

- Lessons from The Pottery House (Jeremiah 18)
- A Time to Reform our Ways
- Return to the Ancient Paths

### Lessons from The Pottery House: Don't Loose Hope!

God instructed Jeremiah to observe a potter as he worked on his wheel. The potter took a spoiled clay pot and chose to reform it into another pot. God said: "*At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it...[but] if that nation ...turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity planned...*" (Jer 18:7) Though God may plan to judge a nation for its evil, (even though decreed by His prophets), God promises to respond to true repentant prayer to bring reform to that nation—and even repurpose or re-set its destiny. Its never too late to cry out in true repentant prayer—so we must never give up hope! Skip a meal and pray. Set apart a day or week or month to pray with the *expectation* that God will *reform* us.

### A Time to Reform our Ways

"...*Oh turn back, each of you from his evil way, and reform your ways and your deeds.*" (Jer 18:11). In searching out the scriptures, to turn and reform means to come back to *thinking* about God and depending on Him for everyday needs and acts of kindness. We must return to being *with* Him and therefore being *aware* of what He wants us to do. This is what it means to return to the ancient paths. Prayer is a lifestyle of doing everything **WITH** and **FOR** Him—which requires us to remember to think about Him, talk to Him.

### Return to the Ancient Paths—There is No Better Preparation for the Last Days!

"...*For my people have forgotten Me...and they have stumbled from...the ancient paths.*" (Jer 18:15). Every season of reform in the history of the Jewish nation was shown by their restoration of the Tabernacle of David. The Tabernacle of David is a lifestyle of listening prayer and meditation on His Word –the Ancient Paths. A return to the Ancient Paths is a return to the Practice of His Presence. A practical tip: Don't belabor your shortcomings or failures to obey Christ—just quickly confess and get back into His presence—asking for His help in everything and then doing every activity as a love gift **TO** Him. To keep His ways is to keep a running dialogue (or song) with Him throughout the day—living by communing prayer results in a "Presence Lifestyle"—where everything is done with Him and for Him as an act of love and adoration. (Brother Lawrence: The Practice of the Presence of God)