

- Jars of Clay
- Paul in Corinth: Acts 18:1-17

Paul in Corinth

Acts 18:1-17

- Paul in Corinth ... works with Aquila and Priscilla as tentmaker

Paul in Corinth

Acts 18:1-17

reasoned in
synagogue

- Acts 18:4: And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

Paul in Corinth

Acts 18:1-17

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Paul in Corinth

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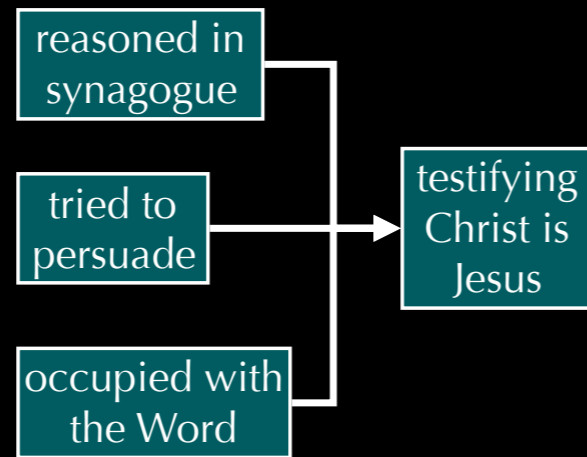
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Paul in Corinth

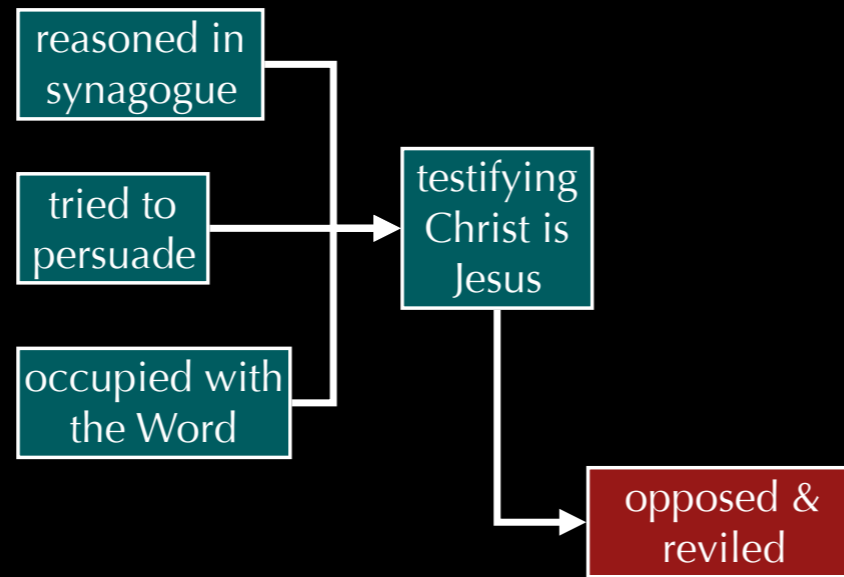
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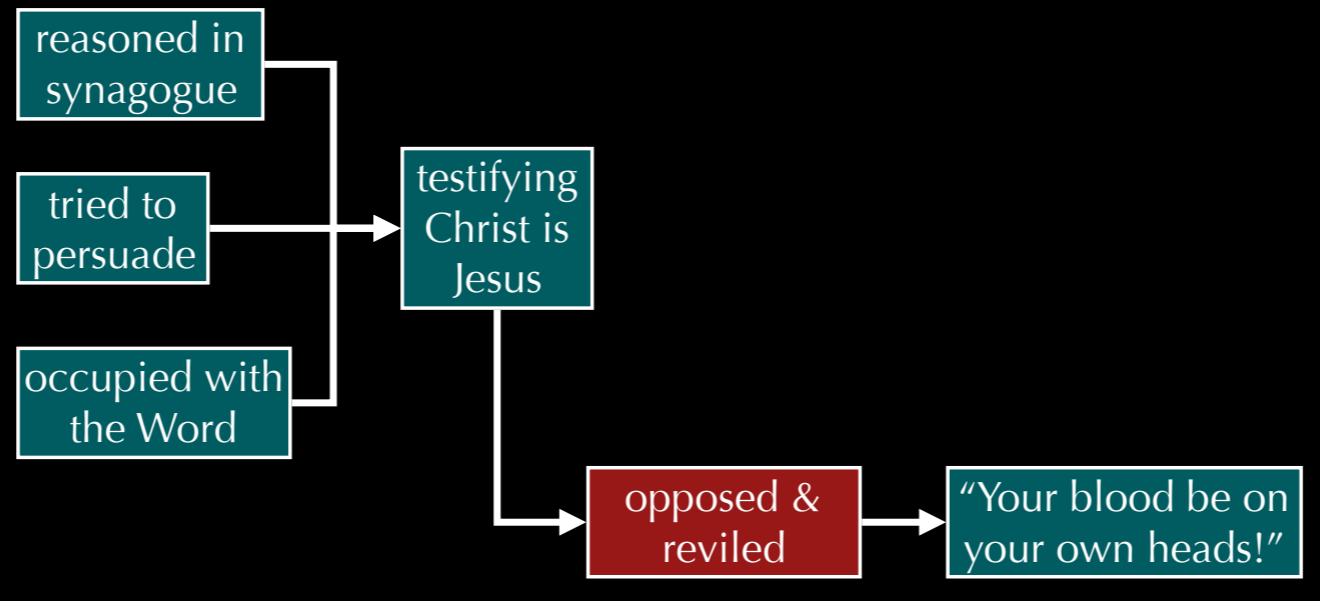
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- Acts 18:6 (ESV) 6 And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

