

I started preparing for this devotional by looking up the different definitions of Potential. As an adjective, it's defined as: "having or showing the capacity to become or develop into something in the future." As a noun: "the qualities or abilities that may be developed and lead to future success or usefulness" The definition I enjoyed the most though was the physics-based definition: "the quantity determining the energy of mass in a gravitational field or of charge in an electric field." That one doesn't relate well to the human experience, but if you think hard it does have its merits. After reading these I came up with my own layman's terms definition for the word potential being: "the possibility that something will happen." Potential is opportunity.

Then I started to ask myself some questions:

- What is potential, spiritually speaking? As a matter of faith and practice, I think potential relates to the free will we are given as humans. As humans we have options on how we chose to live we make that choice each day on how we are going to engage the world and interact with each other. Will we follow the example set by Jesus? Or will we fail under the pressures of a sinful world? As Christ followers, we should recognize that living by his example, choosing to do life together, and living in community with others in the world, is the correct path.

- Where does this potential come from? In answering that question, I point to **Ephesians 1:4**

"long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes his unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bring us to himself through Jesus Christ and this gave him great pleasure"

So our potential is God-given, of course. The paths of potential are there for us to choose and discover each day. Now who all amongst us has this potential? That answer is simple, we all have that potential. For so long as God has provided air in your lungs, you have His potential. And so long as we can assemble as a group of believers, his potential can grow and prosper within the world.

- The final question I came to in my preparation for this devotional was what is your potential or my potential? How do we determine what our potential is?

And my answer to that question was to be determined. I think our potential changes daily based on how we interact and interpret the world around us. But the truth is that God has a plan for all of us, individually and collectively. In time His plan will become clear to us through either personal revelation or by compulsion of the Holy Spirit to act or do something beyond ourselves. But ultimately I think we have to choose daily to be someone and do something. We have to strive to model the life of Christ to others, to stand against evil protected by God's armor. Referencing **Ephesians 6:13-18**

“Therefore put on the full armor of God so that when they day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground and after you have done everything to stand. Stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes with the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God and pray in the Spirit of all occasions with all kinds of prayer and request with all this in mid be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people”