

The true measure of your potential

Part 2

Recap from last week:

We looked at the parable of Jesus in Matthew 25. We came to 4 conclusions:

1. Each one of us was given a kingdom assignment
2. We were also given the tools to get the assignment done
3. The assignment was given according to our ability (v.15)
4. We looked at the measure of our ability. We concluded that there is a measure of natural ability in all of us. That ability can be stretched but it is finite of itself.

We then looked at the fact that God makes His ability available to us. 1 Peter 4:11 speaks of “the ability which God supplies”. What that means is that God upgrades our potential. The true measure of our ability then becomes not what we can achieve in the natural but all that we can in God.

We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We can fulfil our kingdom assignment.

With those thoughts in mind, let us look today at **2 Peter 1:2-5**.

Verse 3 says that God made provision for all things we need to live this Christian life:

(In this context, consider also **1 Corinthians 3:21-23** - *Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: **22** whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come— all are yours. **23** And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.*)

Verse 4 speaks of promises that are exceedingly great and precious

In order to take hold of God's ability and power made available to our lives, we need to:

1. Have the faith that believes that it is so

You may not fully understand with your mind the full extent of the statements God makes about His power in us but you need to come believing in your heart that it is so, that God meant what He said. We need to eradicate all scepticism and doubt and come to Him with faith.

2. Be diligent to know His promises

Verse 5: *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,*

Have knowledge of what belongs to you, in Christ. You need to be diligent to search the Scriptures and find His exceedingly great and precious promises. You need to know what God said you could have. Be diligent to know His word. When you know His

promises, then you have something to stand upon when you pray and you have air munition against the enemy.

3. Reject a mindset of weakness

Ephesians 1:19: “*and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power*”

Paul prayed that the Ephesians would get this, that they would understand the greatness of such power “*toward us who believe*”. This is our inheritance in God: power, not weakness. In chapter **3:16** Paul prayed that those believers would be “*strengthened with power in the inner man by the Holy Spirit*”

Weakness is not a quality of the Kingdom. Don't get *meekness* and *weakness* mixed up. Jesus was meek but He was never weak.

God commands us (doesn't just suggest) to be strong!

Joshua 1:9 - *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*”

That command was repeated at least 9 times. In the New testament, we read this statement in 3 different epistles: “*Do not grow weary while doing good*”

1 Corinthians 16:13 - *Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong*

Ephesians 6:10 – “*Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might*”

There is no doubt that God wants His people strong!

“Be strong” in the Greek does not carry the image of an athlete who becomes strong gradually as he works out but rather of someone putting on a “cloak” of strength. That is why the Bible says:

- Put on the new man – Ephesians 4:24
- Put on the armour of God – Ephesians 6:11
- Put on the armour of light – Romans 13:12
- Put on Christ – Romans 13:14

Isaiah 52:1a - *Awake, awake! **put on your strength**, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments,*

Put on strength, like a cloak – don't live home without it! Be clothed in the strength of God!

4. Know where to find strength

a) In the Word – **1 John 2:14** - *I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you and you*

have overcome the wicked one.

- b) Waiting on God – Isaiah 40:31** - *But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*
- c) Worship – Romans 4:20** – [Abraham] - *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,*

The **Amplified Bible** says: ...“*he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God*”

Conclusion:

I believe that we can all fulfil our kingdom assignments and the purpose of God for our lives if we take hold of the ability, the power and the strength that God supplies. In our strength we will grow weary but in His power we won't. In His ability we can.

How exciting that God has called us to such a level of life where we can be partakers of the divine nature!

I want to encourage you to dare do great things for God, to become fruitful in your kingdom endeavours, to one day arrive in heaven with amazing stories of an unusual life on earth.