**A WILLING VESSEL**

***WRITTEN BY: Tommy Romans - JANUARY 2017***

For our Scripture reading: **Isaiah 43:7** – Even every one that is Called by my Name: For I have created him for my Glory, I have formed him, yea I have made him.

So why did our Heavenly Father make us? To get Glory out of our lives! Have you ever sincerely prayed - “What would you have me do Lord? I want to say to you that you are here for a Purpose! The simple fact that you’re still here, is God is not done with you yet.

Before you were ever born, God had a plan – a Divine Will for your life. When you were born and breathed your first breath, your creator stamped you to be Used. He put His label on you saying – “you are mine. You are meant to be here - I have created you for my Glory. You are to be my Chosen Vessel to use for your generation, to touch and encourage the down and out, to lift heavy hearts, to be a healer and repairer of the breach, to be a light and a guide to the wayward souls in darkness and minister to those who are hurting! Child, I have a Will for your life. You are my testimony and witness to proclaim my mercy and goodness! I have a place reserved in my Kingdom just for you and a work to do!”

To you who feel – “Lord, I’m unworthy, I just don’t have much to offer.” God is saying to you – “You are my opportunity in your day. I have waited for ages for a person just like you. If you refuse me, then I lose my opportunity which I sought through you. Child, I will never have another person on earth just like you. None can take your place to reach your circle of friends and family. Give me your heart and prayers and I will mold your personality to portray my Love to touch them.”

 Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church, to his brothers and sisters in Christ, saying – **I Cor. 6:20** – What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a Price. Therefore Glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God’s.

You are the very Vessel to carry God to others around you! Since Jesus called you and saved you, you don’t belong to yourself anymore. It’s no more about you, your ways – but it’s all about Jesus. You have come to the place now that you must say – “Lord, thy Will be done! Here’s my life, take me,

break me, mold me and shape me. You brought me into this world for a purpose and I want to do your perfect Will!”

One man said it this way – I don’t want to miss it! I don’t want to miss the mark and fall short. When I die, I don’t want the Lord to say to me – “Let me show you what you could’ve done and what your life could have been like if only you had given me more of your time and effort. O child, you could have done more but you held back and missed some of your greatest blessings!”

 Like the song we sing: Jesus use me, please Lord don’t refuse me, surely there’s a work that I can do; even though it’s humble, Lord help my will to crumble, though the cost be great, I’ll work for you.

 Dear Lord I’ll be a witness if you will help my weakness, I know that I’m not worthy Lord of thee. By eyes of faith I see thee, upon the Cross of Calvary, dear Lord I cry – Let me thy servant be.

 I’ll stand for thee dear Jesus, though death may come my way, I’ll spread the Gospel to the fallen here, and if it be thy will Lord, to go across the sea, Lord help me to be willing to say yes.

**A HURTING WORLD**

 My heart aches right now to think of our world groping in darkness, blinded by the master of deceit. People are dying all around us, lost without God. Their lives are a mess. They’re bound in chains of misery and lives shattered by sin! Can’t you here the inward groaning of their eternal souls? They have no peace, no hope. Can’t you feel their hopelessness and pain as they reach for the needle, the alcohol and dope to fill the longing in their heart? Can’t you see the homes split up, mommies crying and little children wiping tears? Hospital beds are filled with the sick and hurting needing prayer and a hand of mercy to bring a healing touch. The shut-ins are waiting for that visit, phone call or card in the mail to bring them encouragement to let them know that God cares and He loves them. Nursing homes are filled with patients who rarely get any visitors, their bodies broken as they sit in their wheel chairs or lie in their beds just waiting for someone to bring a smile in their room and tell them Jesus loves you! Our prisons are filled with victims who have been lied to by Satan and now concrete and bars are their home. They sit there completely hopeless and don’t even realize they have a soul that God loves. They are somebody’s son or daughter that was led away by the spirit of error, but Jesus died for them. There is still mercy with God. Many walk our streets today, they may be free physically, but yet they’re locked up inside. Their soul is in prison and they have no peace. Can I say - there is hope for our sinner friends and family. There is a restoring for the backsliders. There is cleansing and forgiveness. There is help and healing. Thank God there is Salvation in our wonderful Saviour Jesus! O God – Please use me!!

**WHO WILL BE THAT VESSEL?**

 A man who was an artist took a large canvas and with his many colors of oil paint and brushes, he painted a picture of a raging sea. In the middle of the foamy waves was a rock sticking up out of the water. It showed a man holding on for dear life with both arms clinging to the rock as the angry waves beat against him. The rock was his hope and anchor. He was so proud of his painting that he called his friend, who also was an artist, to come over and look at his masterpiece. The other artist was a professional who had been painting for many years. As they stood there looking at the picture, the professional begged his friend who had painted it to allow him to make just one change in the painting. He promised him he could make it better. The owner of the painting said ok. The old man took out his brush and dipped it down into the man’s paint and with wisdom and skill he made a few dozen strokes. They stood back and looked at it. Now the picture showed – instead of the man clinging to the rock with both arms, he is now holding on with one arm locked around the solid rock and the other arm stretched out to others who were going down and drowning in the raging sea.

