

## Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit Potential

**Potential, n.,** Possible as opposed to actual; capable of being or becoming; someone or something that is considered a worthwhile possibility

If you have ever watched HGTV, you have seen a ton of rooms transformed from bland to amazing. Each week a slate of designers, engineers and contractors take something plain and make it extraordinary. It always begins the same way, with the designer coming to the owner, looking at the room and laying out a grand plan. After a few days, and probably a lot of people working a whole lot of hours, the owner is presented with a new room or home. They are excited, thrilled at the end result many of the owners will say something akin to not ever seeing the potential that the designer saw.

Much the same in us, many times we cannot see the potential that God sees in us. If you are like most folks you may have to see it to believe it. Can you really get that promotion, can you really deal with that situation at work, can you really understand what is needed to finish school? All of these are areas that without seeing out potential, we cannot accomplish what God has for us.

Do you see the potential in your own life? What is it?

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Like the room, God sees the potential in each of us that we cannot imagine. He is able to look at a person that no one else sees anything extraordinary about and find it. Each situation in our life, good or bad, He see the potential for greatness.

### Dealing with Potential

#### 1. Excuses are easy

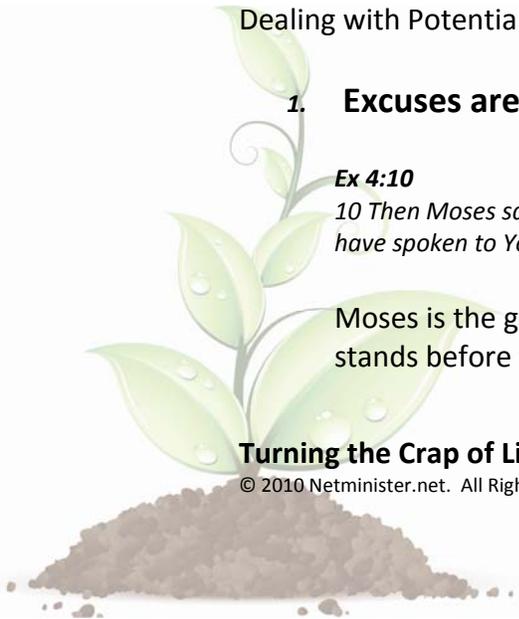
**Ex 4:10**

*10 Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."*

Moses is the greatest leader of Israel. He is the strong leader we see that stands before the king of the world in Pharaoh. Demanding that Pharaoh release

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his people, Moses performs miracle after miracle. Eventually leading the people out of Egypt, he is at the lead when the waters of the sea are parted. He is there leading when food falls from the desert sky. Water flows from a rock because he commands it through the power of God and yet in the beginning, he had an excuse for not seeing his own potential.

Excuses are easy. We think of them every day. When a new person arrives at work, we begin to find fault with their actions. Someone mistreats us so we find an excuse not to act as Jesus would. We see a new building that obviously needs extensive work to make it ready for worship in. None of our family supports our effort to lift ourselves out of a bad situation. All of these things are excuses, but God had an answer for every excuse Moses presented and He has an answer for every excuse you have to prevent your potential from being realized.

I need to lose weight but I can't because I have a bad back. Does your back make your hands move food to your mouth more quickly? No. Does a bad back really keep you from exercising? Maybe but there are alternatives that can be used. You can still lose weight with a bad back, bad knees, and a towering appetite. Maybe is it medication, maybe see a specialist or maybe just look online and find some things you can do. Weight loss is the greatest example of potential. Every year at the beginning of January, gyms, weight loss programs galore promote people having a New Year's Resolution. See the potential. Having known a gym owner he told me that the greatest growth time is December and January to about March when the last of the people looking for a quick fix have figured out things are tougher than they thought. And so the excuses start.

What excuses are you using to keep you from seeing the potential God sees in you? What can you do to overcome those excuses?

