

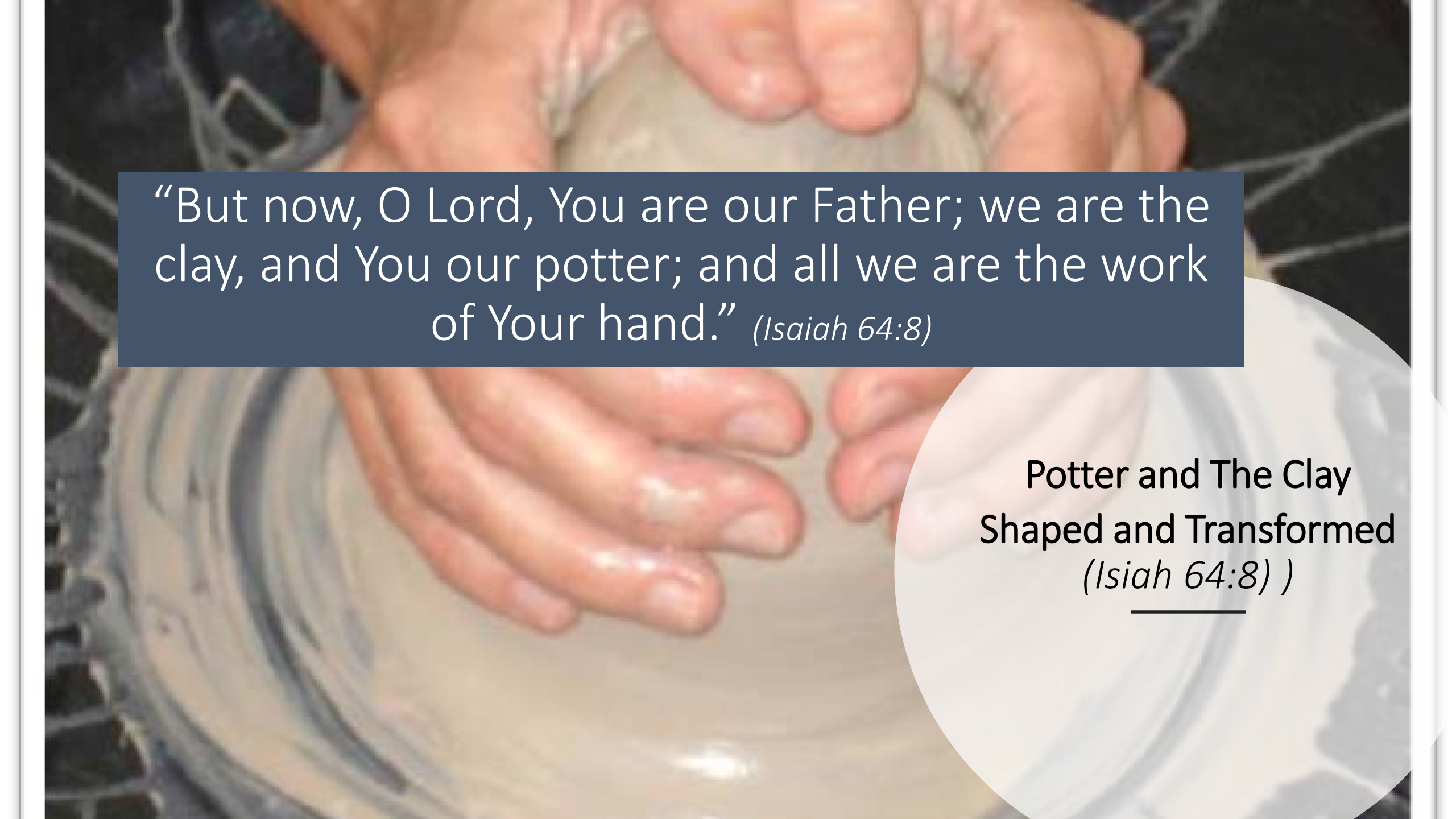
Guided by Grace Christian Ministries

LESSON 9 – Shaped as a Believer

(Isaiah 64:8)

