has done for a poor failure like himself. Oh, this great and marvelous God of redemption/restoration.



Roy Hession, *Our Nearest Kinsman, CLC*

C-H-A-N-N-E-L

- C** **Contrite Heart** “A broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise” (Ps. 51:17).
“But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at my word” (Isa. 66:2)
- H** **Humble in Spirit** “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (Jas. 4:6)
“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time” (1 Pet. 5:6)
- A** **Acknowledge Dependence** “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Prov. 3:5-6).
Strombeck: “Though man has rebelled against God, he has never gained independence from God; he is still dependent, though unwilling to acknowledge it.”
- N** **Not of Ourselves** “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- N** **Not of Us** “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us” (2 Cor. 4:7).
Ian Thomas -- I CAN'T, He never said I could... HE CAN, He always said He would!
(see Jn 15:5; Phil. 4:13).
- E** **Entrusting Faith** “Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right” (1 Pet. 4:19).
- L** **Light Bearers** “...that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:15).
“Let your light so shine among men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

“And may we forget the CHANNEL, seeing only HIM! Emptied that Thou shouldst fill me, a clean vessel in Thy hand; With no pow’r but as Thou givest graciously with each command. CHANNELS only, blessed Master, But with all Thy wondrous pow’r flowing through us, Thou canst use us every day and every hour.”
Mary E.Maxwell