Paul in Corinth

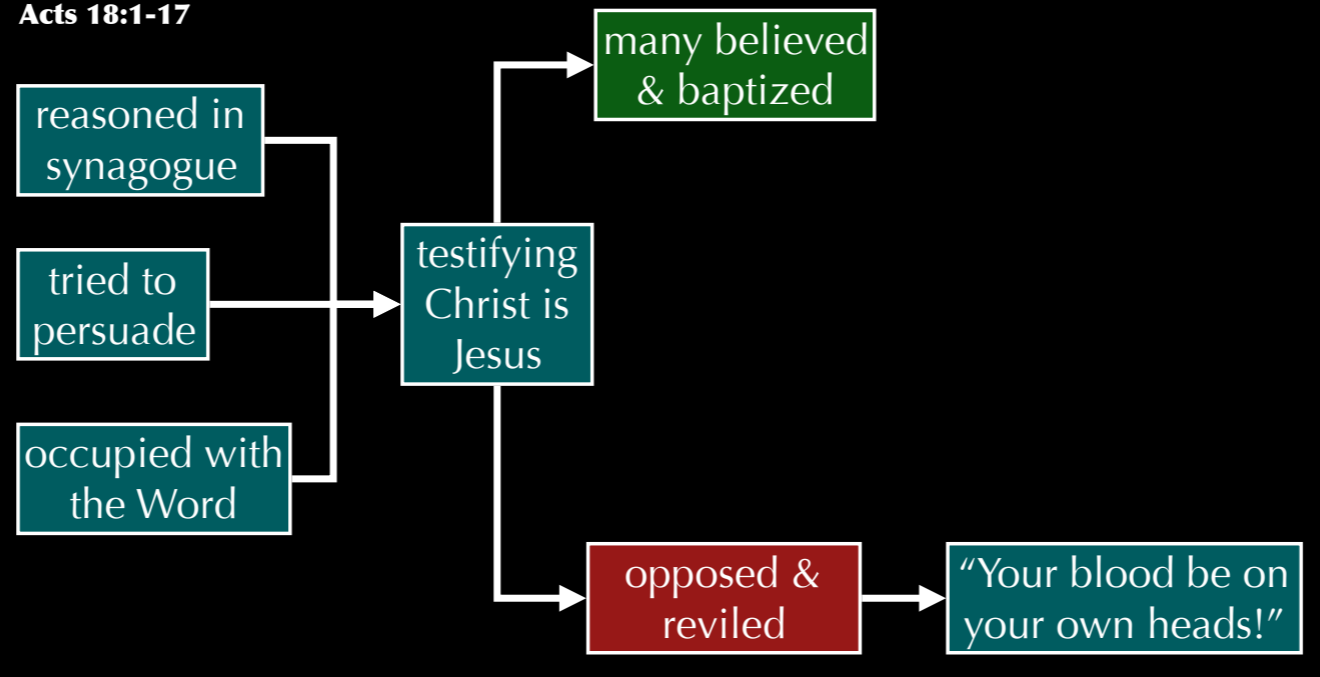
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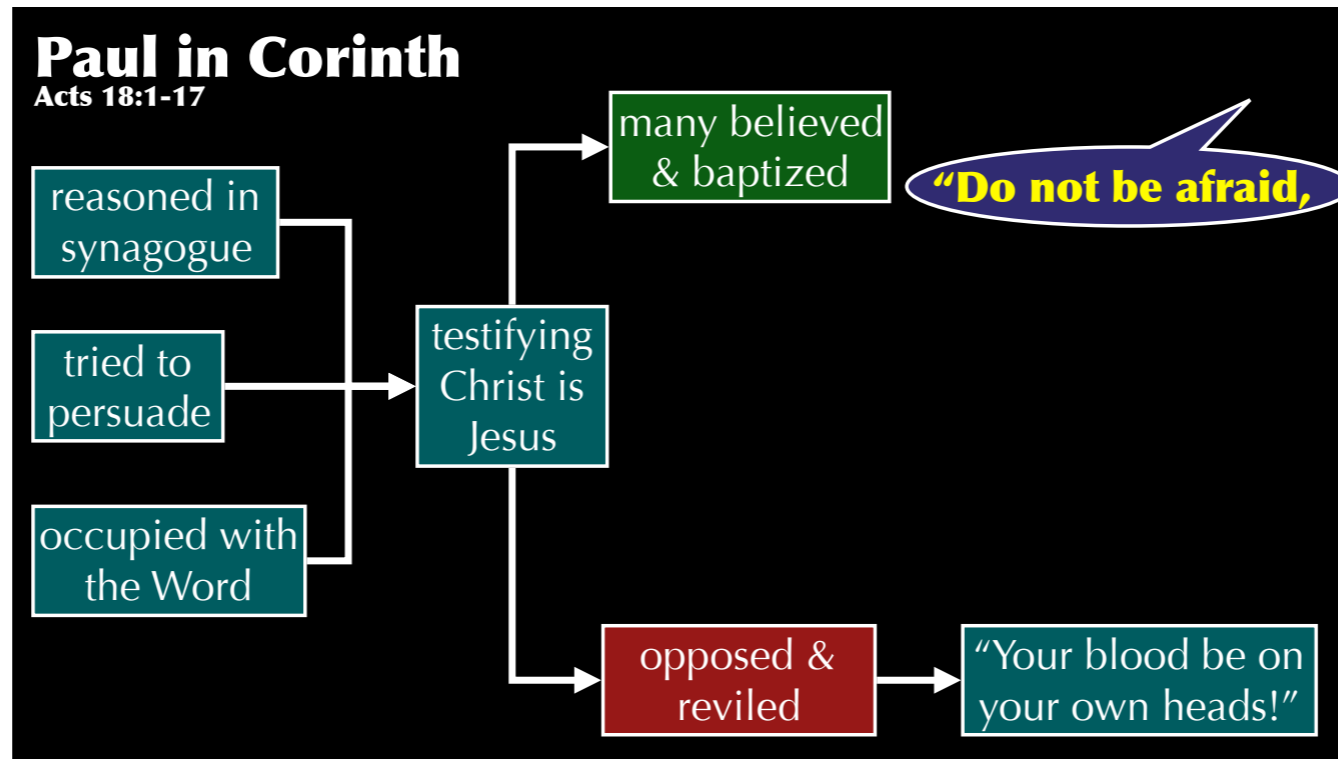
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Paul in Corinth

Acts 18:1-17



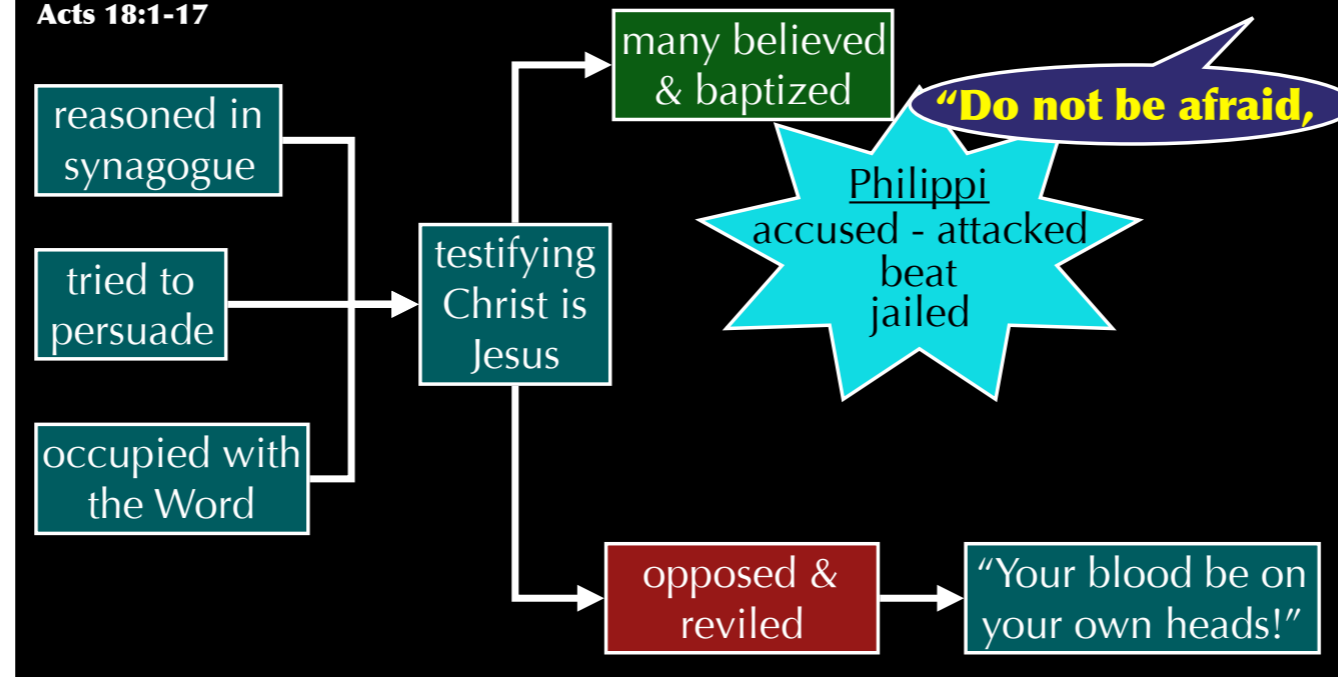
- Acts 18:8 (ESV) 8 Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.



- Acts 18:9-10 (ESV) 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”

