LIVING TO YOUR FULL POTENTIAL IN GOD 1

In **John 10:10** Jesus said He came that you will have life and live it to the full, meaning in God you can live to your full potential. Whiles it is clear that the Devil seeks to frustrate, limit you and steal from you what you could become.

Potential is defined as: latent qualities or abilities that may be developed and lead to future success or usefulness.

The above definition confirms that you have qualities and abilities, but they need to be harnessed or developed. So we will go through series of steps and actions you need to take in order to harness your potential and live life to the full. It is important to understand that nothing happens just by accident but there is a set plan for everything, **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**. So failing to plan and act to harness your potential will result in living unfulfilled. Let us not leave our lives to chance, because most of us think some fortune will happen to us and change our lives for the better.

In order to harness your potential, the following actions and steps should be pursued. Have a vision, set goals, and set objectives.

**Have a vision**

This is the big picture you see in your mind’s eyes of the future; the expected end. **Proverbs 29:18 (NASB)** points to the fact that a vision makes you hopeful, without which you will fail to live a purposeful life. Without vision, you will focus on your troubles and problems, settle for whatever ends up on your table, and you will not be able to set meaningful goals.

1. Vision is the mother of goals or vision gives birth to goals.
2. Visions take your mind beyond your current circumstances and propel you above their waves which are capable of drowning you.
3. Vision serves as the glimpse of light seen far away at the end of a dark tunnel.
4. Vision is the catalyst for identifying or seeing opportunities

Vision must be set in front of you all the time or you will lose sight of it.

 **Habakkuk 2:2-3** makes it plain how to handle a vision for it to work for you and focus your life. A vision is like the pipe which carries water or gas, without which the water will be all over the place and wasted. Without the vision, you will be all over the place and settle for what circumstances bring you, which is the same as unrestrained water flowing along circumstances such as obstacles and gets anywhere. But what the proverb also says is that you will be happy when you keep the Law. The law was not just about does and don’ts but sets in motion the act of restrain and discipline required for what has been set before you. Note that you will not be prepared to go through difficulties and strain if there is no reason for it. Vision puts you in a position to go through the difficulties and to strain along your life paths. In **Hebrews 12:2**, we see that Jesus endured the cross because of the vision set before him.

**What kind of vision should you have?**

1. The first and foremost vision for every Christian is to see and know God and what He has promised you set before you, and to look like Jesus Christ, **Psalm 33:18-22 (AMP)**
2. Have a vision for your Ministry
3. Set a vision for your family, Example is a good marriage till death.
4. Set a vision for your carier

LIVING TO YOUR FULL POTENTIAL IN GOD 2

Your potential is the hidden and untapped qualities and abilities which have to be harnessed. Know that you will not be able to exhaust what you could achieve or become, but all which is required is to forget what is behind and keep pushing forward, **Philippians 3:13**.

Last week we talked about vision which is what you see in your mind’s eyes about the future. In **Genesis 13:14-15**, we see God telling Abraham that as far as his eye can see, will be the land for his possession. You can’t get what you can’t see and cannot achieve what you can’t imagine, see also Genesis 15:1-5.

After you have seen the big picture, you need to set goals or targets which are achievable to draw you closer to the vision

Goals are things you set to do and accomplish in a set time. In **Luke 14:28-32**, Jesus teaches on goal setting which we need to follow.

**Characteristics of a goal**

1. Very specific, measureable and time bound: Jesus is clear on how to set a goal by first determining the goal or target, then assessing where you are with respect to the goal, in terms of resources which include your abilities and capability, finances, materials, information and knowledge, opportunities and threats. This clearly points to the act of planning and actions based on foresight, insight and hindsight. You also see that the scripture shows that the goal has to be time bound.
2. It is like a seed sown to yield a harvest, **Matthew 13:31-32**: A goal is achievable as you commit resources as seed. It is also important to understand that the seed is very small in comparison to the tree it produces. So there is the tendency to discount it or despise it. But it is the potential of that which is yet to be, as it is said that great things come in small packages.

**Dealing with goal killers**

This has to do with things that will prevent you from achieving your goals, and they can also be classed as goalkeepers as we have in a football match. The goalkeeper is there to prevent you from scoring a goal or achieving your target.

1. Fear: It comes in many forms but it is important to note that it is good as the first stop for any venture which is not well planned. If you did not learn for the exam, your fear of failing is undeniable. So do not fear when you have set a clear goal and planned for it. Fear is imagination of a worst outcome and it is able to make you lose your sense of initiative. You have to be assured that God is able to help you achieve your goal. In **Numbers 13:27-33** we see what fear can do to a people despite even with the promise of God, **Proverbs 3:25-26**
2. Despair: this mean to give up easily when faced with difficulty. If you try and it did not work out, try again by reassign your position with regards to your target. The fact that you failed the exams this time round does not mean you can never pass. You just need to studies and prepare better and go for it again.
3. Selfishness: it is the most deceitful goalkeeper as it focuses you on only what you will get in any relationship or agreement in so much that the hidden potentials or opportunities are missed. It must not be seeking to win at the expense of others. As you seek to achieve your goals, you will encounter people, some of whom you must help meet their goals and in the process benefit you in the long run, and others who will help you meet yours directly.
4. Laziness, **Proverbs 20:4**: it is what makes us fold our hands to slumber a little. Laziness is a co-worker with procrastination and indecision. It keeps telling you that there is more time and you can do it tomorrow. It is important to assess what we have achieved at the end of the week towards achieving our goal.

