

**FAITH REVIVAL FOR THE NATIONS
BIBLE INSTITUTE, FReNBI
COURSE SYLLABUS**

COURSE TITLE: POTENTIAL, GIFTS & CALLING

COURSE CODE: PGC 303

FACULTY: AFRICAN SCHOOL OF MINISTRIES, AFRISOM
(IN CONJUNCTION WITH)
AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF MINISTRIES, AUSOM

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METHOD OF STUDY

PREPARING TO START

(1) Your study time needs to be accompanied by prayers. Whenever the revelation of truth dawns on you or the power of truth takes hold of your spirit, that is a good time to pray it out.

Don't miss this chance. Such a moment is the time to pray and meditate, observing moments of silence or quietness, making proclamations and confessions, prophesying etc; as the move of the Spirit dictates. That is the time to check up related scriptures that flash through your mind. Singing, praying more, and doing as the occasion serves you.

Be sure to write down any spiritual development in your FCBS Notebook. What occurs to you, what God may be saying to you, what you may see or feel concerning issues of your life, etc. Expect things to be revealed to you while you study. This is to be a prayer-driven study.

(2) Review the document: "Certificate in Ministry – Course Units & Time Frame". Then - CHOOSE BETWEEN A DAILY STUDY PLAN: (MON –FRIDAYS) 2 HRS OR MORE DAILY, OR A WEEKLY STUDY PLAN: ANY 10 HOURS OF THE WEEK OR WEEKEND. SPECIFY ON PAGE 1 OF YOUR NOTEBOOK WHICH DAYS OF THE WEEK YOU HAVE CHOSEN AND BE ACCOUNTABLE TO YOURSELF.

GAINING A GENERAL OVERVIEW

Set aside your first 6 hours and be able to read through the entire syllabus. Starting from this Method Of Study to the Examination page (optional) at the end of this syllabus. For example, you can set aside these hours in 2 periods of 3 hours each, to achieve the combined total of your first 6 hours. Go back to the beginning of METHOD OF STUDY and re-read the whole of this syllabus.

In doing so, please pay special attention to specific lessons, paragraphs, phrases or verses that you may feel a need to re-read. The Holy Spirit will be prompting you on certain points that will trigger your present and future miracles. Keep re-reading until you accomplish the combined total of 6 hours required for the OVERVIEW.

COMMENCING YOUR STUDY, LESSON BY LESSON

- (1) Start your study time reading-through the entire lesson for the day/week, e.g. lesson 1.
- (2) Next, go over the same lesson. This time, slowly and meditatively. As things occur to you, you may feel like praying it out, speaking it out, or repeating scriptures aloud to yourself...and writing down any revelation in your FCBS Notebook, along with the date.

Remember to apply this important requirement to all subsequent lessons in this study. You will no longer be reminded of this requirement beyond this point.

QUESTIONS TO MIND AS YOU STUDY

- (a) How do these scriptures apply to my life and destiny?

- (b) What is the vital principle of scripture, correction, reproof, or direction that I need to apply from these scriptures to my life, to fulfil my obedience?
- (c) Is there any personal message that the Lord is passing across to me?
- (d) What prayer do I need to pray from these scriptures to shape my life and calling?

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The vision of PGC 303 is to help the Believer to discover more of WHO they are and what they CAN BECOME so they can fulfil God's purpose.

In PGC 303, we learn the spiritual wisdom by which the God-given but hidden or dormant talents, gifts, abilities, aptitudes and Godly desires (we call all these Potential) can be discerned, understood and channelled to fulfil God's purpose.

Learners will complete a biblical study on the principles of potential and employ biblical diagnostic tools to sharpen their spiritual discernment. They will then apply the same understanding to a practicum; an analysis of Potential, Gifts and Calling, using the FReNBI AGC Table.

Learners will carefully and prayerfully discern the following for their own life:

1. What they like doing or enjoy doing.
2. What they have the ability to do or gifted to do.
3. What they are trained to do or studied to do.
4. What God wants them to do or their Calling.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

That the Student will discover who they ARE in the context of what they CAN BE through their gifts and Calling. The Student will personally be looking at "who am I", "where am I going?", and "how do I get there?" John 1:19-23.