Paul in Corinth

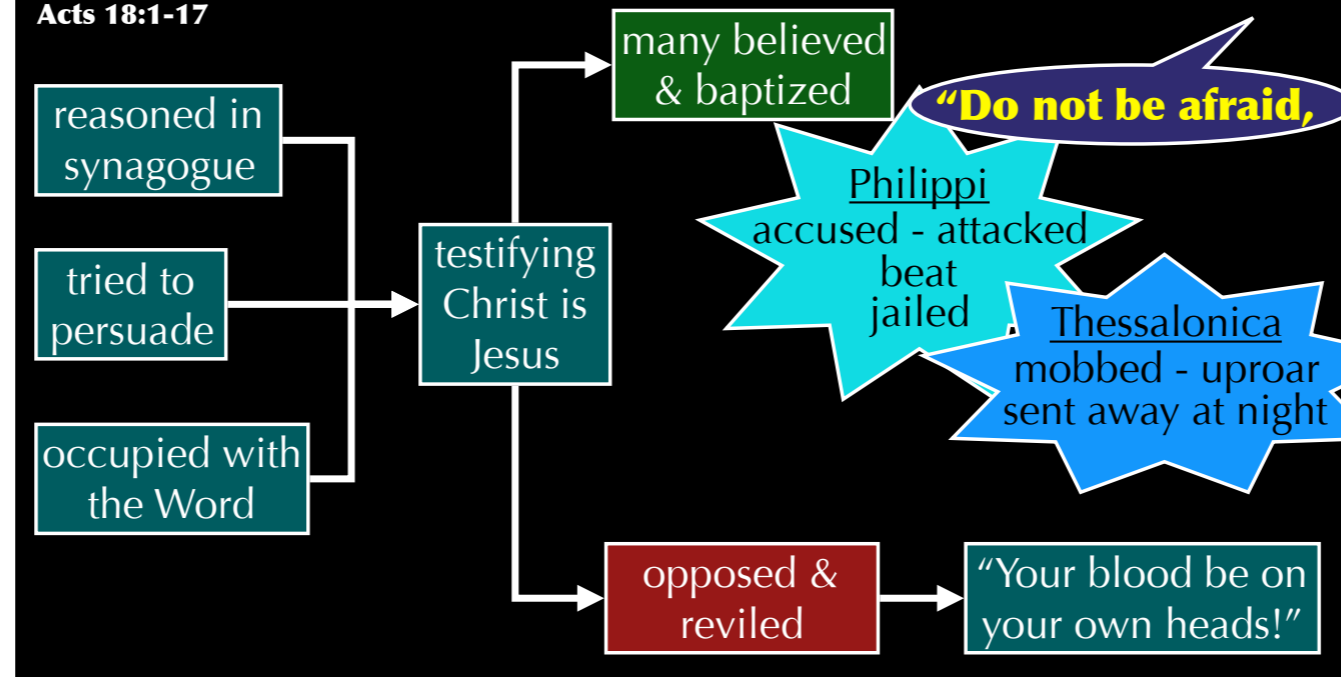
Acts 18:1-17



- Called to come to Macedonia...
- Philippi
 - attacked and accused
 - beaten with rods, many blows
 - unjustly jailed, stocks
 - asked to leave town

Paul in Corinth

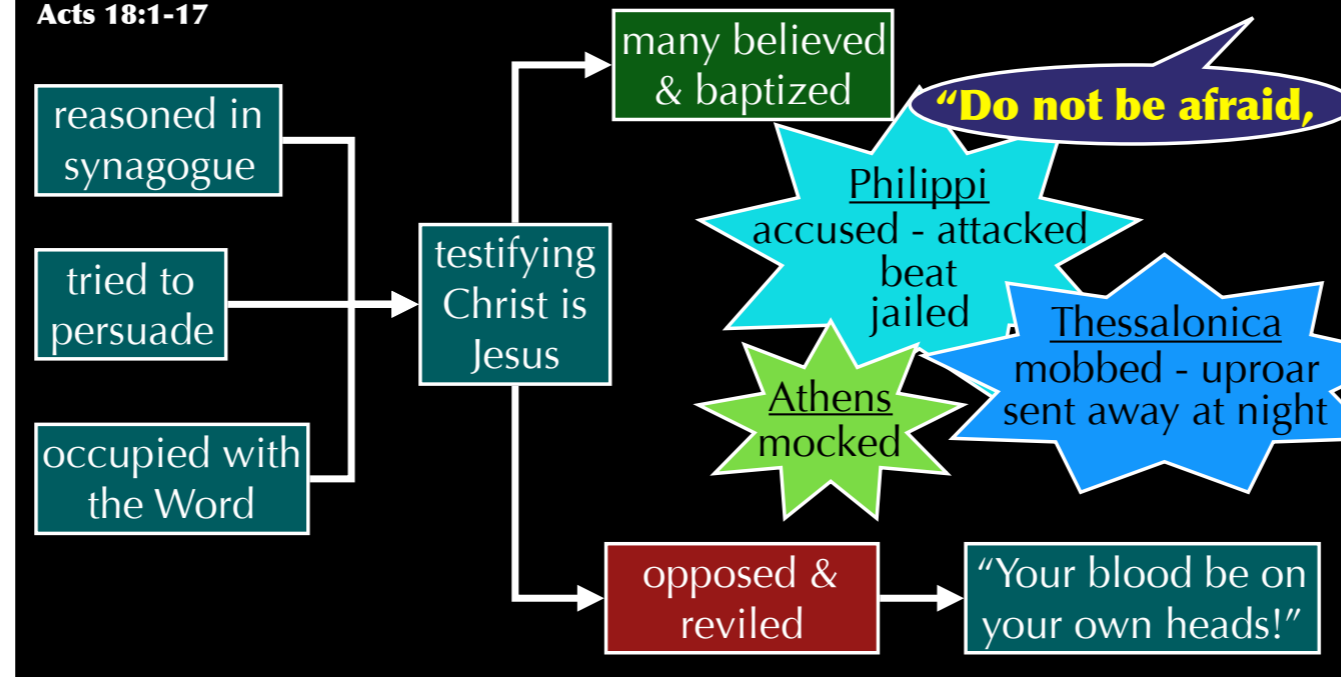
Acts 18:1-17



- Thessalonica
 - wicked rabble, mob, city in uproar
 - sent away at night

Paul in Corinth

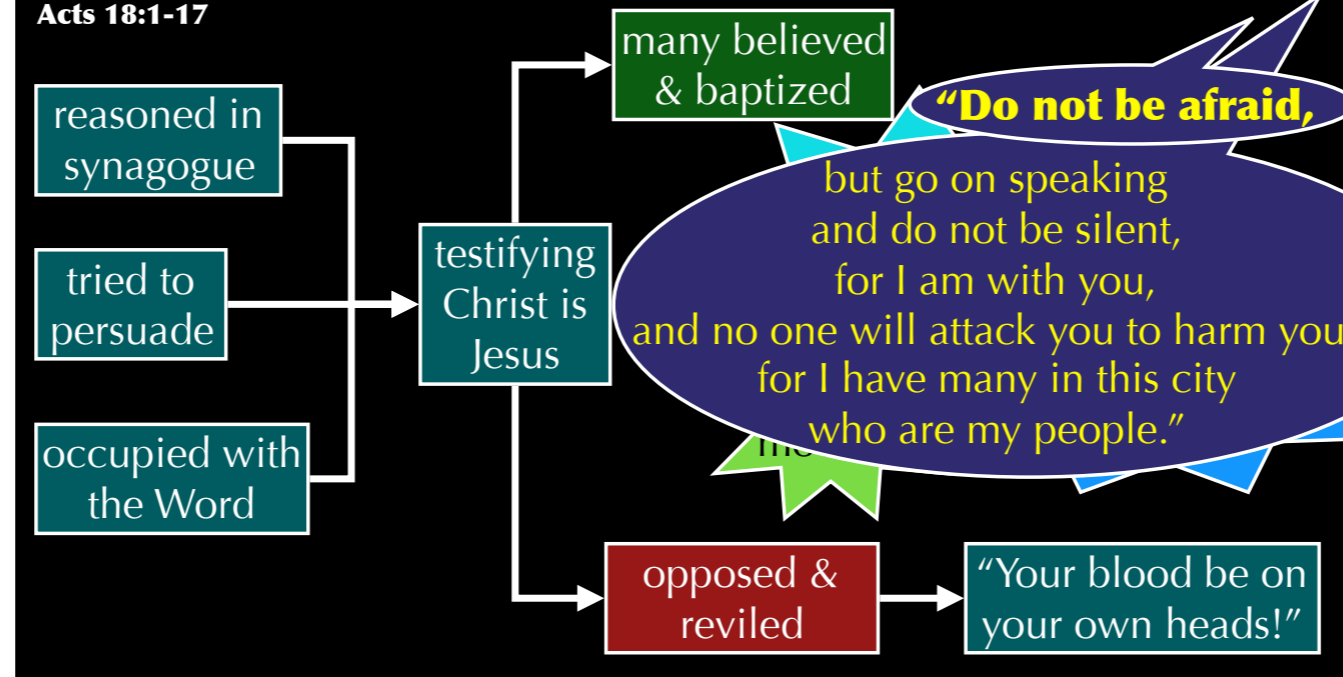
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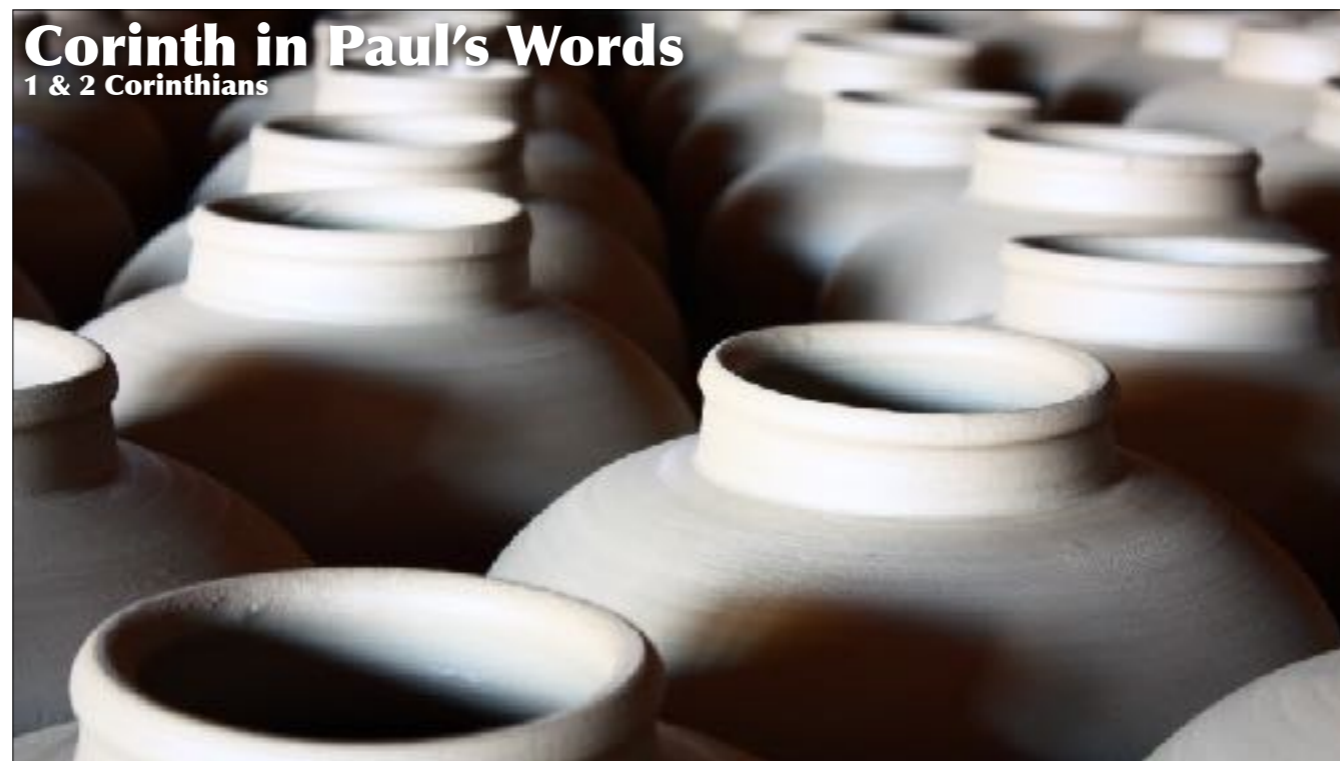
- Athens
 - Mocked for teaching of resurrection

