

resists the proud but gives GRACE to the humble.” Grace can be defined as “God’s ability and enabling power.” Thus, a paraphrase might read, “God resists those who say, ‘I can do it on my own’ -- but He gives GRACE (His ability and enabling power) to those who confess their need for God’s help.” Once you admit your need to God, He can pour out His ability and enabling power on your situation.

**Key #2 – EXPECT MIRACLES!** Another key for releasing God’s potential is to develop a mindset of expecting miracles. In my view, your **mindset** is different than your temporary thinking. All kinds of thoughts may come and go, but your **mindset** is how you typically think. It is the underlying “program” that tends to control your subconscious. For example, you may have a bad day where you are temporarily negative or irritable. All people do. But hopefully, it’s not your normal disposition. If it is, then your **mindset** could be described as negative. Unfortunately, some people have a **mindset** of poverty, negativity, criticism, small-thinking, etc. It becomes part of their nature. Ephesians 4:23 says, “*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*” If you want to tap into God’s potential, then you must adopt a NEW MINDSET. Expect God to work on your behalf! Expect to meet key people; expect favor; expect things to work out. Expectancy is a key to miracles. How can you adopt a NEW MINDSET? Start by memorizing Ephesians 3:20 (the verse quoted at the beginning of this study). Memorize it, pray it, and confess it. Let it lead you into Key #3 --

**Key #3 – CONFESS GOD’S PROMISES.** If you want to change your future then you absolutely must start putting faith in God’s promises. God’s promises will expand your imagination and help you start conceiving His unlimited possibilities. God’s promises should become the foundation for your NEW MINDSET. 2 Corinthians 1:20 says, “*For all the promises of God in Him are yes, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God.*” This means that because of the sacrifice of Christ, your Heavenly Father is saying YES! to every promise in the Bible. As you meditate on God’s promises and confess them throughout the day, you will find that your entire disposition will change. You will become a positive person full of faith and expectation. Meditating on God’s Word is the cure for discouragement and the key to victory (Josh 1:8,9).

**Key #4 – DON’T GIVE UP DURING THE WAITING PHASE.** My ability to walk in faith jumped light years once I finally understood the **Waiting Phase**. Quick miracles are wonderful, but normally there’s a time delay between what we pray for and when the answer arrives. I call this time delay the **Waiting Phase**. Nearly 100% of the things you trust God for will go through the three phases of faith -- 1) the Claiming Phase, 2) the Waiting Phase, and 3) the Receiving Phase. If you are under the false impression that breakthroughs will always be quick, then you are apt to give up before you see results. Hebrews 6:12 says, “*That you be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*” If you want to release your potential, then you must be a person who does not give up easily.



**Key #5 – LOOK FORWARD INSTEAD OF BACKWARD.** I still remember something that my instructor told me when I first started driving. He said that I should use my rearview mirror for perspective, but not to fixate on it. He said that if I spent all my time looking backwards, then I was guaranteed to have an accident. This same idea is good wisdom for all of life. You can’t live in the past so don’t try. God wants to give you a successful future, regardless of your past. Isaiah 40:31 says that with God’s strength you can “*mount up with wings as eagles.*” Eagles soar high and see far. Let God lift you up so that you can see the visions and dreams that He has for you. Let Him take you into His unlimited potential for your life.

Dear friend, I pray that you will discover your true potential in Christ and learn to walk in it by faith.

■ Jason Peebles

## Key Memory Verse:

*“Now unto Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think according to the power that works in us.”*

*Ephesians 3:20*

## Prayer for God’s Potential

*“Father, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for my sins. I accept His sacrifice and commit my life to Him. I ask that you empower me to step into YOUR POTENTIAL for my life. In spite of my problems, I choose to believe that your love is at work in my life. I choose to expect miracles. Thank you for your great love. In Jesus Name – Amen.”*

