

**A Cup for the Master's Use
by Deborah Schaulis**

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*

(II Corinthians 4:7, NKJV)

I am a cup, a little brown cup,
of stoneware, simple and plain.

I am a cup, a useful cup,
all chipped and cracked and stained.

My Master has made me for one special purpose—

I'm fashioned for this job alone:

He fills me up with the Water of Life
and pours it out into His own.

Into this simple "earthen vessel," God has chosen to pour His mercy and grace, truth and wisdom, joy and peace. It is not for my own benefit He poured out these things. On the contrary, as with a lowly teacup, I am made simply to hold the Water of Life until it can be poured into others.

I receive it, I carry it to someone who is thirsty, and then I let them drain me dry. But I am not empty for long. I go back to my Source. Through prayer and Bible study, Living Water pours into my soul again. Now I'm ready to be directed by my Master to yet another needy soul.

If I do not allow God to fill me, or if I withhold His blessings from others, I have failed my purpose. I am not living according to my design. But when I surrender to His purpose, when I allow the Master of the house to use me, I experience the joy of being employed by Him. I bless others and bring Him pleasure, as well (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

What a privilege to be a vessel to carry God's glory and goodness! What an honor to be a simple stoneware cup to bring the Spirit of my Creator to weary souls that want a taste!

Lord, help me remember that I am merely a vessel to carry Your goodness to others. The gifts, talents and insights You have given are not for me alone, but for others. Help me share them as selflessly as You share with us. In Jesus' name, amen.