

How do these headlines and articles make you feel? A country that seems to be slipping away closer and closer to junk status? Many areas of our country are suffering under severe drought, while some experience flooding! Everyday problems, interest rate hikes, fuel prices, cash flow problems, relationship issues...

- can lead to a sense of depression or feeling depressed in our circumstances.

Depression is defined as a state of feeling sad : dejection (2) : a psychoneurotic or psychotic disorder marked especially by sadness, inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, a significant increase or decrease in appetite and time spent sleeping, feelings of dejection and hopelessness, and sometimes suicidal tendencies

c (1) : a reduction in activity, amount, quality, or force (2) : a lowering of vitality or functional activity.

Lets face it, we are affected by what we see around us. We are affected by what is happening around us. For many of us it becomes so much and difficult to handle that we start becoming negative, thinking we are in a hopeless situation, that we cannot do anything about it, we start getting inactive and even our health can be affected.

- But we are called to walk by faith and not by sight.

2Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Now this is difficult with many things going wrong around us so we look to the Word and we see that even the disciples of Christ found difficulty in walking by faith. So they asked Jesus to increase their faith.

- Luke 17:5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

I am reminded of a mustard seed. Because whenever we speak of faith we think mustard seed parable. And as I sought the Lord concerning His mustard seed parable he showed me this image of a mustard seed being cut around the half and the outer shell taken away and He asked me what do you see inside the mustard seed? And today I ask you, what do you see in a mustard seed?

- So very often we look at ourselves like a mustard seed, and all we see is this tiny and insignificant thing. And people say we must look within and the truth is if you cut open a mustard seed there seems to be even less inside. But if we look at these things all we see is a little paste and if we rub our fingers together we can actually rub it out. Sometimes we may feel like that seed, small insignificant, and sometimes we may even feel like it is better if we were just rubbed out.
- Matthew 17:20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith **as** a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Greek word used is "hoce"

Probably adverb of compound from G3739; which how, that is, **in that manner** (very variously used as shown): - about, after (that), (according) as (it had been, it were), as soon (as), **even as (like)**, so that sentence could read if you have faith **in that manner as** a mustard seed, or if you have faith **like** a mustard seed

- (Luke 17:5 NKJV) And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."
So the Lord said, "If you have faith **as** a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.
- (Mark 4:30-32 NKJV) Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

I want you to take this away from those three scriptures, our faith is like a mustard seed, and the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed therefore our faith should be like the kingdom of God.

- Inside every seed is the beginning of a plant, the basic root stem and leaf is already there wrapped inside the casing of a hard shell.
- You see that seed has the ability to do something greater than just being a seed, it can grow into something much greater than what is first expected. Something that is more than just itself, it grows into something that starts helping others around it, something that gives food and shelter and rest to those around. What would you rather be? A seed or a shelter? A seed or someone helping those around you in need?

The seed has the potential for becoming something great but unless this is unlocked then it will remain a seed forever.

A battery has potential. It has the ability to do work. It has the ability to store charge inside of itself. The actual battery has two terminals, + - , and we measure with a voltmeter across it, 12 volts. What we are measuring is the difference between these two terminals. We are measuring the potential difference between two points. We are measuring the potential for this battery to do work.

Is the battery doing any work now? No it is just standing there. Can it do work? Yes it is holding a charge there is potential there to do work. But it is not doing anything right now. What is in the battery?

Light

Cool refreshing wind

- But how do we get the battery to be more than a battery? We got to get CONNECTED. When the battery is connected the light comes on. Where is the light? No it is not this lamp here, it is in the battery. If it is connected then the light in the battery is let out. If the fan is connected then a cool refreshing wind is let out.
- Colossians 2:19 **and not holding fast to the Head**, (another word is disconnected) from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.
- What happens when a number of batteries are connected together? The lamp burns brighter. Because there is more power.

What happens when people pray? We get connected to God. We honour Him

and satan flees. We turn on the light and darkness flees. What happens when people get together to pray?

- Leviticus 26:8 Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

Let us get together, let us get connected let us not be 5 at our next prayer meeting let us be 100 so we can put 10000 demons to flight. The enemy has had his way too long in Krugersdorp, Roodepoort, Kagiso, Randfontein, Munsiville.

- But sometimes we are like this potato here, we don't feel like doing much, we don't think we can accomplish much, we may feel like we are dead and buried! But if we get connected! It may be a little painful at first, but if we get connected, we can turn on the light. Why?

Perhaps we sometimes feel like this Lemon, Squeezed, trampled, abused and maybe a little sour with life at the moment, we need to get together with others and it does not matter if you are an apple, a carrot a potato, and we get connected then the same power can turn on the light. Why?

Because the same power does the work.

- Luke 17:21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Humans are a lot like mustard seeds. What have we got locked inside of us, some potential that is still untapped, or trapped inside. How do we tap into

that. I recommend we get connected and get connected with God. Only He can help us loose what He has put inside.

- Psalm 139:14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

God has put into us more than we could hope or dream of we just end up settling for less. When he looks at us He sees what He created us to be, He sees the potential and possibilities He created us to be.

Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my **substance**, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days **fashioned** for me, When as yet there were none of them.

The word substance, the Greek word used is go'-lem **a wrapped (and unformed mass, that is, as the embryo): - substance yet being imperfect**. Our substance is not just our physical being but it includes talents, capabilities, weaknesses, personality what we enjoy, dislikes everything about us. So just like the seed that has its roots stem and leaves wrapped up inside, we have all these things wrapped up inside us!

God has fashioned the days for me, not the other way around, all the things around us God has there for a specific reason. We are placed in this time specifically for what God has created us for. Ultimately His goal is to further His kingdom and we must find our place in that purpose.

We do not fit into a one size fits all strategy for our lives, we are all different and we need to find out from our Father what our potential is. What is there in us that we have not yet accomplished. If we get connected to God, He will unlock our potential with Him, we can only go so far by ourselves but we can go so much further with Him. Let us have a look at a few things that will help

us unlock our potential.

1. Our past hinders our future. I recently read about an analogy of money. Like this R20 note. It is old and used. We don't know where this note has been, anyone could have used it for a number of reasons.

Tuck money

Buy groceries, petrol

Buy flowers

Or alcohol, drugs

Bribes.

But does that affect its value? No when it was initially created the maker gave it a face value of R20 and that is its value until it is taken out of circulation. Don't believe your value has dropped, your maker says it has not.

Your past does not have to affect your future, your future is what God says it is, not what your past dictates it will be.

2. Impossible is nothing for God. We limit God by forgetting about His power.

Psalm 78:41 Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.

Psalm 78:42 They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,

Remember how the Israelites were taken out of captivity? The plaques in Israel, the parting of the red sea, all these display the power of God. I am sure every one of us here has some testimony of God's power working in and around us.

We must remind ourselves with scriptures like these

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing will be impossible."

3. Walk by faith, trust God to take you where you have not been before, yes it may be scary but he is always with us.

So we have spoken a lot about Faith and Hebrews 11:6 tells us without faith it is impossible to please God, but that same verse tells us:

for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. It is time to diligently seek Him. When we seek Him diligently we will experience the reality of these words.

- Isaiah 40:31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

- We are like a mustard seed.**

- All potential is already within.**

- Get connected to God to release your potential. How quickly it spreads.**

- Prayer, read and study God's word**

- He knows your value.**

- He will lift you up.**

- He will take you places.**

- Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.