Learners will be able to discern between the gifts and the Calling, and how to use these gifts to fulfil their Calling.

Who are you? What do you say about yourself? (John 1:22)

God knows WHY and for what purpose He made each one of us. This truth is available to be revealed to us by His Spirit who searches all the deep things of God.

Joel 2:7-8 - *Each one shall walk in his way.* The clever man knows all the roads but the wise man knows the way. John 1:23 - *I am the voice crying in the wilderness.* John says I know my assignment. It is to be a voice for God in the wilderness.

Prayer – Lord, *show me my way I will maintain my path in Jesus Name.* Genesis 1:1, 27-28 - God created man in his image, in His likeness and to have dominion.

The purpose of God's potential in mankind is so they have dominion. No one can know much about who they really are until they get back to God. This is as true as it is in the case of any product and the manufacturer.

On this subject matter, we will have to go back to God. His Spirit and His Word will reveal to us who we are. Through his Spirit, we can access divine information from God. Until we receive this information, we cannot become what God intended for us TO BE. For us to know those things (the things of God's plan), God has given us His Spirit. The Spirit has the power to reveal because the Spirit searches all the deep things of God. As they are revealed, we become the very embodiment of those very things. All those things are communicated from the Word of God and from the Plan of God. Each one of us was created out of the very thoughts of God.

COURSE OUTLINE & LESSON NOTES

LESSON 1

DEFINITION

The word POTENTIAL means hidden or dormant ability.

It is the unused strength of an individual, waiting to be developed for a particular purpose.

In other words, it is what you CAN BE but are not yet. The word potential comes from the word "*omnipotent*" where "*Omni*" means ALL or EVERYTHING.

God is the source of all potential.

In Him is all power and in Him is all ABILITY.

Potential is the power and ability that God gives to an individual requiring growth and development.

WHY IS GOD THE SOURCE OF OUR POTENTIAL?

1. Only God knows our frame. That is, He knows the various parts of our being.
Psalm 103:14. God is the SOURCE of man's potential.
2. We are His workmanship. Ephesians 2:10
3. We are peculiar in His image. 1 Peter 2:9
4. If we abide in Him who made us, we become fruitful. John 15:5.
5. We can do all things through Christ. Philippians 4:13
Always stay in touch with your Maker/ 'Manufacturer' if you want to know your potential, enjoy your ride to destiny and fulfil your purpose.

What you have gone through is what prepares you for your destiny. God will use

both the negative and positive experiences of your life to prepare you for your destiny.

Romans 8:28-30 says that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose. Whatever the devil used for destroying your life, God can turn it around for your good and to His glory.

DISCOVERING POTENTIAL: THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT

The Word and the Spirit is our access to the discovery of our potential.

“We cannot fool ourselves for long about what we are to do. Somewhere, deep down in us, is stored the secret, and when we are digging in the wrong place, we know it. The secret wants to be discovered and will not let us go in peace in the way that is not ours.” Elizabeth O’Connor.

So long as it is in you, it can be revealed to you.

1. Christ as the Word is the hidden wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:24

1 Corinthians 2:7

When it comes to the hidden part of our life, it takes Christ (the hidden Wisdom of God) to reveal it to us by the Holy Spirit. The word of God penetrates the hidden part of our life and illuminates it. Hebrews 4:12.

2. We have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:16

Romans 12:1-2.

The washing of water by the word of God (Ephesians 5:26) cleanses our minds, to be able to discern the good, the acceptable and the perfect will of God for our potential.

3. The Holy Spirit, as our teacher, is the revealer.

John 14:26

1 Corinthians 2:10-13

1 Corinthians 3:21-22.

The unused part of us is our potential, and the Holy Spirit reveals it to us.

Once you are born again, you have the Spirit of God and can see the things of God.

4. Spiritual-mindedness is the gateway to the discovery of our potential, gifts and calling for profitable living. Romans 8:6, Joshua 1:8, 1 Timothy 4:15.

Constantly pondering on the word of God and praying in the Spirit sharpens your discernment and makes you spiritually-minded.

