

FULFILLING YOUR POTENTIAL

Legacy Edition



Discover, Develop
& Deploy Your Talents

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Free Chapter Preview

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CHAPTER ONE

What Is Potential?

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.

— 2 Corinthians 4:7

There is a great future and purpose ahead of every man. That is because every man has the potential — that is, the necessary abilities or qualities — to become self and achieve life purpose. You are completely wired to be you. You have all it takes to become you!

It remains, however, an individual responsibility, in spite of his or her conditions, to release the inherent potential to fulfill unique purpose.

For instance, hidden inside a baby is a woman or a man. God hides in one family nations and generations. On a personal scale, every man is packaged with a heavenly solution for earthly needs. God hides great things in small things called potential.

a) Potential is the idea of the omnipotent God to share His glory with His creatures.

Potential is God's idea of granting His creatures relevance and fulfillment. It is a guarantee for a colourful and glorious existence for every man.

b) Potential is the Maker's deposit in its product to achieve the purpose of its existence.

Every manufacturer prepares a product for a purpose and builds into it the potential to make that product fulfil its purpose. Every assignment also demands the unique potential that God has given into individuals.

c) Potential can be described as a hidden glory.

God hid greatness in a clay jar called man so that all the credit for human greatness can be traced to God. This way, every time a person fulfills his purpose, God the Creator is glorified. In the best of times, many of us are like broken-down jars that the power of God puts together and shines through. As people see us, they take notice of the light of God shining through our scars and broken parts.

d) Potential is greatness hidden deep inside.

It is the hidden resources, abilities, and capabilities deposited in every creature at birth. It is an unlimited resource of God in all His creation.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." — Eph. 3:20

Potential is like a mustard seed that, when one sows it, is little, but when it grows up, it houses multiple birds of the air.

e) It is God's power hidden in every regenerated man.

It is the inherent ability or capacity for great strength and power — a latent capacity to generate exceeding power. "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." — Gen. 1:26–27.

The power of your life is not in your personal strength or accomplishment but in the grace of God ever made available for all your needs. The best you can achieve with your common knowledge is common sense and achievement. It takes the grace of God to do the extraordinary and supernatural. That was what Apostle Paul found out when God told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." — 2 Cor. 12:9. God said the same to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." — Zech. 4:6. The claim of Zechariah to victory was to be grace, not personal might. Grace is God's power.

f) Potential is how far you can go with God.

"I said, 'You are gods; you are all sons of the Most High. But you will die like mere mortals; you will fall like every other ruler.'" — Psalm 82:6–7.

"If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken." — John 10:35.

Scripture teaches that every son of God has a latent capacity to demonstrate a likeness of God. This is biblical truth, not heresy or blasphemy. Jesus looked at those around Him once and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." — Mark 10:27. He also promised elsewhere, "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." — John 14:12.

g) Potential is an unending source of power hidden in you.

It is what makes a man potent while alive. It is the source of a regular supply of strength and motivation to get your life assignment fulfilled. You see, you are like a cat with seven lives. You are armed with divine potential to turn all your setbacks into a setup for a great comeback.

"For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again." — Prov. 24:16.

Potential is the powerful capacity of everyone dwelling in God.

A Case Study in Potential: The Story of the Talents

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one — to every man according to his several ability — and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money." — Matt. 25:14–18

The story of the talents teaches of a man entrusting his possessions to his servants according to their several abilities. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to the third, one. When the master returned, the first two servants had declared profits on their master's money and were commended as "good and faithful servants," while the third — claiming his master was a hard man — declared he had chosen instead to bury his talent. A similar parable appears in Luke 19:11–27, teaching the same concepts.

This story of the talents helps us see three types of people:

- The minimum people (who ignore their potential)
- The medium people (who put potential to moderate use), and
- The extraordinary people (who put potential to excellent use)

1) Minimum People (Lazy People)

These are less-than-ordinary people who completely ignore their God-given potential and talents through ignorance, lack of interest, or sheer laziness. They leave their potential buried, untapped, unreleased, and wasted. Such people never discover who they are or what their purpose in life is. They use only common sense and a minimal sense of self-awareness to survive their everyday life. This group enjoys only basic existence —

burying their gifts and talents while living a life of failure and bitterness. They blame everyone for their failures and problems and refuse to take responsibility for their own prospects in life.

2) Medium People (Mediocre People)

This group refers to ordinary people barely living an average, or slightly above-average, life. They put their potential to only minimal development and use. It is not uncommon to see such people complain about everything and everyone around them without making a sufficient attempt to create positive change. They do not commit to great and excellent standards, so they are never specially distinguished. The good news is that they use their gifts and skills enough to project a part of who they really are; the sad news is that they could achieve far more if only they aspired to. The medium people are aware of their potential and develop it just enough to provide for a normal existence — content with surviving, rather than truly living.

3) Maximum People (Extraordinary People)

The people in this group are committed to developing and maximizing their talents and gifts. They hone these into excellent skills that add value to their own lives and to the lives of those connected to them. They have distinguished themselves in their fields, offering a standard of service and conduct superior to the other two groups. They explore their potential to the full — never content with yesterday's success, and never held back by failure or challenge. They keep striving toward perfection, knowing God's plan is to take them from glory to glory.

Which type of steward are you? In both parables, the first two servants offered faithful service while the last one offered unfaithful service. As a reward, the master took the resource given to the unfaithful servant and gave it to the most faithful one. Both parables clearly teach that faithful service leads to increased responsibility in the Kingdom of Heaven, while unfaithful service leads to condemnation.

Continue the Journey

This is only the beginning. *Fulfilling Your Potential* continues with eleven more chapters guiding you from discovering your potential to protecting, developing, and deploying it fully — and it's just Book One of the Living Fulfilled Trilogy.

Fulfilling Your Potential · Fulfilling Your Destiny · Fulfilling Your Purpose

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Solomon Osoko is a Pastor, Lecturer, Speaker, and Leadership Consultant with more than two decades of experience in pastoral ministry, leadership development, and professional education. He is the author of 21 books and an eBook exploring purpose, leadership, faith, relationships, and legacy — including the Living Fulfilled trilogy. Through his writing and teaching, he helps readers discover purpose, develop character, and live intentionally, purposefully, and impactfully.