



GROWTH DIGEST

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Teachings

“How To Reach Our Full Potential”

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Introduction: The potential of a person is his capability or power that has not yet come into being. It is the person's latent power that is not yet realized and developed.

We should know our personal potential. We should know our purpose in life. We should know what the Lord wants to do to us. We should be ready to develop our full potential.

God has a custom-made design and blue-print for all of us. He has wonderful plans for us. Realizing our full potential involves discovering our capabilities, aiming high as workers, and having a passion to go beyond our usual service. Are we already satisfied with our present spiritual level? Are we receptive to promptings of the Holy Spirit to let go our old self and transcend into our full spiritual potential?

God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1). He made *man in His image* and after His *likeness* (Genesis 1:26). He is the same God who gave us purposes in our lives. He is the same God who gave us our full potential.

Knowing More About God

In order to realize more about our own potential, let us study three Hebrew words that show the power and pre-eminence of God.

1) “Berayah” – This Hebrew word means “Yahweh has created.” [“Beriyah” means creation.] God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He was present even before life on earth existed.

- **“I am the Alpha and the Omega’, says the Lord God, ‘the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty.’** (Revelation 1:8).
- **“For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.”** (Ephesians 2:10).
- **“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! plans to give you a future full of hope.”** (Jeremiah 29:11).

- **“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.”** (Jeremiah 1:5).

2) “Bara” – This Hebrew word means to create. God created the world; He made man. He can create anything out of nothing. God can use us even if we do not have any talent. He can help us develop our gifts.

- **“as it is written, ‘I have made you father of many nations.’ He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into being what does not exist.”** (Romans 4:17).

- **“And Jesus said to the centurion, ‘You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you.’”** (Matthew 8:13)

3) “Elohim” – The word Elohim is the most frequent Hebrew word for God. (2,500 times used in the Old Testament). The root word means “strong” and “be in front.” Truly, God is almighty and preeminent.

- **“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”** (John 1:14).

God has plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11) and wants to use us according to His purpose.

When we believe in Jesus, He makes us a new creation. *“So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). He sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in us (1 Corinthians 3:16) and to give us power (Acts 1:8).

We Are Called According to God's Purpose

The Lord is asking us to live according to His purpose.

- **“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”** (Romans 8:28). He will equip us for our ministry: *“And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:11-12).

We are all members of the body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12). We have different parts and functions. *“If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.”* (1 Corinthians 12:26). Let us develop the full potential of our different parts of the body to function according to God’s plans and purpose.

Reaching our full potential includes having an abundant life. Jesus has promised *“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”* (John 10:10).

Jesus demonstrated with His many miracles in the Gospel that doing great things is possible even with so little. From just five loaves of bread and two fish, He fed 5,000 men, excluding women and children. (Matthew 6:34-44). God mightily used Moses who was initially reluctant in obeying God’s command to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. (Exodus 3-4). Your Elders’ teaching and preaching abilities were developed by the Lord; the same is true with Bro. Froilan Hong, our Director for Pastoral.

Allowing the Lord To Develop Our Full Potential

We should not underestimate what the Lord can do for us. Let us not make excuses with God [like Moses who claimed he was *“slow of speech and tongue”* (Exodus 3:10)]. Let us allow the Lord to use us and to develop our full potential according to His purpose.

Peter is an example of a person who was doing something else (as a fisherman) when Jesus called him. He saw Peter as a potential leader. Despite Peter’s failures and his denials of Jesus, he was made the leader and first Pope of the Catholic Church. He became a powerful preacher. (Acts 2:14-41). He was faithful to God’s instructions: *“Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Feed my sheep.”* (John 21:15-17).

Gideon was called by an angel of the Lord: *“The Lord is with you, O Champion.”* (Judges 6:12). He felt inadequate to the name and *most insignificant* in his family. He was not sure of his potential to stand up and lead the fight against the Median who held Israel subject for seven years. He eventually became the mighty champion God wanted him to be.

Some of us are a little like Moses, Peter, and Gideon. We are not sure of God’s call. We cannot leave our present work or responsibility to follow what God asks us to do. We feel inadequate to do what God wants us to do.

God will use us if we allow him to do so. He will use us irrespective of our age. David was only a shepherd boy when the prophet Samuel told him that he would be the second king of Israel. Timothy was anointed by St. Paul to serve the Lord when he was still very young.

Like David and Timothy, all of us can be used by the Lord irrespective of our age. We can achieve our full potential when we allow God.

Main Hindrance In Reaching Our Full Potential

Double-mindedness of a person can prevent him from achieving his full potential. A double-minded mind thinks in one way but acts differently.

“...The one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, since he is a man of two minds, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:6-8).

Sometimes, we are double-minded and double-standard Christians. At times, we compromise our principles. We vacillate between holy and worldly living.

Some of us have unstable minds when we promise to serve but we are not actually available. We claim trusting the Lord when we are inside the Heritage Center but we are still worried and anxious about the world upon leaving the Center. At times, we are prayerful in our community but we still participate in indecent jokes, corrupt practices, and unwholesome activities in our offices.

We should not be double-minded Christians. We should be stable and faithful Christians 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Only then can we reach our full potential and receive our overflowing blessings from God.

We have many examples of Biblical characters who were used by God. We have also examples of those who turned double-minded. King Saul of Israel obeyed the Lord halfheartedly and compromised. King Solomon associated with pagans and worshipped their idols. These acts of King Saul and King Solomon led to their doom.

Let us allow God to continue using us by keeping a clear and stable mind. Let us not doubt like a drifting cork being tossed in the seas. Let us never be double-minded. Let us allow the Lord to use us and give us the grace of achieving our full potential for God’s glory.

CONCLUSION: God has given all of us potential for physical, emotional, mental and spiritual growth.

God created us and has a blue-print for all of us. Let us allow Him to help us develop our total potential for growth. It is with a clean and stable mind, not a doubting and double-minded mind, that we can achieve our full potential. Let us pray to God for the grace of our fully developed potential for His greater glory.

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