The Parable of the Potter and the Clay





“But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.” *(Isaiah 64:8)*

**Potter and The Clay
Shaped and Transformed
*(Isiah 64:8))***



Potter and The Clay

Shaped and Transformed (*Isiah 64:8*)

- Process of Making Clay Objects
 - **Step 1: Mix the Clay** - Clay is made by mixing a clay powder mix with water.
 - The water to clay mix has to be exactly right in order to ensure the clay is neither too “watery” or too dry and “rigid”
 - **Step 2: Center the Clay** - The clay is centered on a spinning wheel
 - **Step 3: Shape the Clay** - As the clay lump spins, the potter uses his hands to shape it into an object.
 - **Step 4: Heat the Clay** - Once formed, the clay piece is then heated in a kiln to harden it.



Potter and The Clay

Shaped and Transformed (*Isiah 64:8*)

- **STEP 1: Add Water**

- The clay molding process requires that water be added to the powder mix.
- The water represents the Word of God.
- We must study the Word so our hearts and souls become soft and pliable so it may be shaped.
 - When not enough water is added, the clay becomes rigid and crumbles (Living Under the Law).
 - Where too much water is added, it becomes “mushy” and useless (Spiritual Pride and Self-Righteousness).
 - When the right mixture of water and clay come together, it can be formed (Living Under Grace).



Potter and The Clay

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- **STEP 2: Place the Clay Exactly in the Center of the Spinning Wheel**
 - The clay must be positioned exactly at the center of the spinning wheel or it will cause the clay to wobble when it spins.
 - When the clay wobbles, it cannot be properly formed by the hands...it will tear apart and be formed into something that is useless.
 - The center of the wheel represents Christ.
 - We are called to be Christ-centric (Call to Humility).
 - If we remain self-centric (Prideful), we cannot be “formed” to fulfill our main purpose in life – To be One with God and live according to His will.

Potter and The Clay

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- **STEP 3: Shape the Clay**

- Positioned in the center of the spinning wheel, the hands are used to shape the clay into the desired object.
 - With Christ in the center of lives, God, by way of His Spirit, “shapes” and “transforms” us into the object that fulfills God’s purpose for our lives.
 - The clay feels the pressure of the hands (conviction) and begins to form.
 - The pressure is never too great, but just what is needed to form the clay into the desired object.
 - The inside and outside of the clay is shaped and as it is shaped, it grows bigger and taller. Our full potential is revealed & Our purpose is revealed
 - No one object is shaped exactly alike. Each clay vessel or object is shaped to for different purposes.
 - We are all unique, yet beautiful.
 - We must ask of the Lord to reveal our purpose in life – all of which glorifies and exalts our Heavenly Father.



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- **STEP 4: Heat the Clay Object to Harden It**
 - The newly formed clay object is then placed in a heated kiln.
 - The heat (fire) represents being strengthened by the Holy Spirit.
 - The fire brings God's:
 - Presence into our lives.
 - Passion in our hearts
 - Purity to our being, and with it sanctification (the setting apart from others)

