

release.

...from Control

(from the message dated Aug 9, 2015)

the study

“God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV

I want all I can get, as soon as I can get it! (implied comment by someone we don't know – or DO we?)

We have dreams, go to school and develop a skill set just to build our own personal empire (the “American Dream”). We so want to control our own destiny that we can't see the benefit of letting our Maker bless us with a far greater life than we can ourselves. The passage above (**2 Cor. 9:8**) states a characteristic of God – He is *able*. He never forces His plan on us. He just patiently loves and waits on us to find Him to be faithful. Remember, *“... he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: 'God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble'”* (**James 4:6**).

1. Using **Jeremiah 18:4-6** what will it take for God to be able to take control?
2. What standard is used for the pot to be shaped “as seemed best to him”?
3. At some point in our lives we feel strong, able and invincible. Then we reach that stage in life when we understand that our strength was but for a short time. Let's look at **Lamentations 3:25-30**. How does the goodness of the Lord come to us?

release.

4. How does Isaiah describe that goodness in **Isaiah 40:31**?

5. In question #1 we determined that a humbled, surrendered heart is necessary for the Lord's blessing and favor to be ours. **Lamentations 3:26-27** describes two good things we can do when we exercise our hope in Him. What are they?

6. The Lord's ways are so different that ours so when we mess things up there is much humility that needs to be taught. For Jeremiah (probably the author of Lamentations) these disciplinary steps are found in verses 28-30. Describe these disciplines:

Remember the nature of the Lord – He is good and patient, loving us through our disobedience, claiming us when we finally turn to Him.

Lamentations 3:22-24 says:

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I says to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him."