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THE TEAPOT'S STORY

One afternoon an elderly couple entered a lovely teashop. A busy waiter directed them with a wave of his hand to sit at a table in the far corner. Upon the table there was a beautiful teapot. Delicious looking scones, sandwiches and fruit tarts surrounded the teapot. The man started to turn to go back to the counter to explain they didn't have enough money for such a feast when the teapot began to speak.

"Please sit down and do not be afraid. My master wishes you to be His guest. Take and eat whatever suits you while I tell you a story." Startled but curious, the couple sat down to listen to the teapot's story.

"You see there was a time when I was just an old, hard, gray lump of clay. I was very sad because I felt so useless. One day a master potter came along and picked me up. He began to pat, twist, turn and reshape me. It really hurt so I asked Him to please stop. But He simply looked at me with a kind smile and said, 'Not Yet'." As the teapot spoke, it poured out tea for the couple into delicate cups that never emptied or grew cold. The teapot seemed to glow and light the dark corner like a lamp as it continued its story.

"Next He put me on this wheel and He began to spin me around and around. I got so dizzy that I couldn't even see where I was going, and I began to feel ill. I begged Him, 'Please let me off!' And He replied, 'Not yet'."

"The worst was yet to come, however. My master then put me into the oven. It was so incredibly hot that I cried and cried to be let out. But all He said was, 'Not yet'."

"Finally, the oven door opened. He took me out and set me on a table. I thought, Whew! Thank goodness that is over! But then He began to paint me with this awful smelling stuff. I could hardly breathe when He put me back into the oven for a second time. It was even hotter than before! I thought I would die for sure. Just when I was ready to give up, He gently lifted me from the oven."

"After a long rest, my master came by and picked me up. I could clearly see my reflection in His eyes and saw that I had been transformed. I was now beautiful. He told me that it was my reward for being so patient and strong. I asked Him how I could repay Him and His face lit up."

"My Master then explained my purpose to me: 'Pour out your story to everyone you meet. Don't be discouraged, if they don't hear or understand you. Keep your lid open a crack so I may fill you with my spirit where ever you may be. I will guide you all the rest of your days.'"

The teapot then seemed to glow even brighter as it finished sharing, "It is such an honor to serve my Master that I have been filled with joy ever since!"

The couple had tears in their eyes when the teapot finished its tale. They promised to also share his story with others and come often to visit. This delighted the teapot even more. He knew his Master would be pleased. The teapot was serving his purpose.

II Corinthians 1:3-4 (God)...wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The teapot bracelets have two teacups: one for God and one for you. Remember, He is always with you. You are never alone.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS STORY WAS ADAPTED BY ADELE DUFFY, SANDIE GRINDEL, AND CAROL KELLEY ON NOVEMBER 20, 2004 FROM AN INTERNET VERSION, AUTHOR UNKOWN.