LESSON 2

GOD'S PURPOSE IN POTENTIAL

Why did God equip you with ability, gifts and Calling? What was He trying to achieve?

God had a dream and a purpose he wanted to accomplish. So He thought about you as the right person to achieve a particular purpose on earth.

Let us examine the details of his THOUGHT concerning you by looking at the following keywords closely related to Potential, Gifts and Calling. Remember, He said -

I know the thoughts that I think towards you (Jeremiah 29:11).

KEYWORDS ASSOCIATED WITH PGC

1. Purpose

Something God has intended for you to do on earth. The ultimate outcome.

2. The Plan

Because of what He wants to achieve, He has a plan of how it will work out. The plan is to accomplish that purpose upon your life. You will need to find it and run with it. God's plan for your life is revealed to you upon request by you. Jeremiah 29:11-13 (paraphrased).

Pray and seek with all your heart and you shall find it. If you ask or seek, you will find. Mathew 7:7.

3. Potential

Contains your abilities, your gifts, talents and Calling. What is your capacity to work the plan and to fulfil the purpose? What is the equipment God has given you to accomplish your assignment?

Your abilities, gifts and talents are made up of both spiritual and natural endowments. God gave all of them to you. The devil made nothing and gave nothing. His ministry is to steal, kill and destroy that which God gave if we allow him.

4. VISION

When a plan is revealed to you, it is called a Vision.

Vision is the unveiling of the plan of God for your life, bit by bit. It is seeing into what God has for you.

5. Ministry

After the vision is revealed to you, the next thing remains the doing, the fulfilling or the performing of that vision. This action of performing or carrying out a vision is called Ministry. Ministry is the doing of a revealed will of God or the executing of the plan of God.

Discerning Between Your Gifts And Your Calling

Your Gifting is your equipment or tool for doing what God wants you to do. Your Calling is what God wants you to do or tells you to do. There is one Calling but different phases. You may have many phases for your Calling and many gifts with which to fulfil your Calling. Romans 11:29. The gifts are many but only one Calling. Notice that this scripture says “gifts and Calling” not “gift and Callings”.

Use your gifts to fulfil your Calling. Your Calling shows you WHAT to do, WHEN to do, WHEN to do, WHERE to do. The Calling is according to purpose. We are Called according to one purpose, but the Calling is in many phases/stages. Phase by phase, but still in the same Calling. Every phase has certain gifts that are more effective and relevant for that time and season.

For instance, for raising the foundations of Ministries as we do at the FReNBI faculty, we need the gifts of revelation knowledge and the prophetic.

Therefore covet earnestly the best gifts. That is the most suited gifts for that phase of ministry or assignment.

In A Nutshell:

Your Calling is revealed in What God Tells You To Do.

You Follow Your Calling To Fulfil Your Purpose.

YOUR CALLING is Who you are.

YOUR GIFTING is what you have.

How do your natural talents matter to your destiny? We are to turn our talents and gifts to the direction of our Calling and use them to accomplish the Calling.

There are innate qualities and deep desires placed by God within you as His image in which you were made. These were placed there to help you to know what to do in life. It is a radar or compass to direct you where to go and what to do.

John 1:19-23 “who are you?” is the question.

Your talents & abilities are trying to define who you are. what are you able to do? What do you have in your hands? What are your deep desires? This will guide you to what you should do. Constantly pray the Will of God over your life.

NOT MY WILL BUT YOURS BE DONE

Check the deep desires placed by God within you. Check on talents placed by God within you. You will find what you are called to do. Wisdom comes through learning and practical experience.

Trusting the Lord when going through circumstances will birth wisdom within you.

James 1:1-5 This wisdom will help you to use your gifts correctly in your Calling. Don't try to be someone you are not.

John 1:19-23 Do you know who you are not? What do you say about yourself?

LESSON 3

Hindrances To The Discovery Of Your Potential

1. WHO SOMEBODY ELSE IS

This can hinder you from becoming who you are supposed TO BE.

John 10:8,9. 2 Corinthians 10:12. John 9:8,9.

Don't let people define who you are. Be who you're meant to be. It is you who has to know who you are. Be who you're meant to be.

