

## The Potter's Process-Jeremiah 18:1-6

We talked about Jeremiah 18:1-4 last week and the process of forming a vessel from clay. How God is re-forming us to be like Him.

If life feels like constant pressure with no visible progress,—you may be **in the Potter's hands, being prepared for purpose**. You are not random—you are a masterpiece shaped on purpose with a purpose. Each vessel is uniquely designed. God shapes us according to His purpose, not our preferences.

*Jeremiah 18:4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it **seemed good to the potter to do***

There is a process that a potter uses to create a vessel or reshape the vessel. The potter doesn't discover flaws *before* the wheel—he discovers them **during the shaping**.

Likewise, God uses process to bring hidden attitudes, wounds, pride, fear, or unbelief to the surface—not to shame us, but to heal and reshape us.

**Truth:** What surfaces in pressure is what God wants to redeem. We can't skip any part of the process that God takes us through. A potter cannot glaze and fire a vessel with out the pressure of the wedging and wheel. Each order of the process has a purpose. If God changed us instantly, we'd trust the *outcome* more than the *Author*.

Process teaches us how to lean, listen, and yield—like clay that cannot shape itself. Same process as Jeremiah went through. Quick change often fades.

Processed change becomes rooted. Think about the harvest. Planting, sowing, reaping etc.

God often chooses **process over instant change** because transformation is not just about *what* He gives us, but *who we become* while receiving it. Scripture consistently shows that God values **formation, maturity, and intimacy** more than speed.

### Preparation- Kneading the Clay.

God prepares us through His word, convictions, experiences. After kneading, the clay still looks like a lump—but it's ready. Well-kneaded clay can survive the spinning wheel and the heat of the kiln or the fire.

Preparation seasons sometimes often looks unproductive. Kneading is the **unseen mercy that makes reshaping possible**.

*Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season."*

*Phil 1:6 "He who began a good work in you will complete it."*

God values **readiness over recognition**. He cares about the process.

The clay has to stay pliable for the potter to create, and get the vessel ready for the fire, kiln. (pottery firing process) Sometimes we want to be the potter rather than the clay. We try to dictate the shape of our lives, our careers or our families.

*Rom 8:28 God works all things for good*

### Centering- Requires a lot of Surrender or Yielding

'Surrender to the Process' is one of the strongest spiritual threads woven throughout the Scriptures. God repeatedly reveals Himself of One who **forms, shapes, refines, prunes, test and transforms**—and call His people to trust Him in that journey even when we cannot see the full picture.

God often teaches us in seasons that feel ordinary, hidden, or inconvenient. Yielding begins with showing up. (Jeremiah went.)

Clay must stay centered on the wheel. Yielding to His plans, to His timing, we must stay on the wheel. Clay must stay pliable.

Yielding means trusting who is shaping you, even when you don't understand what He is doing.

*Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

-The spinning of the potter's wheel can feel to fast (chaos) or too slow (waiting). Resistance often shows up as impatience or anxiety. God is in control of the wheel speed.

*Is 40:31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint*

*Jeremiah 18:6 'Cannot I do with you as this potter?*

Yielding means relinquishing control of the outcome, timing, and appearance. The clay does not decide the vessel's purpose—the potter does!!

Yielding can sometimes look like repentance, humility, and a teachable spirit. God resist the prideful.

Yielding keeps you aligned with God's purpose. Resistance creates distortion, not freedom.

*James 4:7 Submit your selves to God*

*Phil 2:13<sup>for</sup> it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

God can only work in you as you yield. You cannot shape yourself. You cannot speed up the wheel. You cannot choose the process.

### **Pressure-Transformation**

Sometimes the potter has to apply pressure to shape or form the vessel to bring the transformation. At times it can be firm and sometime it can be soft. I believe a lot of this determines how pliable we are to His shaping. Soft hearts=easy shaping. Hard heart=painful breaking

**Heb 3:8 do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness  
as you did in the rebellion,  
during the time of testing in the wilderness**

### **The Fire Refinement**

Fire(testing's) is essential to strengthen the vessel

*Job 23:10: "But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold*

*Zechariah 13:9: "I will bring the third part into the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will test them like gold is tested."*

*1 Peter 1:6-7 "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ*

***"The Lord your God led you all the way... to humble you and test you in order to know what was in your heart."***

**— Deuteronomy 8:2 What is hidden in comfort is revealed in process**

In **1 Peter 1:6-7**, the metaphor of the "refining fire" is one of the most powerful descriptions of how pressure and trials act as a transformative agent.