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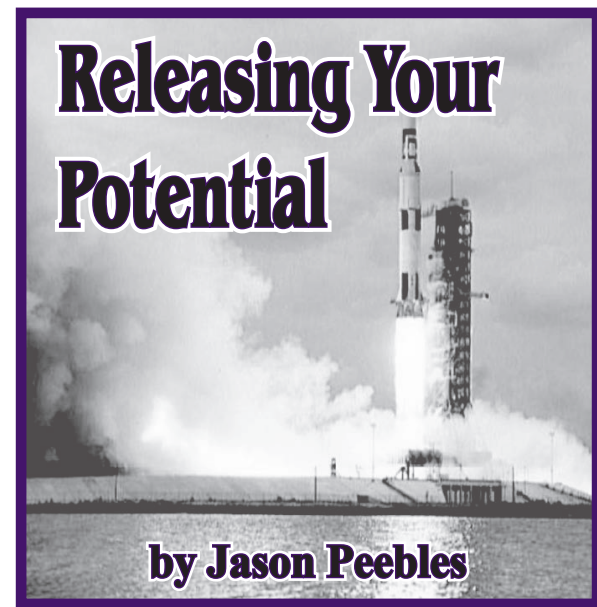
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Ephesians 3:20 is a powerful verse that describes your unlimited potential in Christ. It says, “*Now unto Him who is able to do EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY ABOVE all that we ask or think, according to the power that works IN US.*” If you will mentally accept this verse as the will of God for your life, it can launch your future to a whole new level. It doesn’t matter what has gone wrong in your past or if your current situation is a mess. God can turn things around! But let this truth sink in -- the breakthroughs that you desire on the “outside” must start on the “inside.” You must first change the way you think and start believing that Jesus Christ can work in your life. Notice the verse quoted above says that His power works IN us. Change the way you think and you can change your future.

## All Things Possible

Jesus was constantly telling people to open their hearts and minds to miracle possibilities. For Jesus, it didn’t matter if the crowd said something was impossible. “Impossible” was not in Jesus’ vocabulary. In Matthew 19:26 Jesus reveals one of the driving forces in His life. He said, “*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.*” In Mark 9:23 he said, “*If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes.*” This was the mindset of

Jesus. Is it your mindset? If you will take your eyes off what “you” can do and start focusing on what “He” can do, then all things will be possible for you too.

As a carpenter, Jesus knew the importance of good tools to repair and create things. He viewed faith in the same way -- as a vital tool that everyone should learn to use. In Mark 5:22 the father of a sick child sought Jesus for help. As Jesus followed the father to his home, some of his friends met them and informed them that his daughter had, in fact, died. Can you imagine the horror in the father’s heart? Yet the story tells us that Jesus immediately told the father to use his faith. Jesus said, **“Be not afraid, only believe (vs. 36).”** The account tells us that Jesus entered the home and raised the little girl from the dead. Against all odds, a miracle took place. On the same day that the girl was raised from the dead, a woman with an issue of blood sought Jesus in a crowd and touched the hem of His garment (Mk 5:25). Many people were pushing against Jesus in the crowd, but her touch was different. The story tells us that when she used her faith, Jesus stopped and asked His disciples, *“Who touched me?”* **Evidently, the woman’s touch of faith acted as a sort of “lightening rod” that drew His power into her body.** No one else in the crowd felt it, but the Bible says that Jesus felt power leave his body (vs. 30). Jesus said, **“Daughter, your faith has made you whole; go in peace and be whole of your illness” (vs. 34).** Let this truth forever be settled in our mind – your faith is a God-given tool that can connect you to God’s power and ability.

So what does this all mean for your life? **It means that you should adopt the same mindset that Jesus had -- “With God, all things are possible to him that believes.”** As you adopt this mindset and learn to use the tool of faith, it is vital for you to recognize that God’s ability is not dependent on “you.” It is not dependent on “your goodness.” Too often, we limit ourselves by erroneously assuming that we must be perfect before God can work on our behalf. Friend, nothing could be further from the truth! Think about this for a moment – *“Were you perfect before Christ died for you?”* No! Romans 5:8 says, *“But God commends His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for the ungodly.”* You were not perfect before you came to Christ and you are not perfect now. Therefore, it is vital for you to realize that God’s potential is solely dependent on your faith in **HIS ability** – not “your” goodness. Miracles cannot be

earned anymore than salvation can be earned. Certainly you want to endeavor to walk in the Spirit and obey God (Rom 8:1-6). But all your goodness will never please God apart from the atoning work of Jesus Christ. **The starting point for stepping into your unlimited potential is to realize that God wants to work on your behalf simply because He loves you and cares for you (Eph 3:14-21).**

