

**GOD MAKES A MESSAGE OUT OF MY MESS**  
*PERFECT GOD / IMPERFECT WORLD*

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*“The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.” So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world’s brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it’s all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.”*  
(1 Corinthians 1:18–24, NLT)

AT TIMES MY LIFE CAN BE A MESS!

1. My mess can come from progress in life.

*“Without oxen a stable stays clean, but you need a strong ox for a large harvest.”* (Proverbs 14:4, NLT)

a. Growth comes at a price.

**a.i.** My ox must be fed and watered.

**a.ii.** My ox must be put in the barn during bad weather.

**a.iii.** My ox leaves a mess that must be cleaned up.

**a.iv.** For all the benefits my ox provides it comes with a cost and a mess.

2. My mess can come because of sin.

*“And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.”*  
(Matthew 19:9, NLT)

a. Sin complicates life and sometimes forces us to make hard choices.

a.i. Remorse is not repentance.

a.ii. Judas was remorseful.

a.iii. *“I have sinned”* (Matthew 27:4, NLT)

a.iv. *“I have betrayed an innocent man.”* (Matthew 27:4, NLT)

a.v. Peter was repentant.

a.vi. *“He went away, weeping bitterly.”* (Matthew 26:75, NLT)

*“Name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”*  
(Matthew 1:21, NLT)

3. I will stop trying to make sense out of God.

You cannot go on “explaining away” for ever; you will find that you have explained explanation itself away. You cannot go on “seeing through” for ever. The whole point of seeing through something is to see something through it. It is good that the window should be transparent, because the street or garden beyond it is opaque. How if you saw through the garden too? It is no use trying to “see through” first principles. If you see through everything, then everything is transparent. But a wholly transparent world is an invisible world. To “see through” all things is the same as not to see.

C. S Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*, pg. 91

*“He is the Potter, and he is certainly greater than you, the clay! Should the created thing say of the one who made it, “He didn’t make me”? Does a jar ever say, “The potter who made me is stupid”? ... In that day the deaf will hear words read from a book, and the blind will see through the gloom and darkness. The humble will be filled with fresh joy from the LORD. The poor will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. ... the wayward will gain understanding, and complainers will accept instruction.”*  
(Isaiah 29:16, 18–19, 24, NLT)

## **GROWTHWORK**

*“If God didn’t hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn’t gladly and freely do for us?”* (Romans 8:32, Message)

### **1. ASK IN FAITH.**

*“But he must ask in faith without any doubting....”* (James 1:6, NASB)

### **2. ASK BOLDLY.**

*“So don’t throw away your bold faith. It will bring you rich rewards.”*  
(Hebrews 10:35, NIV)

### **3. DO NOT GROW WEARY.**

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* (Galatians 6:9, NIV)

*“Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up.”* (Hebrews 12:3, NLT)

### **4. STEP OUT IN FAITH.**

*“Take up the Chest of the Covenant and step out before the people.” So they took it up and processed before the people.”* (Joshua 3:6, Message)

**5. START TAKING BACK WHAT THE DEVIL STOLE TODAY!**

*“God’s Spirit doesn’t make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:7, CEV)*