

# LIFE

## WITHOUT LIMITS

Ron Ballard

## WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR YOUR LIFE?

Many are perfectly happy with the way their lives are going, while others believe that they have been put in situations that offer little opportunity. Whether it comes from accident, heredity, disease, socioeconomic status, or what is perceived to be just plain bad luck, some may feel that what life offers is just insurmountable. It's frustrating to live at a point where you feel little hope. But there is a way out of this dilemma, and it comes with changing one's perspective about life itself and adopting attitudes that greatly facilitate a new view of life—attitudes such as humility, meekness, and unselfed love.

The rewards of adopting this new perspective are immense. Moving beyond the limited perception that life is entirely defined by matter, we can begin to shed the limitations that inevitably follow as a necessary consequence of such a perception. If we will begin to accept the idea that life is really the manifestation of the divine Life, or God, then we will begin to sense the possibilities that go with that idea.

Knowing that life comes from divine Life turns our thought to the exploration of the nature of that divine Life in the expectation that this creative Life expresses itself through what it creates. God, or divine Life, must be limitless, infinite in nature—for what could contain God? Life has no beginning and no end and knows no boundaries of expression. There would be no utility to this Life creating limitations for its limitless being. Being infinite, divine Life can express its will and accomplish its purpose without compromise or restriction. What could not an infinite Life do, should it so wish?

Considering Life in this way frees us from the depressing thought that our possibilities are limited or at an end. After all, this Life must express itself, and that expression is going on as our very being (meaning, our conscious awareness). The more we allow the infinite nature of this Life into our lives, or actually, the more we're willing to accept it as already here, the more we shall see new ways of doing things.

### Toward the advanced idea

The first step is being willing to let go of old perceptions. Whether you and I realize it or not, the limitations we face in life are really the result of what we choose to

accept. It may not seem that way, and many would argue that there is much about what happens in life that isn't up to us; it seems unfair to blame people for something that isn't their fault. But the point here is not to cast judgment or blame, but to suggest that we do have options available to us that we may not know we have.

For instance, we can choose to change our models regarding life and Life, God. We can begin to think out from the standpoint of possibility rather than be slaves to continued restriction and the justifications of mortally based reasoning. The more we're willing to consider an advanced idea and throw off what is no longer useful or productive, the more we will see and experience the divine law of infinite possibilities. This law holds that the infinite possibilities that characterize the divine source, Life, are manifested through the lives of what it creates—the cause being seen or manifested through and as its effect.

Divine Life is not separate from what it creates. It does not create and then send the creation into an orbit of its own, to tend to its own life prospects. Divine Life constitutes what it creates, and that means it is always present with its creation, always showing and manifesting its nature right where the effect or creation is.

### Living the law of infinite possibility

Mary Baker Eddy, who founded the Christian Science movement, was no stranger to dealing with limited prospects. Her life was full of changes and, at times, disappointments. But she lived through them all, discovering a Life that was limitless and, therefore, prospects for life that were limitless. At an age when many people would be wrapping up their lifework, she was just beginning hers. Through her love for God and humanity, she lived the law of infinite possibility. She, therefore, had the life experience to support these words: "Spiritual perception brings out the possibilities of being, destroys reliance on aught but God, and so makes man the image of his Maker in deed and in truth."<sup>1</sup> It is one's spiritual perception that seeks the divine model—a model that relies wholeheartedly on God—and then lets that model be the basis for one's life.

So what's the effect of gaining such models and living them? Mrs. Eddy explained this in another passage in her

writings: “The human mind, imbued with this spiritual understanding, becomes more elastic, is capable of greater endurance, escapes somewhat from itself, and requires less repose. A knowledge of the Science of being develops the latent abilities and possibilities of man. It extends the atmosphere of thought, giving mortals access to broader and higher realms.”<sup>2</sup>

In short, being willing to think about life from the standpoint of spiritual understanding (or how Life, God, expresses itself through life) moves us into realms of thought that before we did not see. Mary Baker Eddy not only opened up a whole new realm of experience for herself in business, theology, and healthcare that most women had never experienced, but she pioneered those realms for women—and men—to come. Even more importantly and fundamentally, she opened up avenues through which all people could demonstrate, or prove, the presence of God in their lives.

As new as Mrs. Eddy’s approach might seem, what she discovered about the unlimited laws of Life had actually been proved thousands of years before by those we’ve come to know as figures in the Bible. The Scriptures offer myriad examples of men and women who realized that they could expect God, divine Life, to shape, mold, and express their lives. And the more they learned about this Life, the more prospects opened for them. For some, this realization came relatively easily. For others, it required a good deal of mental wrestling. But whatever struggles there were along the way, when these individuals deferred to God, new horizons and possibilities opened for them. Each lived an attitude that made the perception of infinite possibilities a reality in their lives and allowed them to yield to it.

