

## **“The Potter's Hand” by Darlene Zschech**

Isaiah 64:8

I want to be useful, don't you? Today's song and Bible verse is a desperate cry for usefulness!

The context of Isaiah 64 isn't very pretty, for it describes a people who have become un-useful:

### **Isaiah 64:1-7 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down! How the mountains would quake in your presence!

<sup>2</sup> As fire causes wood to burn and water to boil, your coming would make the nations tremble. Then your enemies would learn the reason for your fame!

<sup>3</sup> When you came down long ago, you did awesome deeds beyond our highest expectations. And oh, how the mountains quaked!

<sup>4</sup> For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!

<sup>5</sup> You welcome those who gladly do good, who follow godly ways. But you have been very angry with us, for we are not godly. We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved?

<sup>6</sup> We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

<sup>7</sup> Yet no one calls on your name or pleads with you for mercy. Therefore, you have turned away from us and turned us over to our sins.

It is into their mixed up, sin-stained lives that God inspires Isaiah to write: Isaiah 64:8, And yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, and you are the potter. We all are formed by your hand.

Isaiah is encouraging his friends, and us too, that God is busy forming us still. And he uses the image of a potter gently forming a pot out of mere clump into something both utterly beautiful and useful.

### **A. The Potter has In mind what the pot will become.**

Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Savior  
I know for sure, all of my days  
are held in your hands, crafted  
into your perfect plan

Jeremiah 29:11-13, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> In those days when you pray, I will listen. <sup>13</sup> If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."

The song lyric is "crafted into your perfect plan." As Rhonda's hands are guiding that clay, be certain God is crafting you and I into the men and women of God desires us to become.

Notice that God's plans for us go both ways ... He has a plan AND we can pray knowing He hears us AND He has made himself discoverable ... if we look for Him, we will find Him!

### **B. The Potter calls us to submission.**

You gently call me into your presence  
guiding me by Your Holy Spirit  
Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life through Your eyes  
I'm captured by Your holy calling  
Set me apart, I know you're drawing me to yourself  
Lead me Lord I pray

James 4:7, So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

You are submitting yourself to a gentle hand ... not a heavy-handed ogre! What does submitting *really* mean? Submitting to God means you are asking Him to:

- Teach me.
- Set me apart.
- Lead me.

### **C. We are God's "everyday" dishes.**

You have fine china stored away for seldom use; and everyday dishes, pots, and pans. We're "everyday" Christians!

Take me, Mold me, use me, fill me  
I give my life to the Potter's hand  
Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me  
I give my life to the Potter's hand

Everyday dishes get used, dirtied, cleaned, chipped, repaired, and used some more. Sometimes they get lost, set aside, or forgotten ... only to be rediscovered, renewed, and reused again!

Jesus invites each of us be changed, molded, shaped, re-born into a better way of life ... being called, guided, lead, and joined by God Himself! Look at John 3:3, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Every day we are being renewed. Every day our new birth is changing us into better husbands and fathers.

MAIN POINT: This song is a prayer. It's a direct communication from us to God:

"Take me!"

"Mold me!"

"Use me!"

"Walk beside me!"

A closing prayer ... "Oh Gentle Potter, by Your hand we are guided day by day. Lead us to submit to your hand. You have already imagined what we are to become, by Your grace we pray for complete life change. In Jesus' name, amen."