

“LIVING UP TO OUR POTENTIAL”

The Elders of the West Side Church of Christ, Salem, Virginia

Cy Stafford has made this statement: “God’s gift to us is our *potential*. Our gift to God is fulfilling our potential”. Another way to consider potential is our talents. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus illustrates this for us in the parable of the talents. God gives each of us differing skills and abilities. Let’s consider ways each of us can live up to this *potential* God has set within us.

1) Stand against the majority. Doing what is right rarely keeps one in the majority. Jesus tells us that “...strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:14) If we utilize the tools God has given us to overcome temptation (prayer, Bible study, our Christian family), we need not fear being in the minority.

2) Set an example worth following. Acts 9 gives a detailed account of how Saul (later the Apostle Paul) became a Christian. Saul’s conversion took place after a brave man named Ananias came to him to tell him what God wanted Saul to do. Saul was well-known for his persecution of Christians, but Ananias had enough faith in God to go to Saul, as instructed. Ananias didn’t allow his prejudice and fear of Saul’s reputation keep him from leading him to Christ. We would do well to follow this example of teaching the truth to everyone, not just selecting a few we think might listen.

3) Strive to learn from our mistakes. Peter was a close follower of Christ, yet denied our Lord three times when pressured about his relationship (Matthew 26:75). Some might let such a failure keep them from serving God, but some 50 days later, Peter joined the other apostles in preaching the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Peter’s actions and teachings show us his ability to learn from his mistakes and grow to do great things for the Lord’s church. How well are we using the *potential* God gave us? Are we challenging ourselves to do more in the Kingdom each day? God has blessed each of us with talents and abilities that can bring about much good for His cause. May each of us set spiritual goals that help us “unlock” our *potential*, giving God the glory for the positive results that will occur.