

Treasure in Earthen Vessels

February 27, 2014

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.

- *The relationship and communion we enjoy with God is because of Him; He initiated and consummated the relationship. It’s nothing we can boast in or take credit for.*
- *The knowledge of God’s glory is what brings light and life into our soul; nothing else can. God’s desire and ability to deliver, save, revive, restore, renew, encourage and empower is limitless.*
- *We experience the glory of knowing God “in the face of Jesus Christ” meaning “up close and personal.” We are meant to have intimacy with God at the very deepest levels.*

2 Corinthians 4:7 ESV

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

1 Samuel 16:6-7 ESV

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.”

7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 ESV

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,

29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Consider these whom God chose...

- **Noah** - *was drunk and lying naked in his tent*
- **Abraham** - *instructed Sarah to say she was his sister because he was fearful*
- **Abraham** - *called the father of faith yet laughed at God when he was 100 years old and tried to convince God to bless Ishmael instead*
- **Jacob** - *a master of deceit and manipulation*

- **Moses** - *murdered the Egyptian and hid the body*
- **Elijah** - *fled for his life from Jezebel after slaughtering the prophets of Baal*
- **David** - *man after God's own heart yet committed adultery and murder*
- **Rahab** - *named as a hero of faith in Hebrews 11 yet was a harlot*
- **Samson** - *champion of God brought down by a prostitute*
- **James & John** - *rebuked by Jesus for wanting to call fire down from heaven on the Samaritan village*
- **Peter** - *cowered before men, denied Jesus three times, arrogant and brash*
- **Paul** - *persecuted and imprisoned Christians, consented to the stoning of Stephen*