LIVING TO YOUR FULL POTENTIAL IN GOD 3

Your potential is waiting to be harnessed by looking deeper into yourself and identifying your God given gifts, talents and abilities. This should be a daily quest instead of settling down for some routine job or activity, there is more you can achieve in life than you have ever imagine. We have looked at vision and goals setting, which in simple terms are seeing what you want for your future in your mind’s eyes and setting measurable targets towards achieving the vision.

Therefore your life needs to be fully in order and oriented towards what you want your future to be. Your choices, decisions and actions will have to be purposeful; hence there will be a reason for where you go, people you hang around with, how your time is used, and how you use all resources at your disposal.

In order to get closer to your vision, there must be a systematic move from one target to another. In **Deuteronomy 1:6-8**, we see God telling Israel to move on as they have been at one place for too long. Sometimes you remain in one routine for so long or stack and going in circles and not making any progress towards your goals and vision.

Today we want to look at Objectives which are more specific things to set to do and achieve; the many steps you take to achieve your goals. **Proverbs 16:9** says that after we have planned, we need ordered steps to get to our goal. The scripture is clear that before your steps can be directed by God, it is important to plan your way. This mean, God gives you the vision and then expect you to plan towards the vision and then He helps and direct your steps towards your goals and vision.

The basic principle of objectives is doing it little by little or daily actions and activities focused towards achieving a goal. This principle is seen in **Exodus 23:26-30** given to the people of Israel for taking possession of the Promised Land.

Lessons from the scripture are:

1. You cannot handle big or bigger things until you have mastered handling small things.
2. There are beasts in the field which you have to be careful of. These could be people who will steal your vision and try to beat you to it. It could also be discouragers who will give you all the reasons why your plans will not succeed. It could also be other factors such as; human institutions and systems, economic factors, and other limitations that affect you.
3. Increase your capacity, ability, and territory to give you the upper hand and irresistible influence. This is the stage when you have mastered your abilities, gifts and talents so well that even your mistakes are seen as a new style. This is when you have made room for yourself; hence people make room for you.

LIVING TO YOUR FULL POTENTIAL IN GOD 4

Now that you know there is more within you to achieve and the steps needed to get to your vision, what you now need is inspiration and to begin to see what the Lord has set before you to achieve.

It is time to dream, see visions, see opportunities and use all available resources to achieve your full potential. We understand that you need to get to work if you want progress and a change, and don’t forget it must be a quest for a daily progress. **John 12:24** makes us understand that all resources needs to be put to work in order to achieve results.

Today we want to look at how to get wind in our sail for moving forward and above all tides of life. **Isaiah 40:27-31** is the word for you today, for gathering momentum to set you on the move.

It talks about renewing your strength, which is needed for all of us since we have been running the race of life and we will continue this race. Renewing your strength is when you exchange your weakness, tiredness and difficulties for the strength of God. Most of us are tired and need new strength to dream again and see new vision. Most of us have despaired and so need new strength and vitality to start moving forward again. We see in the scripture that it is by waiting on the Lord that you can renew your strength. As the scripture indicates, we say one way or another that God is not helping us and not fulfilling His plan and promises in our lives. But look at what it says that God never gets tired of doing His work and His ways are unending. He gives power to the weak and to those who have no might He increases strength. The only requirement is that you wait on Him.

People of God it is important to accept that you are getting tired and facing challenges and hard times. When you do, it is not the time to get yourself busier but the time to wait on the Lord in order to renew your strength. So if you are frustrated and hard pressed, it is time to wait more on the Lord. I have noticed that when people are in difficulty, Satan does his best to make them focus on the problem and give them the reason for staying away from Church and spiritual activities in order to keep them weak. You need to pray and discuss your life with God. Talk to him about everything you have already set to do and what you are yet to do. Vision can only be conceived by taking time to think, read, study, listen, ask questions, pray and reflect. Vision is born out of the change you want from your current position and situation. Vision is born from asking God to show you His purpose for your life and the opportunities He has set before you.

Strength and power here mean several things to include being more hopeful and enthusiastic, seeing new vision and opportunities, receiving direction, increase in faith, increase in the urge and vitality to rise up and pursue. The Scripture teaches of three levels we need to attain if you will walk in your full potential.

1. To walk and not faint: Walking is the first level which has to do with firstly walking in God’s word, and secondly it also has to do with walking into your territories in order to cover the entire length and breadth of your inheritance. Remember **Deuteronomy 11:24-25** and Joshua 1:3 says wherever the sole of your foot shall tread is yours. You have to begin to take a walk and get to places and the promise is that every territory you walk will be given to you. This mean getting engage in things that will lead to your greatness.
2. To run and not be weary: this has to do with entering into battle where you take on challenges and put down your enemies. Running is about acceleration in pursuing your targets.
3. To mount up with wings like the eagle: The eagle is the symbol of the strength God wants to give you and the height He has for you to attain. Flying is about promotion and protection. When you fly, the level of traffic and congestion is low and so there is space and limitless resources. Flying takes you above ground level where the focus and how far you can see is limited. Eagles see about 20 miles when in the air where their vision is great. **Proverbs 30:18-19** says the way of the eagle in the sky is a mystery we have to understand. This is about vision and focus where the higher you go the farthest you see. God wants to take you to a height where you can see far and live your full potential.