Paul in Corinth

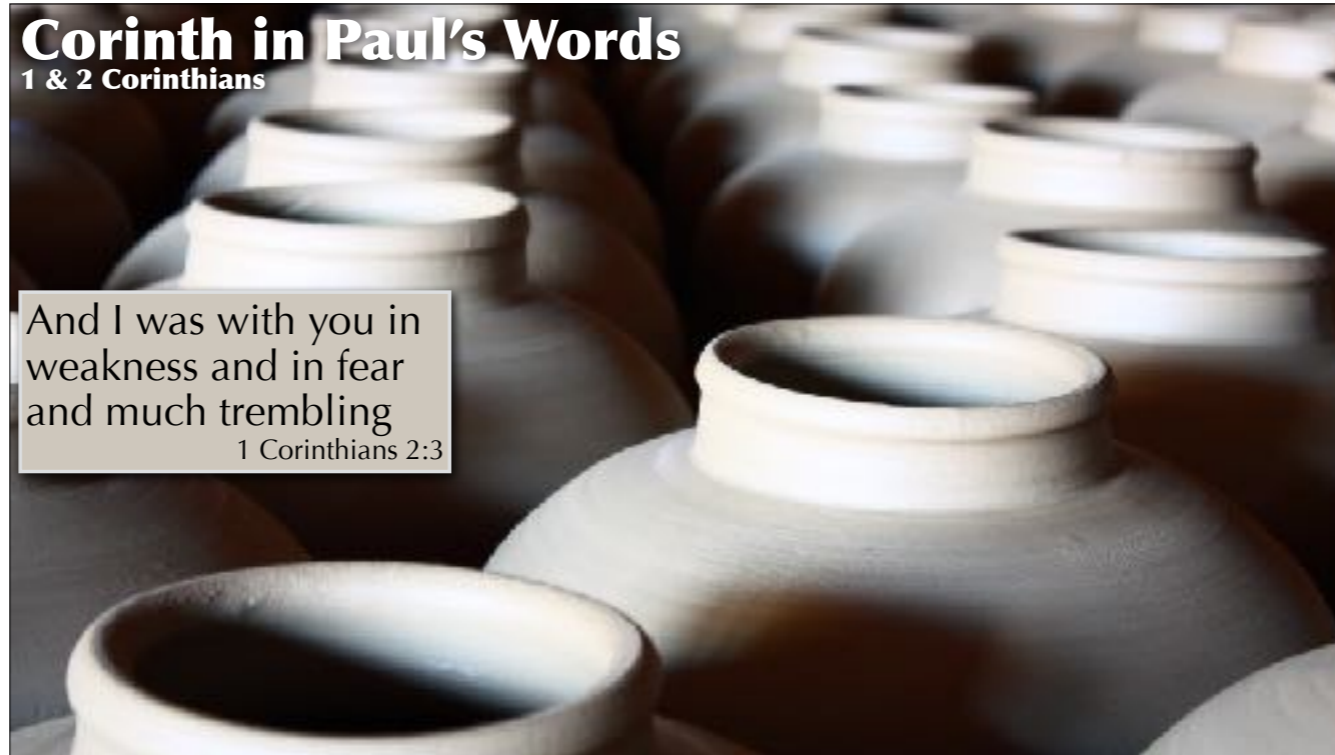
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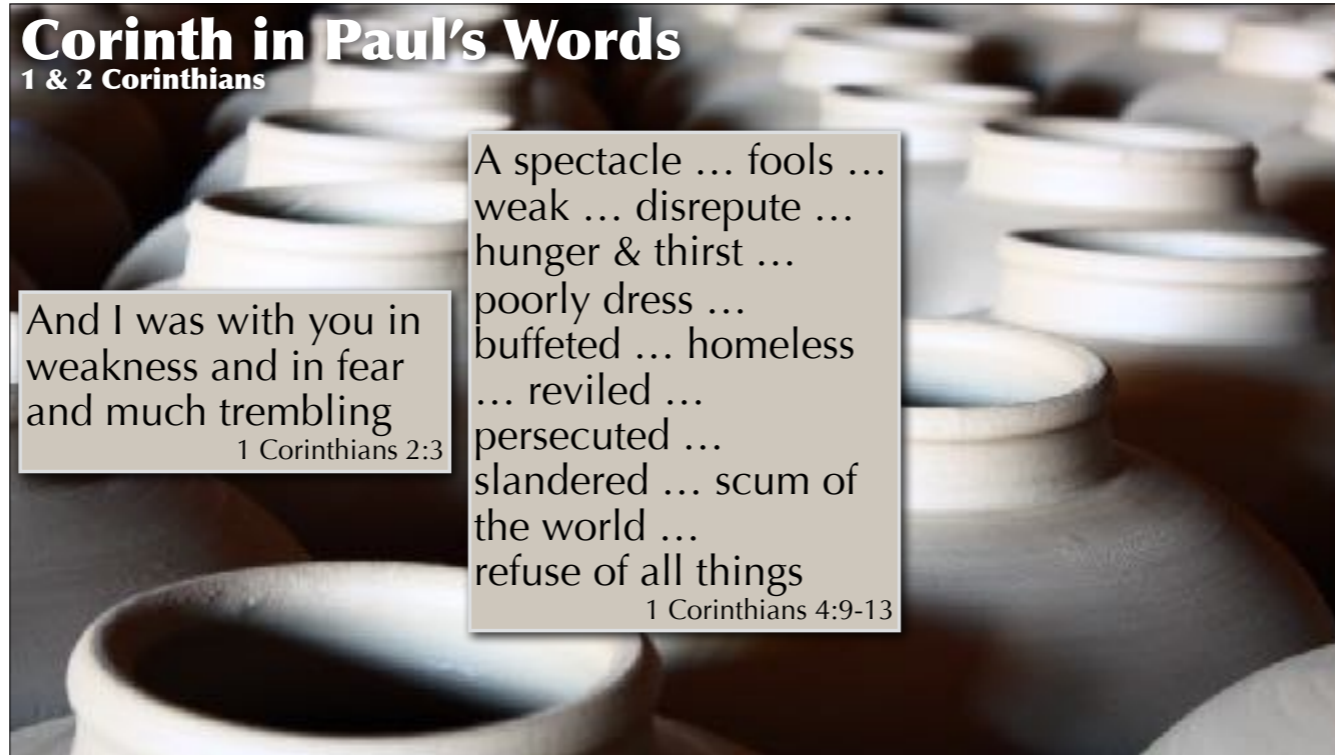
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- Acts 18:11 (ESV) 11 And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.



