



FELLOWSHIP OF
CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
BASEBALL

January 18, 2017

Great Potential

“Still others fell on good ground, and produced a crop: some 100, some 60, and some 30 times what was sown.” – (Matthew 13:8)

We all desire to reach our full potential in life. However, the truth is that many people do not. In fact, many individuals get so caught up in the everyday that they find it easy to continue in old patterns rather than change.

Maybe you have experienced that on the baseball field. How many times have you gone to practice or participated in a game and just “gone through the motions.” It is an easy trap to fall into. Yet, if your desire is to reach your full potential on the baseball field, you must be intentional about your work habits and willing to change when required. In short, you must strive for excellence day in and day out.

Here is how eighteen year MLB veteran and Hall of Fame shortstop, Ozzie Smith said it; *“You play the way you practice, and so I just don’t go out in infield practice for the sake of taking some ground balls. I have a purpose in what I’m doing out there – testing the infield bounces, working on my moves.”* Ozzie Smith recognized that he needed to practice and play with a purpose, and not just go through the motions. He understood this was the only way to reach his full athletic potential.

It works the same off the field. If we want to reach our fullest God-given potential we must be willing to recognize who we are in God, and then live our life according to his purposes and not go through the motions. Then and only then will we reach our max-potential, and bear much fruit!

Jesus in telling the *Parable of the Sower* in Matthew 13 gives us insight on how to reach our full God-given potential and resist the temptation to go through the motions. We must: 1) be humble and push pride away. We are not more important than anyone else in God’s plan; 2) pursue an intimate, deep and close relationship with Jesus; 3) establish strong spiritual roots through prayer and in our private meditation and thoughts with God; 4) guard our heart from everyday distractions. Even good things can crowd out and push time away with God; and 5) strive to live a life of private purity. If we want to be used by God and reach our fullest potential, both on and off the field, we are going to have to develop and secure strong habits in Jesus.

All of us have a God-given desire to live to our fullest potential. Jesus wants the same for us and knows that we have great potential. It is up to us to commit to a life focused on intentionality and change.

Question: Do you know that God has a plan and purpose for you? Are you committed to living a life of change and purity, or are you just going through the motions?

Challenge: Read Matthew 13. Spend some quiet time each day reflecting on what God is teaching you and directing you to do. Each day choose to put down strong roots and make God a priority.

Prayer: Thank you God for having a purpose for me. Grant me the courage and persistence needed to carry out my full potential. Amen.

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball