

## Sermon Theme: The Sovereignty of God and the Work of the Potter

- **Endurance and The Joy Set Before You:** The sermon opens by addressing the heavy burdens people carry [\[04:13\]](#), encouraging the congregation to "lay aside every weight" and focus on the joy that is promised after the struggle.
  - Referencing **Hebrews 12:2**, the pastor notes that Jesus endured the cross "for the joy that was set before him" [\[05:42\]](#).
  - The patriarch Abraham is cited as an example, who left his home for the joy of the promise (becoming the father of many nations) that God put in his ear, which his wealth could not buy [\[06:31\]](#).
  - The message encourages a "sassy in the spirit" attitude of defiance toward Satan, refusing to give up [\[07:06\]](#).
- **Testimonies of Faith and Perseverance:** The pastor shares a recent victory where a parishioner was given an "evil report" of blood cancer (leukemia) by doctors, but the church stood on God's word, and a subsequent report stated that was not the case [\[10:16\]](#).
  - He encourages the people to "**stay on the ship**," referencing the Apostle Paul in the storm, reminding them that God is fighting for them and no one will be lost [\[12:53\]](#).
- **The Sovereignty of God Defined:** The core theme is the absolute authority and supreme rule of God [\[15:32\]](#).
  - **Definition:** God's sovereignty means He has ultimate authority over all creation, nations, history, and life's affairs [\[16:03\]](#).
  - **Biblical Evidence:** This is supported by Genesis 1:14 (God setting the sun and moon in place and their obedience to His command), Genesis 8:22 (the permanence of seasons and day/night), and Numbers 23:19 ("God is not a man, that he should lie") [\[17:51\]](#).
  - God is the "author and the finisher of our faith," starting the process of making believers His sons and daughters and having the power to complete it [\[25:32\]](#).
- **The Potter's Authority (Jeremiah 18:1-6):** The sermon centers on the prophet Jeremiah's visit to the potter's house [\[33:57\]](#).
  - **The Analogy: God is the Potter** (Jehovah), and the **House of Israel (believers) is the Clay** [\[35:41\]](#).
  - **The Potter's Right of Choice:** God has the right to reform or remake the vessel, and His choice of Israel was not changed by their disobedience and walking away from Him [\[40:45\]](#).
  - **The Clay is Marred:** When the vessel being worked on is "**marred**" in the potter's hand—meaning the clay is not submitting or saying "ouch" to the pressure [\[52:18\]](#)—the potter has the right to smash it and **remake it again** [\[52:58\]](#).
  - **The Caveat:** The only condition on God's part is that the clay must be **pliable** and willing to submit, as God will not force Himself on a person [\[59:09\]](#).

- **Conclusion:** The ultimate challenge is: "Can you stand to be made into who God said you already are?" [01:03:41].
  - God's grace is sufficient to sustain believers through all trials and imperfections, including health issues or failures (like Peter denying Christ) [01:07:17].
  - The final encouragement is to "stay on the potter's wheel" and "refuse to give up," trusting that God is not finished molding and making them into the finished product He intended [01:10:05].

The full video can be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFYullEf1ws>