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**Prov 18:14**

*14 The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, But who can bear a broken spirit?*

Ever meet a person whose potential has been dashed? They have no hope, no future in their own eyes. Everything about life is a mash of days that have to be done in a mundane series of failures in their life. When we do not see the potential of our life, we are seriously damaging our hope. Damaged hope leads to depression and a broken spirit. You have seen it. That girl at work that is just

there, nothing more, no hope or joy. The guy that looks a million miles away seeking refuge in a bottle to help forget his failures. Or maybe you see that person each morning in the mirror, thinking of yourself as someone without hope. Who can bear a broken spirit? No one alone, only with Jesus' help can you overcome that hopelessness and only with His help can you really see the potential in your life!

Potential is one of the devil's greatest tools for dealing with us. Excuses are his best weapon. Because regardless of the potential God sees in us, satan is always able to give an excuse why it will not work. You aren't that smart to finish college or get that training. Do you really think you have the ability to teach that class – no one will come. They really don't like you at work so why even give an effort. God really doesn't love you after all the things you have done. All of these excuses have one thing in common, they are all LIES! If God sees the potential in you, then HE is the one that put it there and I would suspect that He knows better than you what you are capable of accomplishing.

## 2. Opposition is Coming

### **Neh 2:10**

*10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.*

### **Neh 2:19**

*19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"*

Nehemiah is a guy that saw the damage of Israel after their occupation by an outside force. He was heart-broken for the loss of the city's fortifications which would have allowed raiders to come in at will and steal and plunder the city. It would have been impossible to have created a new life without the walls. If you had anything, someone would come and take it from you.

Sanballat and Horonite along with Geshem were those folks that were opposition to the potential of Israel rebuilding its walls. Mostly because they were the ones plundering it on regular intervals. So here comes Nehemiah who wants to fix things. And immediately opposition starts.

How often in life we are frustrated by the opposition of others? They use words, threats even to our personal safety to keep us from realizing our own potential. Even as in this case, God had sent Nehemiah to do the task, like Moses he was facing opposition.

How many situations in your life have you not achieved your potential because you allowed opposition to affect you?

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### 3. Find, and Eliminate what is blocking us

#### **Neh 4:15-18**

*15 And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.16 So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah.17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.*

Nehemiah ended up having to have workers wear a sword on one side with a tool for building on the other. They had to be willing to defend their potential. We have to have a plan to accomplish what is needed to get to realize our full potential. It requires you to find your potential and seek and eliminate those things that are blocking you.

From complaints to nagging to emotional distress, there are plenty of things that can block you from achieving what God has for your potential.

#### **Seek out encouragement.**

#### **Phil 4:6-7**

*6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*



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**Do not allow yourself to grow weary.**

**Gal 6:9-10**

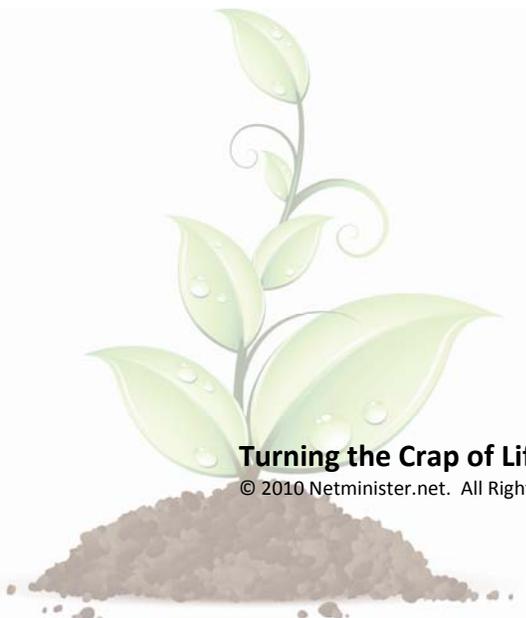
*9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

**Put Your Hope and Faith In God, Not the Situation or Man**

**Ps 42:5**

*5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.*

**Final Analysis:** Potential. Everyone has it, few use it. If you want to accomplish great things, achieve your potential you will have to deal with people and situations that will be difficult, but God provides for the needs we have, when we have them and we need to seek Him out for those needs to help us achieve our full potential – to make it a reality.



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