

DETERMINING YOUR POTENTIAL TO SUCCEED

You were created with great potential. You have God-given giftings and talents, but sometimes potential is never realized. Realizing your full potential is an ever continuing process of growth. This involves a willingness to try new things, new ways, new ideas.

When it comes to dreams of success, a lot of people have compiled “wish lists.” The problem with wish lists is that wishing is about as far as many people get. “I wish I had an education.” “I wish I were promotable on the job.” “I wish I had my own business.” “I wish I could get my pilot’s license.” “I wish...” Success must always be measured by your purpose in life. This will motivate you, help you set your goals, and determine your value system.

Dreams worth pursuing do not have to be big or unrealistic. The important thing is to live a dream that is really yours. Those who are most fulfilled know what they want and go after it. Too often people spend valuable time living out the dream of someone else. For example, if your parents thought flying an airplane was just too dangerous, chances are you won’t leave the interstate highways unless you claim your dream of flying and begin to live out your own personal dreams and visions.

If you are going to take the risk associated with your dreams, start by believing in yourself, your God-given potential, and your future. Too many people base their faith in themselves solely on external factors. Examples include: “If only I had the education.” “If only I were tall, dark, and handsome.” “If only I had good relationships in my life.” “If only I had been born into a family of wealth.” “If only...”

Forget the obvious external definitions of success, and check the internal or biblical definition. Find out what success is in God’s eyes. The Scripture declares, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13, KJV). Ephesians 1:4 says: “According as he hath *chosen us* in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love” (KJV).

You have great God-given capacity to succeed in life! Your life can be full and rewarding. People who never achieve their full potential live an empty life. If you think you can’t, you won’t. Search for something that can’t be done and do it.

- God has a plan for your life. “For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).
- Most people are unaware of their ability to succeed.
- Life is what you make of it.
- Get rid of negative thinking
- Negative thinking blocks positive action.
- Feed your mind with biblical, pure, and progressive thoughts, just as you feed your body wholesome food.
- Failure is a mind-set. Success is a mind-set.
- Success begins the moment you acquire self-confidence.
- You must plan for success.
- Don’t wait for your ship to arrive in port; swim out to meet it.
- Self-confidence is acquired, not inherited.
- Create your own opportunities rather than waiting for your “break” in life.
- Some fail because they lack faith in their own potential.
- Don’t give up! Worthwhile things are often the hardest to achieve.
- Obstacles are blown apart by perseverance and determination.
- Negative thinking is self-destructive.
- Success does not necessarily mean material success. Success includes spiritual peace, emotional maturity, self-respect, and family success.
- As you achieve success, share your life with others.

PSALM 139:13–16

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.