

## **Fearfully and Wonderfully Made - May 18, 2022**

This Sunday, Pastor Doug began with the scripture Psalm 139, a favorite of mine. Take a look at verses 13-16 from the Amplified Bible:

(13)For You formed my innermost parts;

You knit me [together] in my mother's womb.

(14)I will give thanks and praise to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

Wonderful are Your works,

And my soul knows it very well.

(15) My frame was not hidden from You,

When I was being formed in secret,

And intricately and skillfully formed [as if embroidered with many colors] in the depths of the earth.

(16)Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;

And in Your book were all written

The days that were appointed for me,

When as yet there was not one of them [even taking shape].

God knows us. He made us on purpose, with His purpose in mind. He desires us to surrender our lives to Him, trusting His plan for us will come as we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. Do we truly believe and trust that His thoughts are precious to us? That He loves us? That we are His prized possession, His children, beloved, and valued?

Our Creator has given us the power of choice. He wants a loving relationship with us, just as a good father desires a relationship with his children. When we say no to God, it hurts Him. Remember, He is the Potter and we are the clay.

Let's look at how a potter works! After this description, maybe we will understand why yielding to God's plan is so important.

Pottery videos are exciting and quite mesmerizing! Before the clay is thrown on the wheel it must be worked to where there are no air bubbles. The end result is in the mind of the Potter. Will it be a vase? A bowl? Perhaps it will be a pitcher.

There are different shapes that various vessels need to be before going on the wheel. Then, bam! The clay is slammed into the center of the wheel. The potter takes damp hands and covers the clay, spinning the wheel fast and working from the bottom up. It takes equal pressure from the top and the side, and it cannot wobble.

It must be centered. If it wanders, more pressure comes to bring it back to the center.

There are more processes to make the clay malleable, coning it up and down several times until it becomes even.

When it reaches a certain point, depending on what is being made, the potter presses their fingers into the center of the clay to open the clay, speeding and slowing the wheel.

The vessel takes on its intended shape.

There are tools that help to shape the vessel. They are hard wedges that look like a scraper held gently on the outside of the object while pressure from the potter comes from within.

This is only the formation of the vessel. Not the glazing, and two to three times spent in the firing furnace.

Does the clay tell the potter what it is supposed to be? Absolutely not. It is either on the wheel or it is a lump of clay.

Here are some scriptures for us to consider:

Jeremiah 18:1-6, Isaiah 29:16, 45:9, 64:8, 2 Corinthians 4:7, and 2 Timothy 2:20-21.

He is the Potter. We are the clay. He formed Adam out of the dust of the earth and us in our mother's womb. He loves us beyond our finite understanding.

Your Sister in Jesus,  
Liz