

Men Talk

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Restoring Wasted Potential

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Potential-Possibilities of what I can become with God's help.

1. Is what a person is capable of being and doing? (Eph 3:20)
2. Potential is power, blessings and opportunities God has given us that we are not using. (2 Tim 1:7; Ex 14:15-16)
3. Potential is what God can do through us. (2 Chron 16:9)
4. Potential is blessings that the enemy has stolen from us. (Jn 10:10)

1. Why does the enemy try to stop you from reaching your full potential?

(John 10:10) The thief comes only to **steal** and **kill** and **destroy**; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

2. Are you living an abundant life?

All life began as a small dot that can only be seen by a microscope, but this small dot has **design**, **purpose**, and **potential**. (Possibilities of what it can become)

3. To whom did God give potential?

- Every one of us has possibilities.

Some of you have the potential to be:

- Great doctors
- President
- Lawyers
- Pastor's
- Mothers and Fathers

- **Business owners**
- **And so much more**

4. What do you think you can become and do with the rest of your life?

(John 12:24) I say to you, *unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies*, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.

- Just as a seed will never become a plant unless it dies and is buried, so we must also die to some things to reach our full potential.
- We must also die to somethings to be the person God created us to be and to fulfill our purpose.

(12:24) remains by itself alone A grain of wheat is not valuable unless it becomes something else. Jesus was willing to suffer for the cause God has set before Him. He said that His value is less if He is unwilling to follow through on God's will.

❖ Your life has less value when you don't carry out your purpose and assignment.

5. What are some things in your life that need to die so you can grow and reach your full potential?

1. Die to your way of living.
2. Die to your way of thinking.
3. Die to some people in your life.

6. Are you willing to die to be who God made you to be?

- One of the saddest things to see is a person that's wasting their potential.
- This is even more sad when the person is a man and a father who finds themselves stuck in a place of defeat and failure. **(How many of you feel stuck)**

Men Talk Scripture

(Mark 5:1-20) Jesus meets a man and a father and restores his wasted potential.

1. Jesus meets and heals a demon possessed and mentally ill father in a graveyard.
2. This man is out of his mind and filled with thousands of demons.
3. We can learn in this healing how Jesus restores wasted potential.
4. Today Jesus says, you can get it back.
5. Whatever we have lost, Jesus can give it back. Jesus gives back what we have lost by giving us new and better blessings.

Description of wasted potential

1. Isolated, shamed, stigmatized, and rejected. (Mk. 5:2)
2. Disconnected from wife, children, and family. (Mk 5:12, 19)
3. Love and Daddy deprivation (Absence of father love)
4. Homeless, no place to call home. (Mk. 5:1)
5. Identity confusion or lost identity (Who am I) (Mk. 5:6-9)
6. Lack of romantic and sexual intimacy.
7. No inner peace; self-hate; self-destructive thoughts/actions. (Mk. 5:5)

Enemies of potential

Sin- (transgression) — a action of going beyond or overstepping the boundary of God.

Shame —feeling of unworthiness, public disgrace, and dishonor.

Selfishness -lacking consideration for others; concerned with one's own personal profit or pleasure.

Satisfaction with where you are.

Blame- assign responsibility to someone else for a wrong.

The Past- the time that has elapsed.

Fear — an emotion experienced in anticipation of some specific pain or danger; usually accompanied by a desire to flee or fight.

Doubt — fighting with uncertainty.

Procrastination- delay or postpone action; put off doing something.

Financial illiteracy- lack of knowledge in a particular subject; ignorance.

Poor Health -the state of being free from illness or injury.

Let's identify some Ways to live to full potential

1. Believe that you can reach full potential in Christ.

(Jn 10:10) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

2. Know your call, strengths, and weakness.

(2 Peter 1:10) Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.

3. Get rid of every weight and that stops potential.

(Hebrews 12:1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

4. Focus on Godly character and correct the character “**FLAWS**” early in life.

Character- qualities distinctive to an individual. (Sum total of who you are)

5. Avoid sinful, emotionally, unhealthy relationships.

(1 Corinthians 15:33) Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

6. Make wise use of time and opportunity.

(Psalm 90:12) Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

7. Fill your mind with faith possibilities. (Mk 9:23; Matt 14:28)

8. Attempt great and impossible things for God.

How Jesus helps us to Restore Wasted potential (Mark 5:1-20)

1. Come to Jesus with what little (or nothing) you have left.

2. Trust Jesus to destroy the evil that is trying to destroy you.

3. Re-define your identity and what it means to be a Christian. (You can write new chapters to your life)

4. Find Jesus healing for your emotional wounds.

5. Go home to your family. Testify about God’s mercy (Mk 5:19)

Conclusion:

(Mark 5:1-20)

This story showed the value of *one life* to Jesus, because this was the only reason why Jesus came to this side of the Sea of Galilee. His story also showed that with Jesus, *no one is beyond hope*, because if this man could be changed than any man could. (Do you believe he can change you today?)

Remember:

- Jesus gives us back what we lost by giving us something new and better.
- **Life for death**

- *hope for hurt*
- *Peace for fear*
- *Power for weakness*
- *faith for doubt*