- Corinth in Paul's Words



- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (ESV) 1 And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
-



- 1 Corinthians 4:9-13
 - a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men.
 - We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ.
 - We are weak, but you are strong.
 - You are held in honor, but we in disrepute.
 - we hunger and thirst,

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

And I was with you in
weakness and in fear
and much trembling

1 Corinthians 2:3

A spectacle ... fools ...
weak ... disrepute ...
hunger & thirst ...
poorly dress ...
buffeted ... homeless
... reviled ...
persecuted ...
slandered ... scum of
the world ...
refuse of all things

1 Corinthians 4:9-13

- we are poorly dressed and
- buffeted and homeless,
- and we labor, working with our own hands.
- When reviled, we bless;
- when persecuted, we endure;
- when slandered, we entreat.
- We have become, and are still, like the scum of the world,
- the refuse of all things.

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

And I was with you in
weakness and in fear
and much trembling

1 Corinthians 2:3

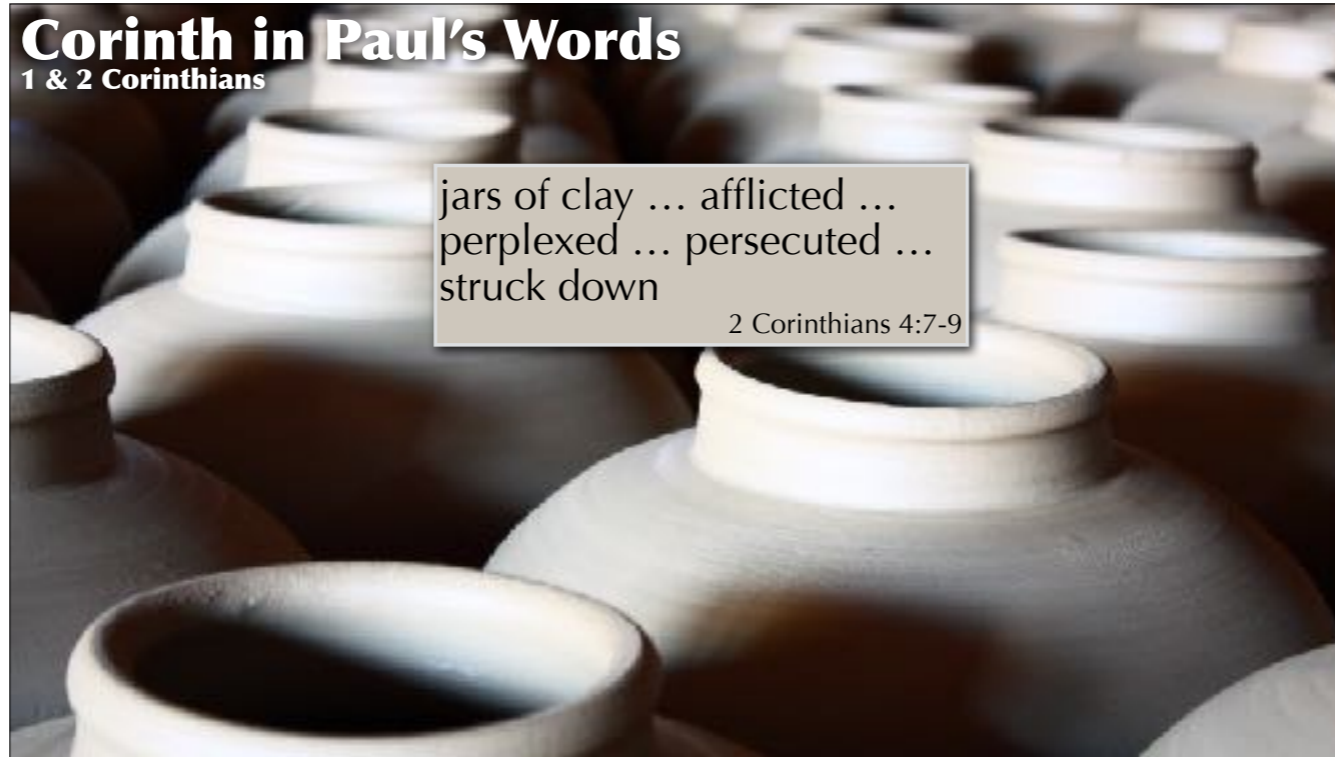
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refuse of all things

1 Corinthians 4:9-13

I made myself a
servant to all ... to the
weak I became weak

1 Corinthians 9:19, 22

- 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (ESV) 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.
-



- 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 (ESV) 7 But we have this treasure in **jars of clay**, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are **afflicted in every way**, but not crushed; **perplexed**, but not driven to despair; 9 **persecuted**, but not forsaken; **struck down**, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.
-

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

servants of Christ ... far greater labors ... far more imprisonments ... countless beatings ... often near death ... 39 lashes ... beaten with rods ... stoned ... shipwrecked ... adrift at sea ... journeys ... danger from rivers, robbers, my own people, Gentiles, city, wilderness, sea, false brothers ... toil ... hardship ... sleepless night ... hunger & thirst... without food ... cold & exposure ... anxiety

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

- 2 Corinthians 11:23-30
 - Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one
 - far greater labors, far more imprisonments,
 - with countless beatings
 - often near death.

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

servants of Christ ... far greater labors ... far more imprisonments ... countless beatings ... often near death ... 39 lashes ... beaten with rods ... stoned ... shipwrecked ... adrift at sea ... journeys ... danger from rivers, robbers, my own people, Gentiles, city, wilderness, sea, false brothers ... toil ... hardship ... sleepless night ... hunger & thirst... without food ... cold & exposure ... anxiety

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

- Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.
- Three times I was beaten with rods.
- Once I was stoned.
- Three times I was shipwrecked;
- a night and a day I was adrift at sea

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

servants of Christ ... far greater labors ... far more imprisonments ... countless beatings ... often near death ... 39 lashes ... beaten with rods ... stoned ... shipwrecked ... adrift at sea ... journeys ... danger from rivers, robbers, my own people, Gentiles, city, wilderness, sea, false brothers ... toil ... hardship ... sleepless night ... hunger & thirst... without food ... cold & exposure ... anxiety

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

- on frequent journeys
 - in danger from rivers, robbers, my own people, Gentiles, in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, from false brothers
- in toil and hardship
- through many a sleepless night,
- in hunger and thirst, often without food,
- in cold and exposure.
- my anxiety for all the churches.

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

servants of Christ ... far greater labors ... far more imprisonments ... countless beatings ... often near death ... 39 lashes ... beaten with rods ... stoned ... shipwrecked ... adrift at sea ... journeys ... danger from rivers, robbers, my own people, Gentiles, city, wilderness, sea, false brothers ... toil ... hardship ... sleepless night ... hunger & thirst... without food ... cold & exposure ... anxiety

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Who is weak, and I am not weak?