**Refining:** The process of heating metal until the impurities rose to the top and could be skimmed off. Transformation occurs because the "fire" (pressure) doesn't just show what you are made of; it purifies what is already there by removing what doesn't belong.

\*\*In ancient refining, a goldsmith knew the gold was pure when he could **see his own reflection** in the liquid metal. This is the ultimate "transformation" mentioned in the text—that after the heat of life's pressures, the "impurities" of ego, fear, and self-reliance are gone, leaving a character that reflects the Refiner.

## 20 Prayer Points for Yielding to God's Process

### 1. A Willing Heart

**Prayer:** Lord, soften my heart to fully yield to You.

**Scripture:** *"I delight to do Your will, O my God."* — Psalm 40:8

### 2. Trust in the Potter

**Prayer:** Father, help me trust Your hands even when I don't understand.

**Scripture:** *"We are the clay, and You are our potter."* — Isaiah 64:8

### 3. Surrender of Control

**Prayer:** I release my need to control outcomes and submit to Your ways.

**Scripture:** *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."* — Proverbs 3:5-6

### 4. Patience in the Process

**Prayer:** Teach me patience as You work in and through me.

**Scripture:** *"Let patience have its perfect work."* — James 1:4

### 5. Obedience Without Delay

**Prayer:** Lord, help me obey You promptly and completely.

**Scripture:** *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."* — John 14:15

### 6. Humility Before God

**Prayer:** I humble myself under Your mighty hand.

**Scripture:** *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* — James 4:6

### 7. Refining Through Fire

**Prayer:** Purify me through every refining season.

**Scripture:** *"He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."* — Malachi 3:3

### 8. Endurance in Trials

**Prayer:** Strengthen me to endure hardship as part of Your shaping.

**Scripture:** *"All things work together for good."* — Romans 8:28

### 9. Willingness to Be Reshaped

**Prayer:** Lord, reshape anything in me that does not reflect You.

**Scripture:** *"He made it again into another vessel."* — Jeremiah 18:4

### 10. Submission to God's Timing

**Prayer:** I yield to Your perfect timing in my life.

**Scripture:** *"To everything there is a season."* — Ecclesiastes 3:1

### **11. Letting Go of the Old**

**Prayer:** Help me release old patterns You are removing.  
**Scripture:** *"Put off the old man."* — Ephesians 4:22-24

### **12. A Teachable Spirit**

**Prayer:** Give me a heart that is quick to learn and grow.  
**Scripture:** *"The meek He will teach His way."* — Psalm 25:9

### **13. Strength to Stay on the Wheel**

**Prayer:** Help me not run from Your process.  
**Scripture:** *"Do not grow weary in doing good."* — Galatians 6:9

### **14. Yielding My Pain**

**Prayer:** I surrender my wounds to You for healing.  
**Scripture:** *"By His stripes we are healed."* — Isaiah 53:5

### **15. Trust When Crushed**

**Prayer:** When I feel crushed, remind me You are forming purpose.  
**Scripture:** *"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him."* — Job 13:15

### **16. Freedom From Resistance**

**Prayer:** Remove every place where I resist Your will.  
**Scripture:** *"Not my will, but Yours be done."* — Luke 22:42

### **17. Alignment With God's Design**

**Prayer:** Align my life with Your divine blueprint.  
**Scripture:** *"We are His workmanship."* — Ephesians 2:10

### **18. Grace to Be Broken**

**Prayer:** Break me only where You plan to heal and rebuild.  
**Scripture:** *"A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."* — Psalm 51:17

### **19. Faith in Hidden Seasons**

**Prayer:** Strengthen my faith when Your work is unseen.  
**Scripture:** *"Your Father who sees in secret will reward you."* — Matthew 6:6

### **20. Dependence on the Holy Spirit**

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, lead me through every step of transformation.  
**Scripture:** *"As many as are led by the Spirit of God."* — Romans 8:14