

SPIRITUAL GROWTH MARKERS

"Moldability"

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him...Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker...Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'The potter has no hands'?...Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."
- Jeremiah 18:1-4, Isaiah 45:9, 64:8

Just as the potter molds the clay into various pots or jars or storage containers based upon the potter's choice, so also God wants to shape my life to give Him glory and honor.

How moldable my life is will determine the process God will use in His desire to shape me into a mature follower of Jesus Christ.

Moldability Defined: the quality or state of being able to be influenced or directed.

God's Molding Strategy

- A.** _____
- Some to _____: model our lives upon
 - Some to _____: provide a living example of Jesus
 - Some to _____
- "You people in Galatia were told very clearly about the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. But you were foolish; you let someone trick you."*
- Galatians 3:1

Which people am I allowing to shape me?

- B.** _____
- Am I choosing to allow God to shape my life where I am right now, whether I love this place or loathe it?

- C.** _____
- "God causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."*
- Matthew 5:45

"If God is for us, who can be against us?... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Romans 8:31, 35, 37-39

- D.** _____ / _____

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-9

E. _____ / _____

F. _____ / _____

- God's known/unknown Blessing/Protection
- Known/unknown struggles

- _____

- _____

- see 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

G. " _____ " **Questions**

In my life I choose to allow what I do know about God to inform me in what I do not know/understand about God.

Four Essential Choices as God Molds My Life

A. I choose to _____

"Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?"
- Romans 9:21

- see Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28

B. I choose to _____

C. I choose _____

"My child, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his child. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children... No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees." - Hebrews 12:5-7a, 11-12 (NIV)

One of the fatal errors in responding to God's discipline:

" _____ "

- a. I embrace one of Satan's most effective lies: That I _____ for my choices.
- b. I lock myself into an " _____ " prison.
- c. I _____ God by settling for _____.
- d. I deny that " _____ ".

God loves me the way I am. He loves me too much to allow me to stay the way I am.

D. I choose _____

Sermon in a Sentence

The clay of my life can be most easily shaped to reflect Jesus Christ if it is soft and pliable.