2 Corinthians 11:29

- 2 Corinthians 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

servants of Christ ... far greater labors ... far more imprisonments ... countless beatings ... often near death ... 39 lashes ... beaten with rods ... stoned ... shipwrecked ... adrift at sea ... journeys ... danger from rivers, robbers, my own people, Gentiles, city, wilderness, sea, false brothers ... toil ... hardship ... sleepless night ... hunger & thirst... without food ... cold & exposure ... anxiety

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

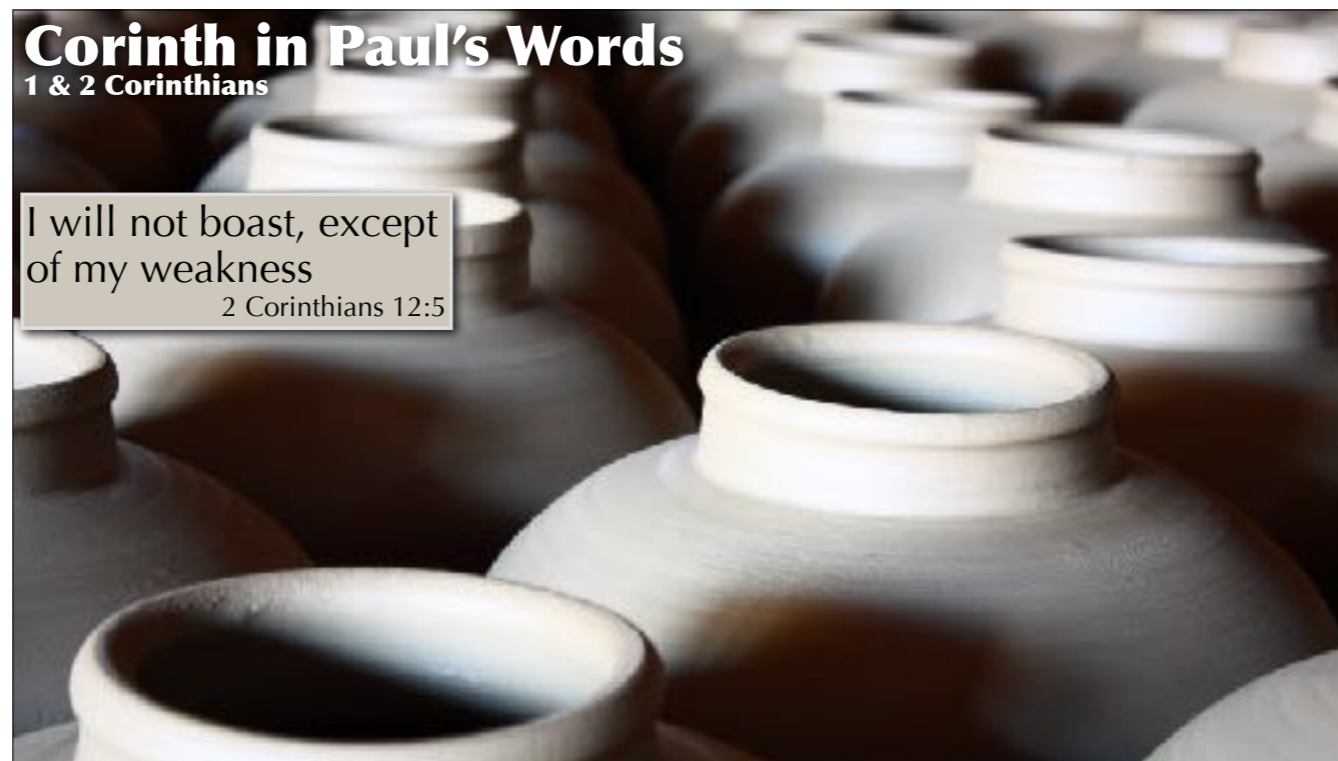
Who is weak, and I am not weak?

2 Corinthians 11:29

I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

2 Corinthians 11:30

- 2 Corinthians 11: 30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.



- 2 Corinthians 12:5-10 (ESV) 5 On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

I will not boast, except
of my weakness

2 Corinthians 12:5

a thorn in the flesh ...
a messenger of Satan
to harass me

2 Corinthians 12:7

- 2 Corinthians 12:7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

I will not boast, except
of my weakness
2 Corinthians 12:5

"My grace
is sufficient for you,
for my power is made
perfect in weakness."
2 Corinthians 12:9

a thorn in the flesh ...
a messenger of Satan
to harass me
2 Corinthians 12:7

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."
-

Corinth in Paul's Words

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I will boast all the
more gladly of my
weaknesses
2 Corinthians 12:9

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Corinth in Paul's Words

1 & 2 Corinthians

I will not boast, except
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"My grace
is sufficient for you,
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2 Corinthians 12:9

I am content with
weaknesses, insults,
hardships,
persecutions, and
calamities.

2 Corinthians 12:10

a thorn in the flesh ...
a messenger of Satan
to harass me

2 Corinthians 12:7

I will boast all the
more gladly of my
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2 Corinthians 12:9

- 2 Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities.
-

Corinth in Paul's Words

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2 Corinthians 12:9

For when I am weak,
then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10

- 2 Corinthians 12:10 For when I am weak, then I am strong.
-

This Treasure

- 2 Corinthians 4:7

This Treasure

**But we have this treasure in jars of clay,
to show that the surpassing power
belongs to God and not to us.**

2 Corinthians 4:7

- 2 Corinthians 4:7: But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
- What is this treasure?



- 2 Corinthians 3:6 (ESV) 6 who has made us sufficient to be **ministers of a new covenant**, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



- 2 Corinthians 3:7-8 (ESV) 7 Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the **ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?**

This Treasure

a new covenant
2 Corinthians 3:6

more glory
2 Corinthians 3:8

ministry of righteousness
2 Corinthians 3:9

- 2 Corinthians 3:9 (ESV) 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory.

This Treasure

a new covenant
2 Corinthians 3:6

more glory
2 Corinthians 3:8

ministry of righteousness
2 Corinthians 3:9

the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ
2 Corinthians 4:4

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV) 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from **seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the image of God.

This Treasure

a new covenant
2 Corinthians 3:6

more glory
2 Corinthians 3:8

ministry of righteousness
2 Corinthians 3:9

the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ
2 Corinthians 4:4

**the light of the knowledge of the glory of
God in the face of Jesus Christ**
2 Corinthians 4:6

- 2 Corinthians 4:6 (ESV) 6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.


This Treasure

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
Matthew 13:44



- Matthew 13:44 (ESV) 44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

This Treasure



Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.
Matthew 13:45-46

- Matthew 13:45-46 (ESV) 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

This Treasure

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:7-10

- Ephesians 1:7-10 (ESV) 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the **riches** of his grace, 8 which he **lavished** upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

This Treasure

In him we have **redemption** through his blood, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to the **riches** of his **grace**, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to **unite all things in him**, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 1:7-10

- redemption through his blood
- the forgiveness of our trespasses
- the riches of his grace
- to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

This Treasure

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
Ephesians 1:17-18

- Ephesians 1:17-18 (ESV) 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

This Treasure

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the **knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts **enlightened**, that you may know what is the **hope** to which he has called you, what are the **riches** of his glorious inheritance in the saints,**
Ephesians 1:17-18

- Ephesians 1:17-18 (ESV) 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the **knowledge of him**, 18 having the eyes of your hearts **enlightened**, that you may know what is the **hope** to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

This Treasure

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

- Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV) 4 But God, being **rich** in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the **immeasurable riches** of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