## Your Heritage of Success

Did you know that as a Christian you have a heritage of success? It does not matter if you come from a poor family or a rich family – or if you never knew who your parents were. **IN CHRIST** you have an inheritance waiting for you to receive! There are promises in the Bible for God’s blessings that go all the way back to the book of Genesis. All of God’s promises culminate in Jesus Christ (2 Cor 1:20). **Romans 8:32 says, “For he that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him ALSO FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?”** When you think about it, this makes perfect sense. If your Heavenly Father was willing to give us the most precious thing in the universe (the life of His Son) -- then would He withhold any other blessing? Paul answers that question by saying that your heavenly Father will *“ALSO freely give us all things.”* Do you really believe this or is Romans 8:32 just a nice verse in your Bible? **You need to come to the point that you are convinced of God’s love and say to yourself – “OK, I believe that God loves me just because He does! And furthermore, He wants to bless my life and help me because it’s His nature to love and bless. I don’t have to ‘earn’ His love!”**

People who do not understand the depth of God’s love have a hard time with the idea of miracle possibilities. **When you don’t understand God’s love, then you tend to slip into legalism and a performance mentality vs. a faith mentality.** In other words, you tend to think that if you do this or that; or if you are good enough; or go to church enough – that God will bless you for your performance. Or, some people become so discouraged by their lack of ability to “perform” that they walk away from God for a season. Dear friend, you must learn to rest in God’s love through Jesus Christ. Only then will you learn to walk in the Spirit (Rom 7:22-8:1). **From the beginning of the Bible to the end, God’s heritage**



**of success is clearly promised to those who will simply love Him, walk with Him, and trust in His ability (Micah 6:8).** When Adam and Eve sinned, God immediately promised that their “seed” would one day crush Satan’s head (Gen 3:15). The promised “seed” was the Messiah, Jesus Christ (Gal 3:16). God promised Abraham that He would bless him and his seed (Gen 12:1-3 / Gal 3:29). Psalm 1:1-3 says that those who build their lives on God’s Word will prosper like a fruitful tree. In the New Testament, 2 Peter 1:4 says, *“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.”* Yes, dear friend, you have a heritage of success in Christ just waiting to be received by faith!

## God of Restoration

Let me pause a moment in our study and emphasize that God is a RESTORER. I can already anticipate that some who read this study may be tempted to think -- *“Well, I wish I had known about my heritage of success years ago, but it’s too late for me now. My life is so messed up that God can’t even fix it!”* Let’s compare that attitude to some of the key players in the Bible. Abraham, the father of our faith, was not perfect by any means. At one point, he temporarily lost faith in God’s promise of a son through Sarah and ended up fathering a child with Hagar (Gen 16:1-6). Later, he laughed at God’s promise (Gen 17:17). And, in one place, Abraham lied about his relationship with

Sarah and endangered her life (Gen 20:2,3). Yet, God rescued Abraham, restored him, and used him because he trusted in God.

Ruth is another example of restoration. The book of Ruth tells a tragic story of how Ruth lost her husband and sons – yet God restored her through a man named Boaz (Ruth 4:13-22). Who would have thought that Jesus Christ would come through their lineage out of such pain and tragedy? **BUT GOD IS A RESTORER!** David was the king of Israel when he had an adulterous affair and murdered Bathsheba’s husband. He paid a heavy price, yet God restored David when he repented (2 Sam 11-12). Israel backslid as a nation many times, yet God repeatedly promised restoration through His prophets (Joel 2:25-32). After the Holocaust of World War II, God moved through the United Nations General Assembly on November 29, 1947 to restore Israel. A few months later on May 14, 1948 Israel became a nation once again. Yes, dear friend, we serve a God of RESTORATION! Regardless of whatever sins or hardships may have assaulted your life, you must open your mind to the truth that God is a God of RESTORATION. Thus, let me encourage you to make up your mind once and for all that your potential will not be limited by your past. Let your future be governed by God’s love and promises.

## Keys to Your Potential

OK, let me quickly give you several keys that will help you step into a new level of potential in Christ. The Bible is full of wisdom in this area, but here are five keys that will definitely help --

**Key #1 – HUMBLE YOURSELF.** The first key for experiencing anything that God offers is to admit your need. Pride says, *“I can do it on my own.”* Humility says, *“Even on my best day, my efforts will fall short of what God could do if I would only trust Him.”* James 4:6 says, *“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* Let this truth sink in! Pride and stubbornness actually block the flow of God’s ability in our lives. We automatically limit ourselves to what “we” can do. In every case that we’ve mentioned in this study, those who experienced miracles came to a point where they recognized their need for God, repented where needed, and sought God for His help. *“God*