Who others are should inspire you to become the very person God has made you to be. STOP AND PRAY ALOUD, REPEATEDLY IN JESUS NAME:

Lord, give me a deeper
revelation of WHO I AM

Don't compare yourself to others. 2 Corinthians 10:12.

Your confession: I am well packaged by God to make me what I am supposed to be. I am a whole package made in heaven, assembled on earth and ready for the work of my Calling!

1 Samuel 8:4-7. They compared themselves to other nations. God was angry with them. Do not despise what God has made you to be.

Always check your motives for asking in prayer. Let your motives be Godly. God does not want us to be like someone, but to be who He has made to be. Don't try to be who you are not supposed to be. Your gifts are tailored to respond to what you are called to do.

2. WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE HAS

Two kinds of coveting: Coveting what God has for you or coveting what your neighbour has.

The first, the Godly/good kind of coveting. It is based on a spiritual stirring within us, showing us that, that gift (we see in the scriptures or in expression in that other person's life) is a developed version of the kind of gift deep down within us. For this,

the Bible says, "covet earnestly the best gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:31). This kind is a positive coveting by which we receive the impartation of gifts. Romans 1:12.

The second, the fleshly/evil kind, based on self-will, greed and selfishness.

What others have is what has made them to be who they are. What God has given you, though yet undeveloped, is the best for you. We must seek to develop what God has for us. The gift that someone else has should stir us up, encourage us, but not to envy or competition.

Otherwise, we become easily swayed into the flesh, coveting what others have.

We must not be caught in this deadly trap. If we covet this way, we end up missing the best that God has for us. We fail to attain to who God has made us to be.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11. We should rather exercise ourselves in these gifts.

Jeremiah 8:8-31. You have to discover what you have and never to despise. It takes wisdom to discover what you have. Your potential needs to be stirred up for you to discover it.

Appreciate what you have. What you don't appreciate will depreciate or vanish away. Whatever God gives you or tells you to do is good enough. Do what you are called to do in His appointed location for you. Don't be in the wrong place, be where you're supposed to be.

Not your will but God's will be done in your life. Be in the place of your appointment to get what belongs to you.

Jeremiah 6:12-13

When you covet what belongs to others, you will miss your own. When your own good comes, you will miss it.

Jeremiah 17:5-6. Be disciplined in your mind.

The things that we selfishly like to do are not always profitable to us indeed.

If we do not hold fast to what we have, another will take our crown.

We must learn to be content with what we have because what others have may not fit us. Only what God has planned for us will fit us. If our eyes are chasing after our own desires and not God's, we will end up missing what God has for us. Our own things will pass away if we keep our eyes on the things of others.

We have to discipline our eyes and guard our heart with all diligence.

- Matthew 6:22
- Psalm 119:9
- Proverbs 5,6,7.
- 2 Corinthians 10:5-6

LESSON 4

3. WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE SAYS

When what others say about you don't line up with what God says about you, you could be hindered from becoming what God says of you.

- Psalms 38:11-15

What God says is the most important direction for your life. You can't become everything people say.

Mathew 7:24 – hearing what the Word of God is saying is the ROCK in your life. Build your life on Revelation. It will stand the test of storms, and the gates of hell shall not prevail.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16 – We need revelation and spiritual discernment which the devil does not know.

Mathew 16:13-17 – THOU ART *Petros* and upon this *Petra*, I will build my church.

Petros = Rock = Peter

Petra = Rock = Revelation (of Christ the Son of God) on which faith is built (Matthew 7:24). Galatians 3: 3-5.

- Matthew 16:13-16

People may have different opinions of you. Your being mindful of this can block your reception of God's word or God's plan concerning you. Walk by revelation (faith in what God says) and not by what people say.

God reveals to us the work we must do. It is the fruits of that obedience that will show which Office in the Body of Christ we serve. It is not about position but about service and obedience.

- Acts 13:2

Sometimes striving for position and title brings strife in the body of Christ.

I must learn not to hear what others say sometimes because it may bring depression.

What others do can hinder you from being all that God meant for you to be.

4. WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE DOES

John 5:1-8,14; 1 Samuel 24:9-12, 25:6-12.