This Treasure

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This Treasure

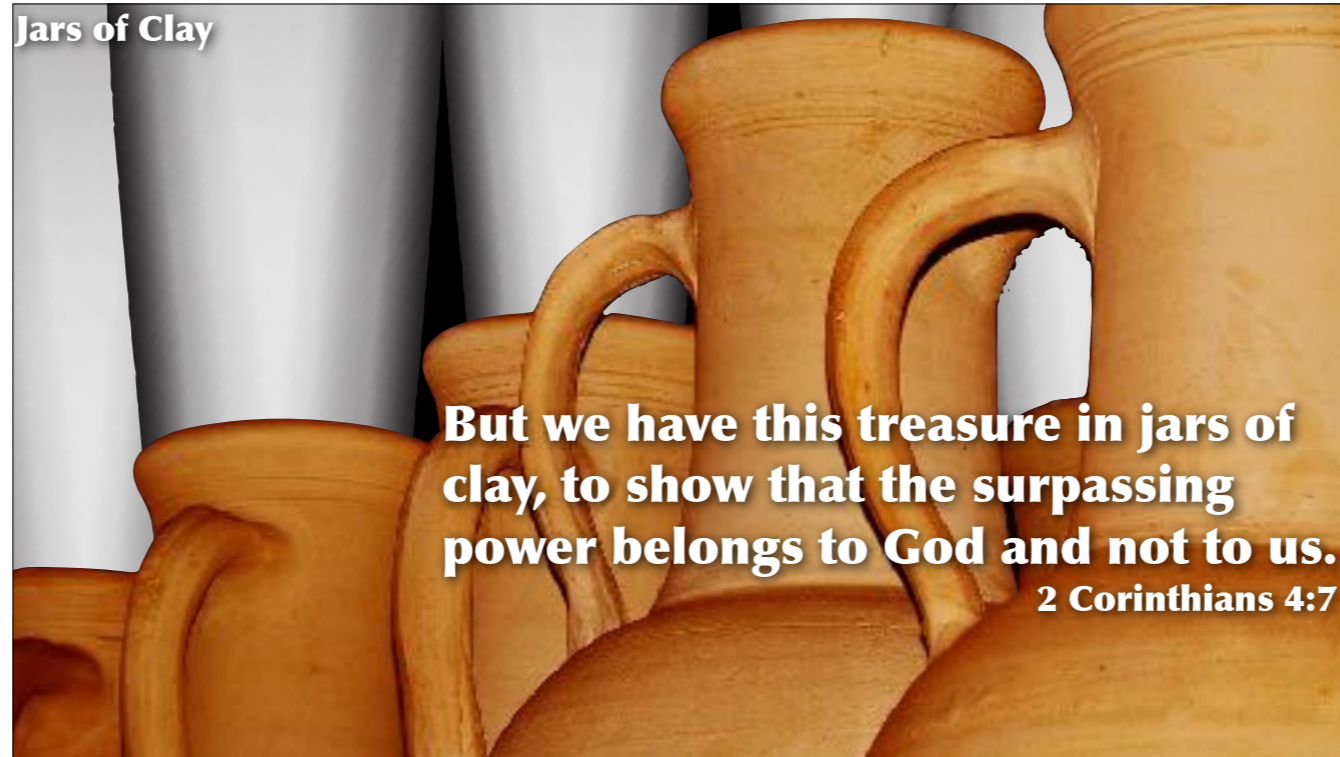
**Indeed, I count everything as loss
because of the surpassing worth of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
Philippians 3:8**

- Philippians 3:7-11: But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



- 2 Corinthians 4:7: But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Jars of Clay

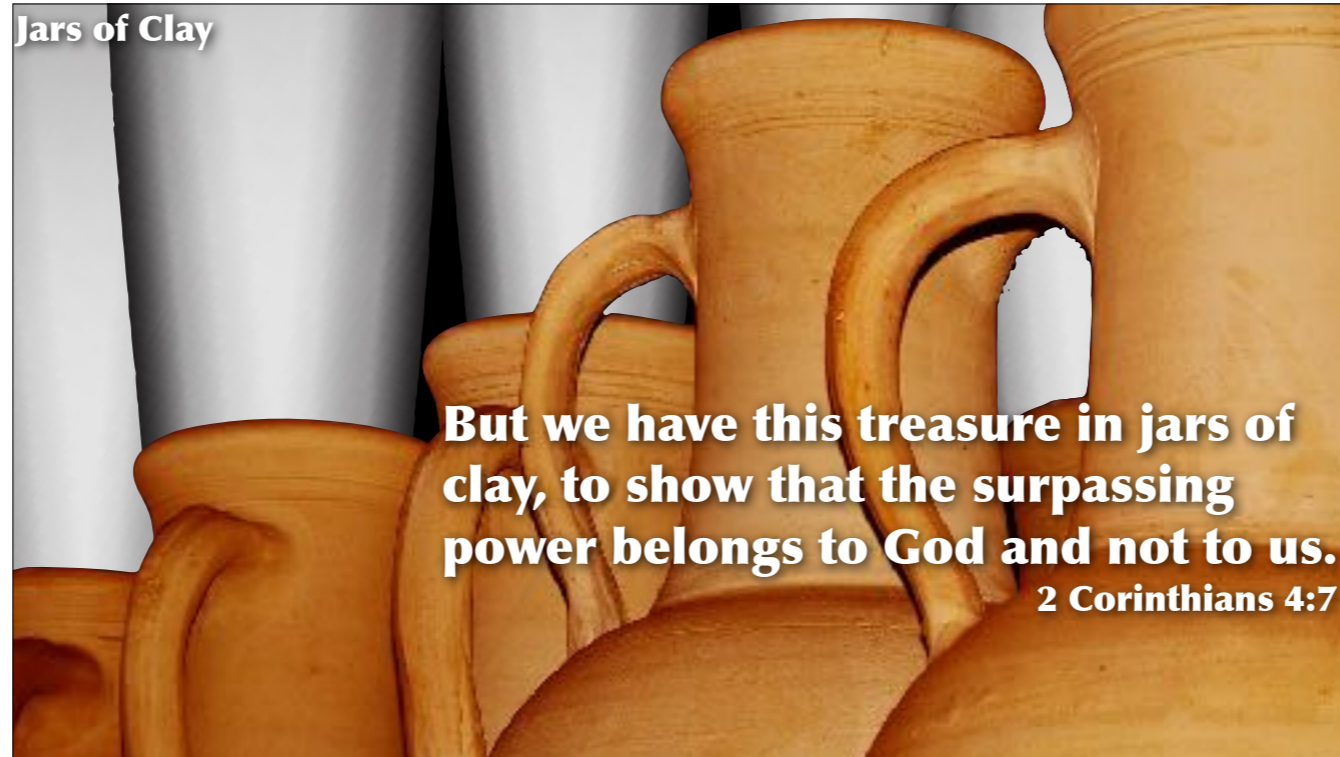


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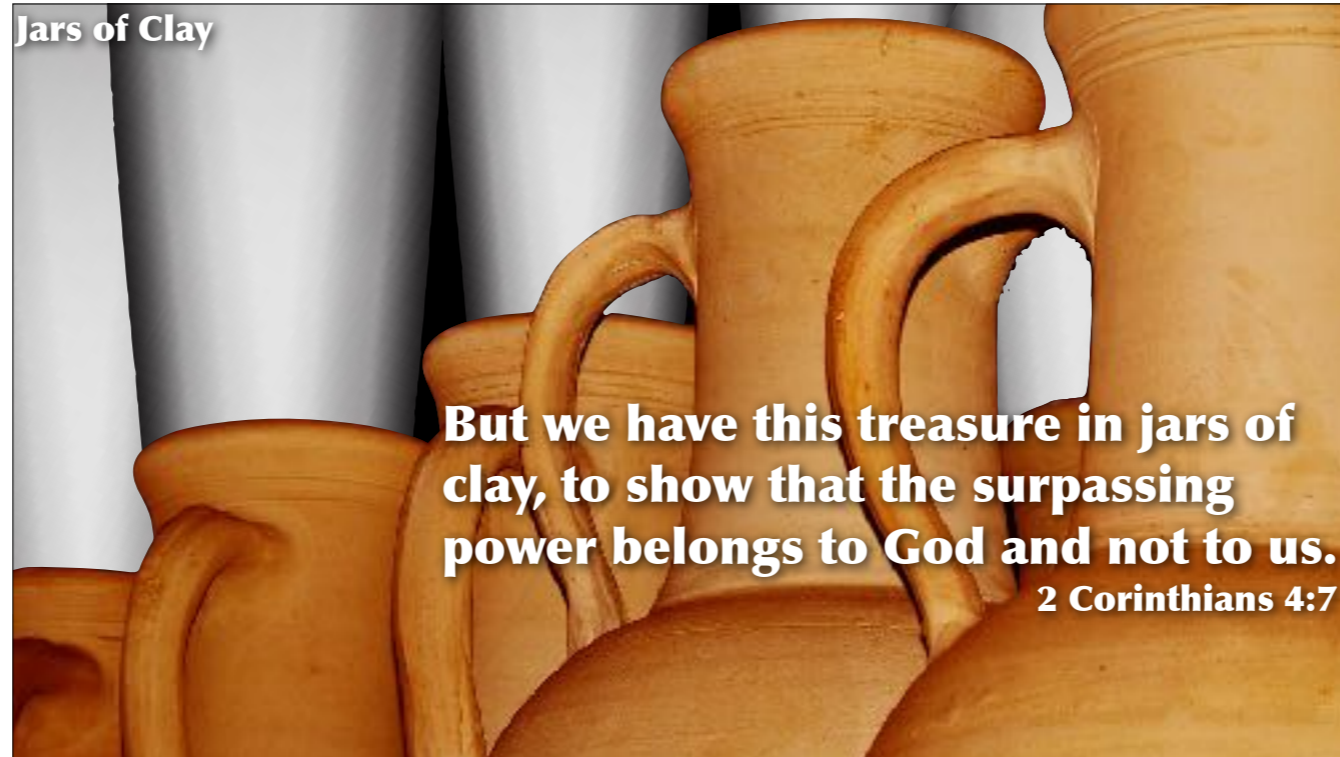


But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

- Paul had talked about his weaknesses...
- 1 Corinthians 2:3 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom
- 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (ESV) 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak.

