**POSITION, POTENTIAL, PURPOSE (5)** 2019-10-20

**1 PETER 2:9(NLTSE)** For you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of the darkness into His wonderful light

* *Recap:* last week we started discussing our potential and that God desires that we become like Jesus. He expects this because He believes we can be like Jesus, as He enables us to grow. God has more faith in us, than we have in ourselves.
* Do you find yourself wishing that things we’re different in South Africa?
* Do you wish we had a different president, a different exchange rate, a different economy, a different family, a different circle of friends, a different social standing, a different job, a different health status of your body?
* Science fiction movies have told stories of something known as “parallel universes”. Stories of other worlds existing simultaneously alongside ours.
* This notion is not entirely fictitious but strikingly real, because the ***Kingdom of God***, is indeed such a “universe” existing alongside the world as we know it.
* God’s Kingdom is more real than we tend to believe because the world as we know it is rapidly passing away, as ***God’s Kingdom*** is being ushered in by people willing to lay down their lives to build it with God.

**MATTHEW 24:35(NLTSE)** Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear

* The ***Kingdom of God***, holds the promise of everything being better for God and His expectations, *Not Ours****!***
* We need to align our expectation with God’s and not Him with ours.
* We’re not talking about building a comfortable lives for ourselves, we’re talking about building the ***Kingdom of God***, and it will cost us everything, even our very lives!!

**ROMANS 14:17(NKJV)** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

* Through the power of the Holy Spirit living through us, we have the Godly potential to live in the South Africa, ***He*** wants. Take Note: the South Africa ***HE*** wants. We must want the same.
* So, if we’re desiring change, we must make sure it’s Godly change we want to see, or else we’re going to be the most miserable and frustrated people walking around.
* There is only one way, we’re going to see this change and it’s through this:

**MATTHEW 6:33(NLTSE)** Seek the ***Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously***, and He will give you everything you need

* In order to bring about this change, there needs to be a radical change in our thinking and ultimately, the way we do things as Christians
* I was inside the Vereeniging post office recently and saw a very old broken clock on one wall, showing the wrong time and a new working clock on the opposite wall, showing the correct time. It made me think of how I’ll be one day, if I refuse to let God change me: ineffective and irrelevant.
* For those of us who refuse to change, we won’t ***be*** left behind, we’re ***already*** behind!
* I’ve been sharing, hugs, smiles and friendship, with bikers, their family and friends, for 30 years now, through God’s instruments of CMA and Bikers Church, with very little to show for it.
* How about you?
* If we want to see more fruit of the Kingdom of God in our day to day living, something has to change.
* Just look at the amazing potential of God’s people, as illustrated in this verse:

**EPHESIANS 3:10(NLTSE)** God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

* We cannot become dependant, of continuous moments, of great inspiration from God, before doing anything significant for the Kingdom.
* Our potential is released, when we’re steadily working hard, ***between*** the times of great inspiration from God.
* It’s during these times, when we walk by faith and not by sight, that our potential is realized.
* We cannot wait to work, only once we’ve received some great Godly inspiration. We have to continue to walk by faith, after we’ve received such inspiration. *(see Oswald Chambers’ devotional book: “My Utmost for His Highest” devotion for May 1)*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:7(NLTSE)** For we live by believing and not by seeing

**(NKJV)** For we walk by faith, not by sight

* It’s only when God’s people begin to fully utilise their God given potential, that we’ll see great change in our lives and this nation.

**PROVERBS 29:2(NLTSE)** When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan.

* This authority needs to be exercised on a spiritual level first, before we’ll see it become real on a practical level:

**2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-5(NLTSE)** “We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.”

* It’s time for us to start living out the fullness of the potential God has given us:

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**CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What do you understand by the terms: “chosen people”, “royal priests”, “holy nation”?
2. In what way, does the spiritual war described in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, impact our practical, day to day living?
3. What changes do we need to make in our lives, to see more evidence of the Kingdom of God? (Bearing in mind the meaning of the Kingdom as seen in Romans 14:17)