POTENTIAL







Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops. Then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine. (Proverbs 3:9-10)

Anything is possible when I put God FIRST in **priority** and **loyalty**.

God **observes** and <u>notices</u> my level of commitment.

God **<u>GIVES</u>** creativity, strength, and inspiration to **people**.

You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning and turn my darkness into light! With your help I can run through a barricade or scale a wall. *(Ps. 18:28-29)* The sovereign Lord is my strength. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer and enables me to climb to the heights! (Habakkuk 3:19) God <u>sovereignly directs</u> circumstances and opportunities. The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord. He directs it like a watercourse wherever he chooses. *(21:1)*

The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord. (21:31)

One man gives freely yet gains even more. Another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper. He who refuses others will himself be refused.

(Proverbs 11:24-25)

Stinginess (doing the least possible) is a poor **investment strategy**.

withholds unduly... "comes to poverty" (11:24)

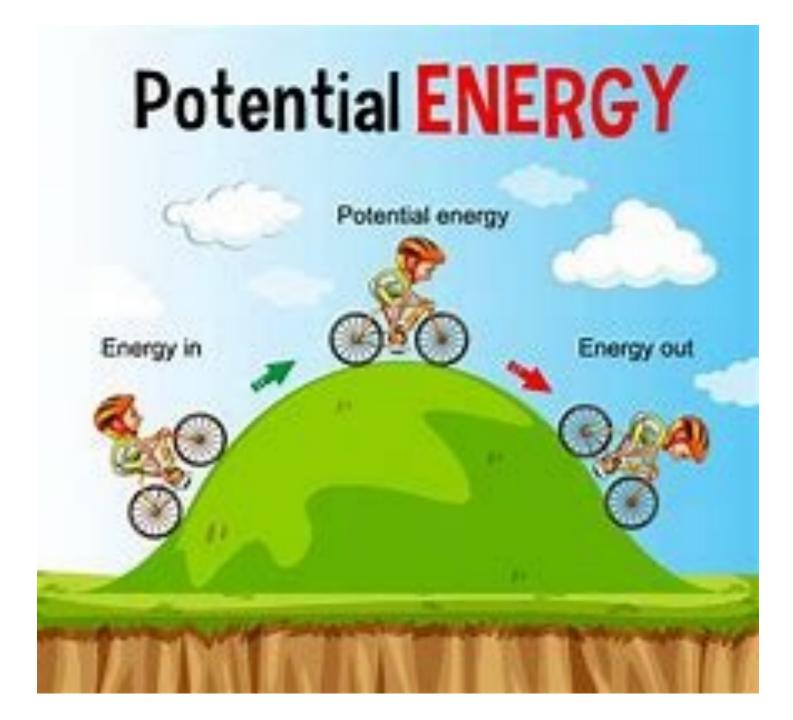
A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that "poverty awaits him." (28:22)

GENEROSITY <u>meets</u> needs, <u>builds</u> friendships, <u>demolishes</u> barriers, and creates opportunities.

A kind-hearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain ONLY wealth. A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself. *(11:16-17)*

A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great. (18:16)

Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest. (Proverbs 14:4)



Possibility/Potential are awesome to contemplate. God gives <u>dreams</u>, but he blesses <u>work</u>.

God uses work (well done and appreciated) to open <u>additional doors</u> of potential.

He who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who looks after his master will be honored. (27:18) Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money LITTLE BY LITTLE makes it grow. (*Proverbs 13:11*)

I easily overlook the POTENTIAL of "small" things because their value is understood only through <u>time</u> and <u>accumulation</u>. Better a patient man than a warrior, or man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. *(16:32)* PATIENCE is often <u>more effective</u> than overwhelming force (especially true in diplomacy, parenting, and relationships).

Every person... every talent and dream... every relationship and group has potential. This **POTENTIAL** becomes **POTENT** through time, work, and faith in God who is the source of all potential. The future can be made great by developing and improving what God has placed within you and made available to you. Part of God's "abundant life" is that opportunity to LEARN, DEVELOP, CELEBRATE, AND ENJOY all of your potential.