



## VESSELS OF HONOR PT 2

***"In a wealthy home, some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use. If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work."*** 2 TIMOTHY 2:20-21

**Justification** is an event that takes place when we are saved. When Jesus becomes our Savior, at that very moment, every sin of our past is wiped clean. God removes the junk of yesterday, just as if we had never sinned.

**Sanctification**, however, is not an event. It's a process. It's a journey through which God molds and transforms our character. As He sanctifies us, God takes us to new stages of faith, continually making us more like Him. He sets us free from habitual sin, purifies our hearts, and empowers us to fulfill the Kingdom purpose for which He created us.

### FOUR STAGES OF CHRISTIANITY

1. **UNBELIEVERS BECOME BELIEVERS.**
2. **BELIEVERS BECOME DISCIPLES WHO BEGIN TO GROW.**
3. **DISCIPLES BECOME LEADERS WHO FIND THEIR PURPOSE IN LIFE.**
4. **LEADERS BECOME SERVANTS.**

***"If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work."*** 2 TIMOTHY 2:21

Here, the word **"Master"** is the Greek word **"despotes,"** which refers to a **person who is a ruler with absolute power and authority over others.** We often think of God as a Friend, a Savior, a Protector, and He is those things—but **He is also Lord.** That means He calls the shots! And **we are called to serve at the pleasure of our King.**

## HONOR IN ACTION

There are three steps we can take to become vessels of honor.

### 1. OFFER OUR BODIES

*"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him." ROMANS 12:1*

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

### 2. RENEW OUR MINDS

*"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." ROMANS 12:2*

Sin functions in the **body**, but the **mind** controls the **body**. Sin begins in the mind. *"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5 NIV*

In this passage, we see that **spiritual warfare** is an **essential component** of the Christian life. Warfare is exchanging the report of the world for the report of the Lord.

### 3. SURRENDER OUR WILLS

*"Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." ROMANS 12:2*

The body carries out sin, and the mind controls the body, but **the will controls the mind**. As we surrender our will to God, His perfect will becomes the motivation of our lives. In **MATTHEW 6**, Jesus tells us to pray this way: *"Your kingdom come, Your will be done."* Instead of coming to God with our agenda, we should approach prayer with this mentality: *"Father, I want what You want. Have Your way."* Come to Him with a neutral heart. If we are biased toward a specific answer to our prayer, God's voice will be difficult to discern. It's hard to hear from God when you've already decided what you want HIM to say.

## HOW TO BREAK OUT OF BONDAGE

*"Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants." 2 TIMOTHY 2:25-26*

As Christians, God has given us the power to overcome the attacks of the enemy and areas of oppression in our lives. **To be free of bondage, we need to repent of sin and cast off the powers of darkness.**

### REPENTANCE

Often, people believe that just the admission of sin clears their conscience and frees them from any consequence or responsibility. While **admitting a sin is part of repentance**, it is not full repentance. Repentance not only means admitting your sin but **turning away from the sin** and choosing to no longer continue in it. **TITUS 2:11-12 (NIV)** tells us that through God's grace and salvation, we can say *"no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and live self-controlled, upright and godly lives."*

### CASTING OFF DARKNESS

**1 JOHN 1:7** says that if we are repentant, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. But sometimes people can feel that they aren't forgiven even after they have confessed and repented of a sin many times.

If you are feeling this way, it may be because you need to cast off a demon spirit associated with the sin. You don't need to be afraid to do this because **God has given you the authority in Christ over sin and any dark spirit**. The Holy Spirit is with you, and God promises to never leave or forsake you (**DEUTERONOMY 31:8**).

# FOUR STEPS TO FREEDOM FROM DESTRUCTIVE WORDS

## 1. CONFESS

Healing starts with admitting we were wrong. We must first acknowledge that we have believed something that is not true and have agreed with the lies of the enemy.

***Father, I confess that I have believed the lie that I am worthless and unlovable. Please forgive me for not trusting that what Your Word says about me is true.***

## 2. REPENT

To **repent** means to **change direction**. When we repent, we choose to turn around and go the opposite way of our previous path. Stop your agreement with the enemy in its tracks and set your mind on a new course of thinking. If anyone has hurt you by reinforcing these lies in your life, forgive them and release them to the Lord. I repent and come out of agreement with the lies of the enemy regarding my worth. I recognize that I am greatly valued and loved by God.

***Father, I choose to believe Your Word and what You say about me. I choose to forgive for any way in which they have led me to believe that I am worth-less, whether deliberately or inadvertently.***

It is important to note that when we confess our sins and reject the enemy's lies, we realign ourselves with God's truth. Armed with confidence in His Word, we can take authority over the enemy and remove the effects of his lies from our lives.

## 3. CAST OFF

We must refuse to allow the enemy to continue to use destructive words or events against us. With the authority of the Name of Jesus, command the enemy to leave.

***I cast off the lie that I am worthless, and I renounce the spirit of unworthiness. In the Name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I break the curse of unworthiness and all its effects in my life. I declare that the spirit of unworthiness has no place in my life.***

## 4. BLESS

Once the enemy has been removed, fill the place that he held with truth and promises found in Scripture. Speak life over yourself by declaring an accurate view of how God sees you. I declare and choose to believe what the Word of God says in **ZEPHANIAH 2:8**, that I am ***"God's precious possession."***

***I release the blessing of significance and value in my life and declare that I am of great worth to God.***

## COMMON STRUGGLES YOU MAY NEED TO OVERCOME

Identify the areas where satan may have a foothold in your life, and by using the prayer outline listed above, pray through prayers of repentance, and renounce any dark power.

- |   |  |   |                                  |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> REJECTION                    | <input type="checkbox"/> DEPRESSION    | <input type="checkbox"/> GREED                | <input type="checkbox"/> CONTROL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ABUSE                        | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIDE         | <input type="checkbox"/> GUILT/SHAME          | <input type="checkbox"/> ANGER   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SELF-HATRED/<br>UNWORTHINESS | <input type="checkbox"/> UNFORGIVENESS | <input type="checkbox"/> LUST/SEXUAL IMPURITY | <input type="checkbox"/> FEAR    |

**Pray for the Holy Spirit's discernment and guidance. He desires for you to be free!**

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## OPENING REFLECTION

1. When you hear the phrase “vessel of honor,” what image or thought comes to mind?
2. According to 2 Timothy 2:20-21, what is the difference between being a common utensil and a special utensil? Which do you most identify with right now?

## SANCTIFICATION AND GROWTH

3. How does the process of sanctification differ from justification in your own walk with Christ?
4. Which of the four stages of Christianity (unbeliever, believer, disciple, servant-leader) best describes where you are right now? What’s the next step for you?

## HONOR IN ACTION

5. Romans 12:1 urges us to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. What does that look like practically in today’s culture?
6. Which area is most challenging for you: offering your body, renewing your mind, or surrendering your will? Why?

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND STRONGHOLDS

7. What does it mean to “take every thought captive”? Can you share a time when you had to fight a mental or emotional battle this way?
8. How do you personally discern between God’s truth and the enemy’s lies?

## FREEDOM THROUGH REPENTANCE

9. Have you ever believed a lie about yourself that held you back spiritually or emotionally? How did you overcome it—or how can you start to?
10. The handout lists areas like rejection, fear, and unworthiness. Which area has been a struggle for you, and how can the group support you in walking in freedom?

## WALKING IN AUTHORITY

11. What does it mean to you to cast off darkness in Jesus’ name? Have you ever had an experience where you had to actively renounce something to walk in freedom?
12. How can speaking blessing over yourself (declaring God’s truth) shift your mindset and spiritual atmosphere?

## WRAP-UP / APPLICATION

13. What is one practical thing you can do this week to grow as a vessel of honor?
14. Is there anything you need to repent of, renounce, or speak truth over today?