

Pitchers of Promise

By Dawn Lilly

*In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay;
some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.*

*If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes,
made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.*

(2 Timothy 2:20-21, NIV)

I collect pitchers. All kinds of pitchers. Small cream pitchers. Tall water pitchers. Painted, plain and clay pitchers. My favorite is an Americana Fostoria glass antique that serves as a flower vase on my oak sofa table. Its clean design dresses up the simplest bouquet without detracting from the flowers.

While I have a habit of utilizing my pitchers to display flowers, the integrity of that vessel becomes an important factor in determining its use. Size, shape and color in contrast to the flowers are essential, but not nearly as vital as the pitcher's ability to hold water. A cracked pot is destined to house only silk bouquets.

God created us all as pitchers of promise, fashioned to be filled up with His Spirit for the sole purpose of being poured out in His name. While I know I am that instrument, shaped and molded for the noble purpose of being useful in performing the Master's good works, my pitcher often runs dry or overflows with ungodly thoughts, words and actions. Some days I'm a pitcher of promise serving my fundamental purpose. Others I'm a fractured mock-up of the original design, a pitcher with problems--or worse, an ornamental vase.

Father, I long to be made holy and useful for your noble purpose. Purify and mend me that I may be filled up and poured out in your name. It is only through your grace and my obedience that I become your pitcher of promise. Amen.