People can do anything against you and not even know they have done anything. They may hurt you on your way to your destiny. What others do can put you in bitterness, which in time can rob you of your destiny.

John 5:3-7 – The man sought for a man to help him to get in the pool. No one. Yet while he is making an effort, others pushed him off their way. What others did to him pushed him into un-forgiveness that further tied down his miracle.

Mark 11:22-25 - To receive the miracle that you desire, you need to forgive people that have hurt you. We have to forgive because Jesus Christ has forgiven us. Forgive people who hurt you, for they don't know what they did to you.

Judges 8:4 – People's unkindness to you can hinder you, but you should forgive them to avoid bitterness. This is part of the things you have got to encounter on your way to fulfilment.

Don't stop the journey even though you may be fainting. Never give up!

Your potential to reach your destination may be hindered by what others do to you. You do not have power over other people's behaviour toward you. However, you have power over your response towards them.

That means, you do not have the power to stop them from offending you but you do have the power to guard your heart against bitterness. Bitterness will hinder you or stop your progress in fulfilling the Call of God.

- Mark 11:24-25

- 1 Corinthians 13

The way to deal with your enemies is to walk in love, praying for them.

- Hebrews 12:14-15

Walking in love is the way of contacting a great anointing, but it is a high price to pay. For example, when you have to pray for your enemies. One way of running away from strife and bitterness is by loving your enemies and praying for them.

- Judges 8: 4-6,9-10

Sometimes why people will not help you is because God is waiting to help you.

- Isaiah 41:10

- 1 Samuel 25:1-12

LESSON 5

LIMITATIONS TO REACHING MAXIMUM POTENTIAL

1. Lack Of Vision: When you do not know what to do next, you will easily assume that you have come to the end of your journey on earth. Proverbs 29:18.
Keep developing your vision. Visions are very deep.

2. Memory Of Past Failure: The greatness of your divine destiny does not rest on the past but on the future, and what you make of it. This life is a journey in which having a stop for a pity party is certainly not the portion of those Called and predestined for glory.

Romans 8:29-30. Nehemiah 8:10.

Refuse that feeling of depression. Refuse that feeling of sorrow. For all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose.

- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- Isaiah 43:18-19
- 1 Corinthians 3:21-22

God is going to use your past experience to mould your future glory.

3. Uncertainty: you need to sit down with God in the Word and get direction from the Lord. You have to be sure about the will of God. By analyzing the vision, you will find the energy to do that which is the will of God and avoid wavering.

4. Divided Attention: Know your priorities and concentrate on them.

- 1 kings 20:40. This man was busy here and there. He lost his life because he lost the main thing in his care; all for being busy here and there.

5. Procrastination/Delayed Action: Lay aside everything and everyone that may cause unnecessary delays in your journey. Circumstances and people who don't value your journey may keep you from reaching your divine destiny. You must learn to obey God immediately you heard him right, because delay does create room for doubt and ultimately, disobedience.

- Genesis 16:16
- Genesis 17:1, 23-26. Same day obedience!

Abraham obeyed God immediately.

6. Fear of Success: When God gives you success, He gives you the grace to handle it. Do not be afraid of greatness because you are called to a destiny of greatness. Isaiah 60:22.

LESSON 6

KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN DISCOVERING YOUR POTENTIAL

1. What you like doing or enjoy doing.
2. What you have the ability to do or gifted to do.
3. What you are trained to do or studied to do.
4. What God wants you to do or your Calling.

Assignment: (See the last page on Course Grading for marks awardable).

Prayerfully watching over WHO you are and WHAT gifts & talents are IN YOU.
Complete the FReNBI AGC Table on the next page.

THE FReNBI AGC TABLE- ANALYSIS OF GIFTS AND CALLING

A1. What I like to do or enjoy doing	B1. What I have the ability to do	C1. What I am gifted to do	D1. What I am gifted to do and Called to do	E1. What I am Called to do presently
A2. Enjoy doing but no ability to do	B2. Ability to do but not gifted to do	C2. Gifted to do but not Called to do	D2. Not gifted to do but Called to do	E2. Called to do later

COMMON QUESTIONS & ANSWERS AND IMPORTANT NOTES ON THE AGC TABLE

1. Why am I not fruitful in my Calling?

- a) Lack of appropriate training. Make yourself available to be trained.
- b) Times and seasons. The phase of your calling may supply the reason for your season. There may be days of little beginning that provide much learning for future use. Job 8:7. Zechariah 4:10.

