

What Is Your Potential?

Concerning man's potential, some believe that man do nothing that is good, and he will eventually destroy himself. On the other hand, some believe that man is wholly good and will one day solve many problems such as hungry, poverty, sickness, etc.

Both of the above views miss the true potential of man. Many people have the idea that man's existence is only limited to this earth. If these people believe in any type of afterlife, they believe that it must be equally nice for everyone, therefore nullifying any concern for it. This then leads to a total concern for their physical existence on this earth.

Man's potential far exceeds anything ever conceived by the human mind. In order for this potential to be realized, man must look beyond the physical boundaries of the flesh. Man must look to God. In God, man will find improvements grounded in everlasting security.

Regarding your potential, consider first the idea of contentment. There are people in this world who really want to be content, but cannot be. If a person would look to God and His word, that person would begin to understand the idea of true contentment. Paul said, "*But godliness with contentment is great gain*" (1 Timothy 6:6). "Contentment" means, "a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed; sufficiency of the necessities of life; or, a mind contented with its lot" (Thayer). Remember that your potential for gain is great, as long as you possess godliness (Psalms 37:16; Proverbs 15:16; 16:8; Matthew 6:33; Hebrews 13:5).

Another potential that you have is that of being successful at whatever you do. When I say successful, I am not necessarily referring to financial success, but rather, the success that comes with doing a job well. Followers of God are expected to do whatever they do well. A person who works at a job should do that job the best that he or she can (Colossians 3:22-24). Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 9:10, "*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*" Every person, children included, should be instructed to do whatever they do as well as they can.

Helping and caring for the sick and the needy is another of your great potentials. If you have the opportunity to help someone who is sick or who is in need, help them. Dorcas showed herself worthy when she made coats and garments for others (Acts 9:39). When you do so, you prove yourself worthy of eternal life (Matthew 25:34-40, 46).

The last great potential we will discuss is that of saving the spiritual life of another. *“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”* (James 5:19-20). When a brother is in spiritual trouble, you should be willing to do what you can to turn him back (Galatians 6:1-2). In doing so, you *“pull them out of the fire”* (Jude 23).

In order for you to reach your potential, you must first turn to the Lord. Isaiah 43:7 tells us that we were created for the glory of God. When you focus on these four essentials, you will achieve your highest potential.

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