Jars of Clay



But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 -10 Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Jars of Clay



- What are your weaknesses?
- Not a question we like to hear ... or think about ... answer.
- Sometimes interviewers ask this question for a job...
 - trying to get you to incriminate yourself
 - see if you can evaluate yourself honestly
 - improve

Jars of Clay



What is your
WEAKNESS?

- It might be temptations constantly faced, and sin
 - judging, gossip, lying, anger
 - lust, laziness, hatred
- It might be fear:
- It might be distractions or inadequacies
 - poor health
 - comparisons to others
- It might be a “thorn in the flesh” like Paul

Jars of Clay



- It shouldn't surprise us when we are accused...
 - Legalists ... liberals
 - Hypocrites ... sinners



- Men of Faith - Hebrews 11
 - Noah: drunk, nakedness
 - Abraham: lied
 - Sarah: laughed
 - Moses: acted presumptuously, murder
 - Gideon: idolatry
 - Barak: wouldn't obey God without Deborah's help
 - Samson: impetuous, angry
 - Jephthah: rash vow
 - David: lust, adultery, murder
- 34: were made strong out of weakness

Jars of Clay

“were made **strong**
out of **weakness**”
Hebrews 11:34

What is your
WEAKNESS?

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and
you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Isaiah 64:8-9

- Isaiah 64:8-9 (ESV) 8 But now, O Jehovah, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Be not so terribly angry, O Jehovah, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.
- God knows ... knows better than you ... that you have weaknesses.
- That's why he's provided help for you. The great high priest and the holy spirit

Jars of Clay

“were made **strong**
out of **weakness**”

Hebrews 11:34

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 4:15

What is your
WEAKNESS?

- Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jars of Clay

“were made **strong**
out of **weakness**”

Hebrews 11:34

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 4:15

“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.”

Romans 8:26

What is your
WEAKNESS?

- Romans 8:26 (ESV) 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Jars of Clay

“Therefore I will boast all the more
gladly of my weaknesses, so that the
power of Christ may rest upon me.”
2 Corinthians 12:9

What is your
WEAKNESS?

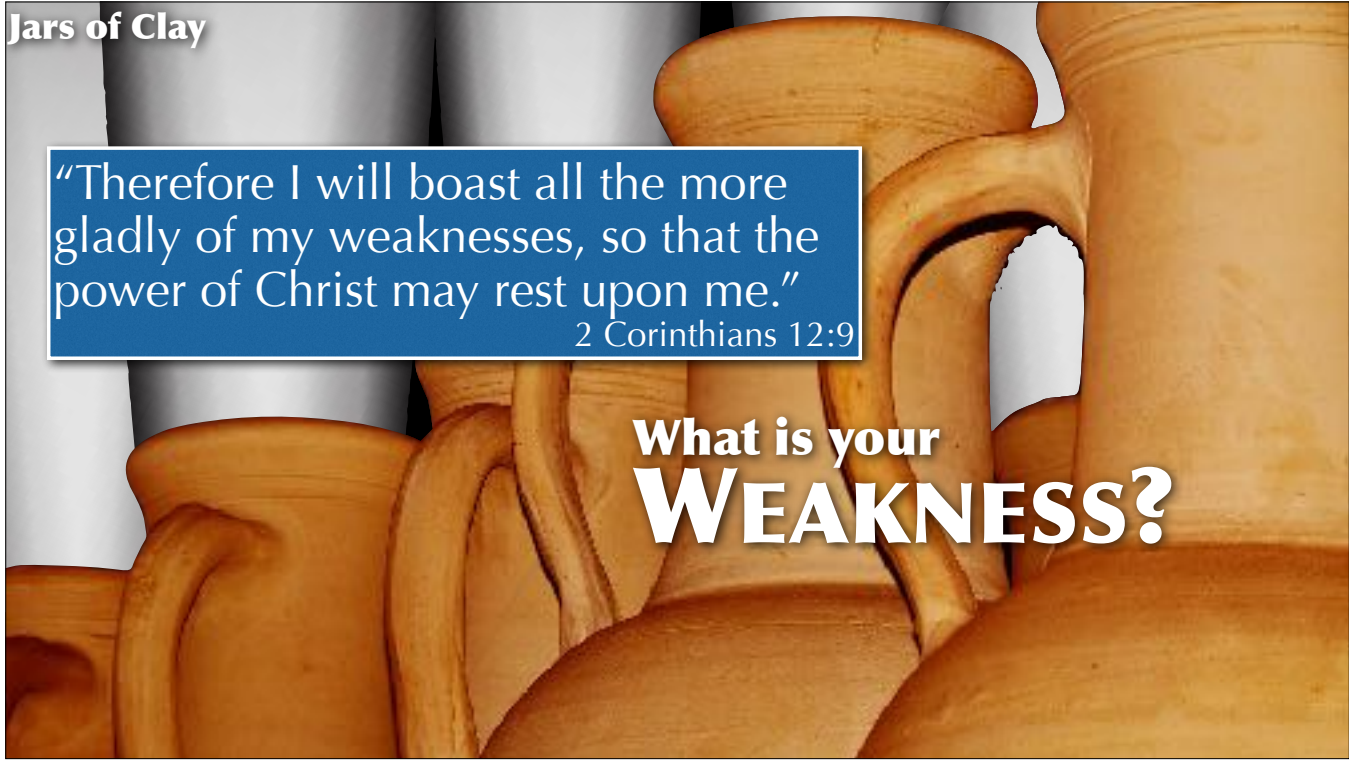
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 (ESV) 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Jars of Clay

“Therefore I will boast all the more
gladly of my weaknesses, so that the
power of Christ may rest upon me.”
2 Corinthians 12:9

What is your
WEAKNESS?

- I am a jar of clay ... with weaknesses
 - Power is in Christ, not me.
 - Power is in the gospel, not me.
- Boast of weaknesses
 - Not approving of sin, failures, excuses.
 - Don't let them hold me back from sharing the treasure of Jesus.
- It's not about the jar, it's about the treasure in the jar.



Jars of Clay

“Therefore I will boast all the more
gladly of my weaknesses, so that the
power of Christ may rest upon me.”
2 Corinthians 12:9

What is your
WEAKNESS?

- I am a jar of clay ... holding the greatest treasure on earth.
- My job is to share that treasure with everyone that I can.
 - Whether by teaching or by example

Jars of Clay

“Therefore I will boast all the more
gladly of my weaknesses, so that the
power of Christ may rest upon me.”
2 Corinthians 12:9

What is your
WEAKNESS?

- Just like God told Paul in Corinth...
- Acts 18:9-10 (ESV) 9 And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision,
 - Do not be afraid
 - but go on speaking and do not be silent,
 - for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you,
 - for I have many in this city who are my people.”

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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Many jars, tops: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ricky_artigas/5656337970/sizes/o/

Potter: <https://pixabay.com/en/art-clay-craft-hands-man-person-1837073/>

Pots with handles: https://pixabay.com/p-1048835/?no_redirect

Potter, close up: <https://pixabay.com/en/hand-artisan-potter-clay-1651855/>

Light: 9c0b0b48b4d60e5da

Treasure in Field: iStock_000005265032Small & iStock_000008206538Small

Pearl: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pearl#/media/File:Black_pearl_and_his_shell.jpg

Beam of light: flashlight-beam.jpg

Jars of Clay

2 Corinthians 4:7

Synopsis: Paul's work in Corinth, as described by Luke in Acts, portrays his work as being very bold in teaching and opposing the Jews. But to the Corinthians, Paul wrote that he was among them in fear and weakness. He even explains to them his boasting in weakness because of God's grace with regard to the thorn in the flesh. So it's not surprising that at one point he tells the Corinthians that he has treasure in jars of clay. He is speaking of himself as a jar of clay and the treasure is the message of Jesus Christ. This lesson encourages us to boast on our weaknesses, like Paul, so that the treasure can be shared with all.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."