#### **The need for humility**

For Moses, that attitude was humility. Moses grew up in a mental atmosphere of power and prestige. Raised in the Pharaoh’s courts, he may very well have been used to seeing people get exactly what they wanted. While this arrogance may not have characterized him, it would be hard to avoid taking in the idea that this attitude could be an effective means to an end. When Moses killed an Egyptian in a rage over the way that fellow was treating a Jewish slave, he had to flee to the desert. For years, he tended

sheep, and one can imagine the kind of lessons he learned there. Perhaps he learned from the sheep’s humility, showing deference to their caretaker, trusting his ability to nurture the flock, letting go of self-assertiveness. Moses must have learned that lesson, because when he finally came face to face with his God-derived calling, leading his countrymen and -women out of slavery to a new land, he demonstrated very little pride or arrogance. In fact, when he started out, he felt inadequate for the job. God had to assure him that He would be with Moses’ mouth and teach him what to say. While Moses may not have felt up to the task initially, he grew in his sense of God, or divine Life, living with him and began to sense the call to infinite possibilities.

Moses learned to yield to God, to accept the good motives of this divine Life and its purpose to bestow blessings on its creation. He had learned that this was the role of the shepherd, and now he came to appreciate as never before that God was his Shepherd. The following years would require that Moses listen constantly to this divine Shepherd and take direction from Him as he led his people not only to a new locale, but into the promised land of spiritual recognition and freedom.

#### **The value of meekness**

Another well-known Bible figure, Job, had a somewhat different lesson to learn, a different quality to develop—though it was no less vital in opening him up to the infinite possibilities of creative Spirit. For Job, it was meekness—being patient and mild, gentle and kind—that allowed him to tap into limitless Life.

Job possessed many of the things that society would consider marks of success—family, land, livestock—and lost them all. Yet Job held fast to his integrity. He endured his injury with patience and without resentment. He sought the deeper lesson of his experience. Despite the advice he got from friends on what to do, he turned to God, divine Life, to learn more of how the Divine creates and fulfills life. As a result, inspiration began to fill his thought and he learned that, despite all his hard work and efforts to be successful, God’s ways are not necessarily the ways of humanity. He learned to embrace and accept a divine sense of purpose for life, which always holds for us enlarged development of spiritual sensitivity. By

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letting the human yield to the divine, he discovered the omnipotence of God and saw that nothing could limit Life. As a result, Job's substance was restored, greater than before.

While some would interpret meekness as weakness, a spiritual sense of meekness actually accesses empowerment. It lets go of a mortal sense of power and embraces the divine. It was Jesus' meekness that made him mighty because he realized that it was the power of God that enabled him to accomplish his incredible works. He said, in essence: *Of my own self, I can't do a thing; the Father in me does the works.*<sup>3</sup> What an expanded sense of what is possible! What can't God accomplish, being totally unlimited by mortal resistance? Jesus didn't just prove this for himself, but actually envisioned greater things for those who followed his example.

#### The power of unselfed love

Another quality that's essential in following that example of Jesus—in growing out of the mortal view of life and adopting the immortal view—is unselfed love, a quality typified by one of Jesus' ancestors, a woman named Ruth. Ruth discovered that her possibilities lay in an attitude of selflessness. After her husband died and then his brother, Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi, gave her the option of returning to her own family. Ruth elected to stay with Naomi and support her. This attitude of what Mrs. Eddy referred to as seeking one's own in another's good<sup>4</sup> opened up unexpected possibilities in Ruth's life. To help support her mother-in-law, she took a menial job in the fields of a wealthy landowner. Seeing her unselfishness, the landowner fell in love with her and asked her to be his wife. Not only was Ruth's need met, but new life prospects opened up for her mother-in-law, as well.

The genius of unselfed love lies in what it emulates. Unselfed love is not just a process of putting yourself in second place or considering other people's needs before you consider your own. True unselfed love is about a connection with God, about deciding that real blessings come from doing God's will, and His will is always to love. In a sense, unselfed love is about receiving and expressing the divine power and presence. It's about wanting others to feel, through your expression, a clearer sense of God's presence and being.

Throughout the centuries, those who have truly been considered unselfish, who appear to give their lives to serving others, are in fact receiving a blessing that is often unseen to the world. They experience the unsurpassed joy of doing something for its own sake, without considering what they might gain. This kind of loving, just for the joy of loving, does, of course, have its reward. As Mrs. Eddy explained it: "Human affection is not poured forth vainly, even though it meet no return. Love enriches the nature, enlarging, purifying, and elevating it."<sup>5</sup> The fact is, you can receive all kinds of return through loving that won't necessarily enrich your nature or elevate it. But loving for the sake of serving Love, the divine source of love, does bring this reward, and carries us into realms of experience about which mere human desire can only speculate. Rising above a mere personal agenda in love connects us with the infinite possibilities of a Love that knows no boundaries.

The goal of infinite possibilities is not about making mortal experience better; it's about growing out of that limited sense of experience altogether. As you and I develop more spiritual models of thought, learn more of the divine creating, live more of God's character and nature, the godliness that animates us, we'll experience the law of infinite possibilities. This doesn't just mean fuller lives but, more importantly, new and totally limitless definitions of life. **TCSJ**

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<sup>1</sup> *Science and Health*, p. 203. <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 128. <sup>3</sup> See John 5:30. <sup>4</sup> See *Science and Health*, p. 518. <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 57.