2. Called To Do but no interest in doing the same:

- a) Your lack of interest could be because you have not seen a breakthrough in that area.
- b) Not knowing how to do it can create a loss of interest. You have to develop yourself in the area of your calling or make yourself available to be trained for your Calling.
- c) The vision may not be clear all at once. Pray until the vision is clear enough to be pursued.

3. I am Called to do, but have no ability to do:

- a) Ability requires to be trained up.
- b) Open your eyes because God would have brought people around you to help you with their ability and gifts. Every leader must recognize the gift of others.

4. Others have prophesied on me:

There are two dimensions of prophecy;

- a) Prophecy touching on the promises of God concerning your blessing.
 - b) Prophecy touching on the plan of God for your life (concerning your Calling); this kind of prophecy must be limited to or seen as- a confirmation of what God must have told you before or a confirmation to what God will eventually tell you or show you by Himself.
- Galatians 1;15-17- is about the Calling revealed in us.
 - Galatians 2:1-2- is about the message.

The Calling is revealed in you. You are responsible and are to be accountable for the Calling that God has placed in your life. When it comes to the message, you have to consult with others who know better than you to avoid mistakes.

5. Caught up in doing something I am not supposed to be doing:

Prepare and make yourself ready by prayerfully seeking His way out of your temptation into His perfect will for your life. Remember, God's plan for your life is only revealed to you on request by you. Only those that are willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land.

- Jeremiah 29:11-13.

LESSON 7

This lesson requires the individual Student's further study. These following points are just to get you started.

PREPARATION TO FULFIL THE CALL

- (i) Much study – 2 Timothy 2:15
- (ii) Much serving – Romans 12:11
- (iii) Much faithfulness – Luke 16:10-12

PHASES OF CALLING

E.g. Paul's Ministry: Acts 9:26-28

- (i) Vs 6: Need for a divine relationship to be able to move to the next phase.
- (ii) Vs 26-27: Someone to tell you what to do and how to do it.
- (iii) Vs 28: Time to serve those who are with you in the Ministry.

Acts 11:30: You receive the anointing by serving others in the Ministry.

THREE LEVELS OF TIMING Ecclesiastics 3:1-11

- (i) Timing of the work/vision.
- (ii) Timing of the labourer.
- (iii) Timing of the Lord.

For every vision, look at:

- (i) The word/vision and the understanding of it.
- (ii) The interpretation of it.
- (iii) The wisdom and application of it.

THREE LEVELS OF VISION: Mark 4:28, Romans 12:2

- (i) The Blade – the good – Ecclesiastes 9:10 –doing everything that your hand finds to do.
- (ii) The Ear – the acceptable – Ephesians 5:10
- (iii) The full corn- the perfect – Psalm 138:8

COURSE GRADING
(Exams & Records Unit)

- A. Examination: ----- Total Marks: 40%
- B. Assignments/Practicum ----- Total Marks: 50%
- C. Any Other Task/bonus marks:----- Total Marks: 10%
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COURSE EXAMINATION

FACULTY: AFRICA SCHOOL OF MINISTRIES, AFRISOM
(IN CONJUNCTION WITH AUSOM)

COURSE: POTENTIAL, GIFTS & CALLING

COURSE CODE: PGC 303

TIME ALLOWED: 45 MINS

DO ALL: Your answer to each question should not exceed $\frac{1}{4}$ of a page (A4 size).
More marks apply for personalizing your answer in the context of what God is showing you or saying to you.

- (1) In your own words, state clearly any two hindrances to the discovery of potential, relating to yourself in practical terms. (10 marks).
- (2) Potential contains your abilities, your gifts, talents and Calling. What is your capacity to work the plan and to fulfil the purpose? What are the pieces of equipment that God has given you to accomplish your assignment? (30 marks).