

Living at your full potential

(a summary of the book “YOUR BEST LIFE NOW” by Pastor Joel Osteen)

1. Shake off low self-esteem, negativity, feelings of inferiority, inadequacy etc.
2. Don't focus on past setbacks, heartache etc. Rather learn from all your life experiences, don't repeat the mistakes and focus on being the best you can be, i.e becoming more Christlike in character with each passing day.
3. Enlarge your vision. Don't be passive, i.e accept the status quo, settle for mediocrity, second-best or compromise your faith. Do not have a victim mentality or live in a perpetual 'pity party'. You cannot pour 'new wine' into 'old wineskins', so don't be so set in your ways and outdated thought patterns (strongholds in your mind) that you lose out on your true destiny in Christ. Reprogramme, i.e renew, your mind and think big. We serve the God that created the Universe, so think increase, more than enough, abundance.
4. Raise your level of expectancy, because God meets you at that level. Set your mind, and keep it set, on higher things. Look through 'eyes of faith' and fill your mind with thoughts of hope, faith and victory. What you receive and live is directly proportionate to your level of faith.
5. Surround yourself with true believers, i.e genuine people who build you up rather than try and tear you down. People who will encourage and challenge you to be the best you can be.
6. Remember that it is God who promotes and demotes supernaturally, not Man, and He can take you to progressively higher levels if you are obedient, and demote you if your walk is damaging His Kingdom.
7. Your job is not your source; God is. Remember that God has no limits; He is only limited by your lack of faith. God wants every generation to go further than the previous one. To do this you need to break negative cycles, i.e generational curses and bondage.
8. Live life with conviction (spiritual confidence) and boldness, expecting preferential treatment, not because of who you are, but whose you are. Declare God's grace (unmerited favour) over every area of your life, and thank Him for it.
9. Develop a healthy self-image because you will never rise above the image you have of yourself in your own mind. See yourself as God sees you; He holds you in high esteem, and regards you as a winner, an overcomer, more than a conqueror. Don't let the words, actions or opinions of other people distort your self-image. Reprogramme, i.e renew, your mind with God's living Word, and learn to guard your mind, control your thought life and dwell on the good things of God.
10. God focuses on what you are doing right; He sees the best in you. God knows your value and sees your potential, so keep your flaws in perspective. Know that you are a work in progress and God is in the process of changing you, refining your character.
11. Remember that you receive what you believe, so don't let life become a negative self-fulfilling prophecy. Instead, have a big vision for your life, living intentionally with faith and expectancy.

12. We have all suffered disappointments and setbacks, but when one 'door' closes, God will always open a bigger and better 'door'. Don't settle for mediocrity; be bold, rise up, and claim what is rightfully yours as a child of the Most High God.
13. Be secure and happy in who God made you to be, and then go out and be the best you can be. Don't compare yourself to other people; you are unique and special to God.
14. Set your mind on higher things. Align your thoughts with God's thoughts and dwell on the promises of His Word. Think thoughts of His victory, favour, faith, power and strength, and nothing can hold you back. Think positive, excellent thoughts and you will be propelled towards greatness. If you transform your mind, God will transform your life.
15. Speak blessings, not curses, over every area of your life. Let go of the past; do not let it poison your present and future. Don't let bitterness take root, because a bitter root will produce bitter fruit. Do not let your heart get polluted.
16. Unforgiveness is bondage. It blocks God's grace and will keep your prayers from being answered. Forgive so you can be free. It is a choice, but not an option.
17. Trust God to bring about justice in your life. Don't go around trying to pay people back, trying to get revenge; God will vindicate you.
18. Find strength through adversity. Keep on standing firm, with an uncompromising faith. God wants you to be a winner, not a whiner.
19. God's timing is perfect; He has an appointed time to answer our prayers and bring our dreams to pass. When it is your due season, God will bring it to pass.
20. Trials are intended to test your quality, character, faith and endurance. God uses them to refine, cleanse and purify you. It is how you mature physically, emotionally and spiritually. He is trying to shape you into the person He wants you to be. Your attitude and response to adversity is key. Pass a specific test, and you will be promoted to a new level. Challenges are 'stepping-stones' for promotion. Adversity pushes you into your divine destiny.
21. God will not change anyone you are dealing with until He first changes you.
22. Learn to be a giver and not a taker. Focus on being a blessing, and you in turn will be blessed.
23. Overcome evil with good. Keep 'taking the high road'. Be kind, polite, walk in love and have a good attitude.
24. Reach out to people, showing compassion, empathy and unconditional love, rather than judging, criticizing or condemning them. Demonstrate a kind, caring, gentle and loving spirit.
25. Honour God in the area of your finances. The first 10% (your tithe) of your income belongs to God. You cannot rob Him and expect to be blessed at the same time. Over and above your tithe, 'sow seed', give generously and gladly, and God will supernaturally increase you. These random acts of kindness, which activate the principle of sowing and reaping, will result in you being blessed in return.
26. Happiness is a choice, a decision you make, not an emotion you feel. Don't worry about things you cannot change.
27. Appreciate what you have, instead of moaning about what you don't have. Smile more often, live with enthusiasm, and never take life for granted.

28. Remember that God is all about long-term restoration. When He restores, He always brings you out better, improved, increased and multiplied. He has a vision of total victory for your life!
