

More Than Potential

Do you know people who were “born with a silver spoon in their mouths?” I’ve heard that expression all my life. It means, of course, that someone gained privilege, wealth or rank automatically because of family, and not because of his or her own merit. It is expected, then, that such an individual – with a dramatically good start in life – would achieve great things.

Hold on a minute ...

Gaining success requires more than favors, and more than potential.

Take the story of Samson, for instance. He had everything going for him. He was a special child, foretold by the angel of the Lord to his parents. He had a divine destiny and purpose. Scripture tells us that the angel said, “The child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.” (Judges 13:5)

Noted author and speaker John C. Maxwell, writing about Samson, observed: “Why didn’t Samson become the great leader he had the potential to be? His despicable character made him untrustworthy, and that destroyed his leadership. He was impetuous, volatile, lustful, moody, emotional and unpredictable. He also broke his Nazarite vows. Samson repeatedly flirted with disaster, and it finally overtook him. I think many people believe that if they had been given a start like Samson, they would find it easy to lead and to finish well.

“But God gives every one of us a good enough start to be able to finish well. It’s up to us to see to our character and build trust with others so that God can use our leadership.”

Maxwell is right. After all, God created each of us, and He has a specific purpose in mind for our lives. We can achieve that mission by being sensitive to the leading of His Holy Spirit and obedient to His Word.

Only then can we fulfill the potential that is ours and ours alone. Thankfully, every day in the centers of Life Care and Century Park, and in the work of Life Care at Home, God’s will is being carried out through associates exercising wise stewardship of their talents.

--Beecher Hunter