 Who will be God’s arms and hands in this day in which we are living? Thank God for those precious dedicated people from the days of Christ till now who have given their all to the Lord! They had a heart for God and His work to minister to needy souls and hurting humanity. They knew what it meant to give up things and do without. To them nothing else mattered but to please the Lord who saved and called them. Their whole life was one of sacrifice. Though they suffered trials and afflictions, yet God used them, His hand was upon them. The Lord anointed and blessed them and many lives were touched!

**THE STORY OF JIM ELLIOT**

 Jim Elliot (1927 – 1956) was a missionary to the uncivilized Aucas Indians of Ecuador. He died a martyrs death from the very people he tried to reach. He was 29 yrs. old. Jim Elliot’s dad was a strict Christian from the Plymouth Brethren Church. His parents raised him to live for Christ. He grew up in a home where obedience and honesty was enforced. His Mother and Dad told him, “Son, live for God, give your all to Him!” Elliot wrote in his journal October 28th 1949 – “I believe that work dedicated to Jesus is more important than my life! He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose!”

 Elliot felt the pull, the tug of God on his heart to go to Ecuador to preach and reach the Aucas Indians who were Savages and known to kill. He and four others took a plane and loaded it with supplies and gifts and landed in a nearby strip near this tribe of Indians. They passed out gifts to them, befriending them to win their heart and confidence. They preached and ministered to them telling them that Jesus loved them and He died to save them.

 Elliot and the other four missionaries built and set up camp to stay for awhile. But the devil stirred up a few of the tribe and caused them to believe that the missionaries were there for other purposes. A few of the savages ran upon them with their spears and killed all five of them.

 It looked like all the missionaries’ efforts were in vain and all was lost. Their sacrifice and efforts were to no avail. O but it wasn’t! Two years later Jim Elliot’s wife Elisabeth and his daughter Valerie and Rachel, a wife of one of the other missionaries, felt pulled to the same place their husbands gave their lives. The women befriended the tribe, ministered to them and won some of them to Jesus. And now, many years later, the son of one of the other missionaries lives among the Aucas tribe today. Many of them have now come to know the Lord and are Christians. They are now a friendly tribe.

**O THE GOOD THAT WILL COME OUT**

 I’m writing to some of you today, you may think your work is in vain and you may feel like nothing good has or is coming out of your labors and efforts. But God wants you to know your work and labor is not in vain. There will surely come a reaping. Seeds are eternal, they cannot die. God’s seed always produces a harvest. In due season, ye shall reap if ye faint not! Hold true, keep praying and believing, doing and obeying and God will certainly come through in due time.

 They said Jim Elliot longed for people to become missionaries. His vision and burden for the souls of these Indians and his death to reach them has inspired more people to go to other countries to share the love of Jesus than he ever could have in life. His sacrifice and death proved his love and commitment to God right out in a hot jungle of mean people. In light of Elliot and his dedication to God’s will, it seems we have done little for the Kingdom of God.

 Have you really prayed lately – “Jesus use me, please Lord don’t refuse me: surely there’s a work I can do. Even though it’s humble, Lord help my will to crumble, though the cost be great, I’ll work for you?” Elliot desired to serve God as a missionary, how do you desire to serve Him?

 When Elliot and the other four missionaries could not be contacted by their families back home, they sent the authorities to find them. When they found their bodies, Elliot had a handgun in his pocket but had refused to use it to protect himself and hurt the tribe that he tried to win. O but look what God did! We’ll never know the many redeemed souls that will be in Heaven because of this Vessel that said – Yes Lord, I’ll go – I’ll do and I’ll give! Just use me! Hallelujah, your prayers and tears are not in vain!

**A VESSEL OF HONOUR**

**2Ti 2:20** But in a great house there are not only Vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonor.

 **21** If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a Vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet (fit) for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.

 So let’s break it down. The Great House is the Church. The Vessels are the people. Vessels are made and meant to be used! Every believer should have a compelling desire to be used of the Lord in whatever way He chooses. Every Vessel must be fit and willing. In order to be useful for the Master, we must be purged from the world and prepared. God is looking for Gold and Silver, so He purges us from the wood. Wood will burn. It cannot stand the heat. It’s unable to contain and hold good things. When fiery trials come they are burned up. The same with the earthen clay Vessels. When pressure comes in the service of God they crack and break and lose their desire and sacred content. These Vessels are useless – they are earthly – they’re of the world in nature and cannot hold God’s true riches. God can’t use them to pour out to others because they are not willing to give up all and be sanctified for the Masters use. These wood and clay Vessels are the carnal and self- willed.

 It’s the Gold and Silver Vessels that are dedicated. It is them that God can depend on – they are always there – they’ve come through the fire and they’ve proved themselves faithful. They are worthy for God to anoint. They stood the test, stayed in the battle and fought. They kept their burden and did not slack up, quit or leave. Their cry was – “Here I am Lord, please use me. Just pour into me and I will pour out to others your Praise and Glory. A true Vessel in the House of the Lord is never meant to sit on the shelf, but to be used!

**THE PARABLE OF THE NAIL**

 There’s a proverb of the Nail finding its place! If you think you’re no good, you have nothing to offer and that your Little bit won’t help or do any good, think of this: As a Carpenter was driving up a Nail, he thought to himself – “All I want out of this Nail is to be still, hold on and stay where I put it!” If in its wish to be useful, it would leave its place and go bustling all over the house interfering with the rest of the household, then it will cause more harm than good. The Carpenter said to the Nail – “Just stay where I put you. You are to Hold things together and to keep them from falling!”

 Lord, my ministry may not be big but I’m willing to be that human Nail. Lord drive me deep in you and let me be anchored to help hold up others in the House of God. If I have no other great calling, talents or abilities, just let me be a support for my own family and others to keep them from falling or tearing apart!

You never think of the importance of nails, but the floor you walk on in your house is nailed down for support. The walls and roof of your home is held together by those small unimportant looking nails and because of them, the rain, storms and wind cannot wash you away. Thank you little nails for your ministry. Can you say – “Thank you Jesus, I’m willing to be that Nail to support others and help keep things together!”

 Children, it’s the little things that we overlook that are important.

**AN OPEN UNSEALED VESSEL**

 If you’re sealed and shut up – you’re useless. Being shut up speaks of self-will. All that you are – all your carnal feelings, all your ideas, your wants, desires and all your attitudes are sealed inside. Take a Mason canning jar and put a lid and ring on it and tighten it down – it is sealed with whatever is inside and nothing from the outside can get into that jar. You are that sealed jar, a closed Vessel that God cannot enter unless you break the seal of self-will, remove the cap and pour out all your carnal ways and worldly desires. That seal must be broken in our life, the cap removed and everything emptied out before God can fill that Vessel. Oh how we need to get things out of us! God looks into the jar, He sees the harbored feelings and selfish contents and says, child, I can’t bless you and cannot use you until you empty out.

**WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES?**

 O the mystery of it all, what God can do! Can infinity fit in a jar? Can that which is little contain that which is big? Yes, if you take the lid off and it’s an empty clean Vessel. Think about it, a closed Vessel can never contain anything larger than itself! But an open Vessel has no limitation – it can contain the blowing wind. Just hold it up into the jet stream and the mighty wind can blow into and out of it. O how the Wind of God, the Holy Ghost wants to blow our way, to flow into our Vessel and out to others. Take this Mason quart jar out into the pouring rain and remove the lid, hold it out and catch the water, take it inside and water the flowers that are drying up in their pots, go back out and do the same again until every thirsty flower is watered. O the ability of a yielded open Vessel! It could dip the ocean dry if time permitted. Take it down into a rippling stream, hold it down with its mouth open to the flowing water and watch the clear life giving water enter and flow back out of the open Vessel. Oh what these Vessels of ours can contain and do when they’re yielded to the Divine! God is saying to you – “Your possibilities are unlimited if you will just open up your will and yield to the Holy Ghost.” Let’s open our hearts and minds and our life to Him right now and experience the fullness of Christ!

**Zech 4:10** For who hath despised the day of Small Things?

**2Ch 16:9** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

**A TEACHER’S ILLUSTRATION**

 As I close, a teacher stood before his class of young kids and took out his big pocket watch and held it up saying – What’s this used for? The children said – to keep time. Well suppose it won’t keep time and can’t be made to keep time, what then is it good for? It’s good for nothing said the class. He then held up an ink pen and said, suppose this ink pen ran out of ink and had none in its fountain, what’s it good for? Nothing they said! He then held up a pencil, what if this pencil had no lead in it, what’s it good for children? They answered him, it is good for nothing. Just to think an empty pen could never write a poem or song, or message and never write an encouraging letter to someone going through it and lift their spirit. A little thing such as a pencil could never make a mark or draw a pretty picture for a beholder. If the ink is dried up and there is no lead in the pencil, these small instruments are good for nothing. They’ll never touch society or make an imprint on hearts.

All the class were now listening intently with fixed eyes as the teacher held up the watch, the pen and the pencil and said to them – all these are useless and good for nothing unless they can do the thing for which they were made, is that right? Yes, they replied! The teacher then walked up close in front of his class and said – “Well children, what is a boy and a girl made for? What is the purpose of man? It is to please God and bring Him Glory! Now then, if a boy or a girl does not do what he or she is made for, what then is he or she good for?” All the children answered him – They are good for nothing!

Could we pray this prayer: Lord, I want to be your Vessel. Please use me. Surely there’s a work that I can do. I’ll gladly be that Nail if you want me too, to hold things together. I’ll be your mouthpiece, your hands and your feet. Let my tongue be the pen of a ready writer to tell the good old story of Jesus and His glory. I’ll gladly be that open Vessel for you to pour into so I can give out to others and tell them just how good you are! May God Bless my readers!

 

**I will write**

**a**

**I will Pour**

**I will Hold!**