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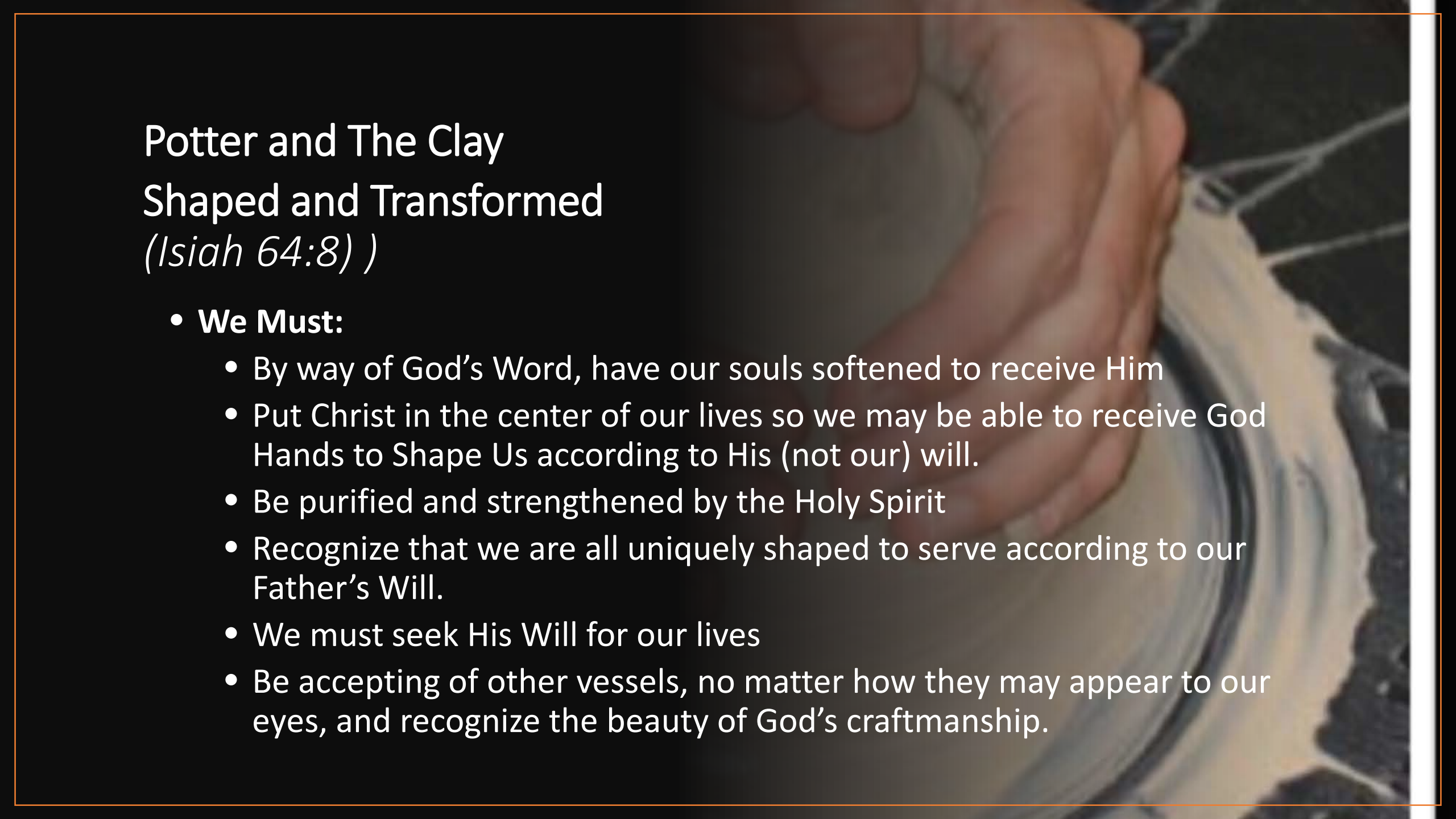
**HOLY
SPIRIT**

Man Before Knowing and Abiding
In Christ – A Useless Lump of Clay –
Lacking Form and Purpose

“Transformed”
By Way of **Christ** at the Center of
Our Lives and “Shaped” by The
Hands of **God**

“Purified”
and “Strengthened”
By the **Holy Spirit**





Potter and The Clay

Shaped and Transformed

(Isiah 64:8))

- **We Must:**

- By way of God's Word, have our souls softened to receive Him
- Put Christ in the center of our lives so we may be able to receive God's Hands to Shape Us according to His (not our) will.
- Be purified and strengthened by the Holy Spirit
- Recognize that we are all uniquely shaped to serve according to our Father's Will.
- We must seek His Will for our lives
- Be accepting of other vessels, no matter how they may appear to our eyes, and recognize the beauty of God's craftsmanship.

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