

motivation that it released in him power that he didn't know he had. In similar fashion the love of God, when you really love Him, will release in you power to run the race of life with a strength you never knew you had. It was of you, of me, of every human being that Jesus spoke when He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that when we turn to Thee in worship we are eternally young. We thank Thee for reminding us that we are Thy children, with something great in us equal to the stars, a wonder and a power that can be released as we learn to love Thee and Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for the wondrous excitement of living. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

:R-ecommenj :R-eajing

THE COMPLETE SAYINGS OF JESUS
ASSEMBLED BY ARTHUR HINDS
 (Gramercy Publishing Company \$1.00)

It is with great pleasure that I am able to say that this valuable little book is again in print.

It offers an amazing reading experience, one in which the reader follows the Master through villages and about the lake and into the cities, hearing His priceless comments to individuals and His sermons to vast multitudes. As one reads all of His words at one time and in chronological order, one feels a strange compelling identification with the sights, sounds and atmosphere of those times, and the Lord's presence is profoundly realistic.

Good Reading! ◆◆◆

**The Exciting Experience
of Living**



DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

MARBLE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

FIFTH AVENUE AT 29th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y.

Especially prepared
 FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
 150 W. 42nd Street, New York

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This is a recorded transcription of a sermon delivered extemporaneously in the Marble Collegiate Church.

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thrown into the air. People jumped up and down. It was one of the biggest track upsets of all time.

The coach grabbed Tommy, hustled him into the locker room, shut the door and asked, "Boy, do you realize what you've done? You undercut your time by twenty-six seconds. You ran this race in 4:04. You've won the meet for us!"

Tommy was silent. His head went down between his knees and he began sobbing like a baby. The coach thought it was excitement and he tousled the boy's hair and hugged him and kept saying, "You won! You won!"

Tommy raised his tear-stained face. He said, "Coach, I didn't win it for you. I didn't win it for the team. I won it for my dad."

"Your dad?"

Tommy explained, "My dad came home from World War II in a wheelchair and never walked again. And I always wanted me to run - maybe because he couldn't walk. He used to say 'Tommy, stick with it, because some day you'll win a big race, when you do, so help me Tommy, with God's help I'll walk out of this wheelchair.' My father never did get out of the wheelchair. He never saw me run. I know how bad my father is, Coach. It's just as well, maybe, that he didn't see me run."

"Well, this morning I got this telegram, 'Tracy's to reach you by phone. Dad died last night. Hurry home. Sis.'"

"So when you came and told me I was to run I figured it was God's guidance and He wanted me to run for Dad. So I went out there knowing that my father for the first time in his life was watching me run. I ran for him."

You see, the boy's love for his father provided such

He couldn't watch; it was so painful. The boy ran with a kind of waddle. But he sure had indomitable spirit.

For the mile run at the big meet the coach had planned to enter two boys, Dick and Don, both six feet tall. Both could run like pictures, fast. But when the final event came the coach went to tell Don and Dick that the time had come for them to run - and he found them stretched out on the ground, their faces as green as the grass, so sick that they couldn't even walk, let alone run. Some thing they had eaten had disagreed with them.

All the coach had left was Tommy. So he fixed a smile on his face, as a good coach is supposed to do, and went looking for Tommy. At first he couldn't find him, but finally he spotted the boy - sitting off by himself with his head in his hands. He said to Tommy, Dick and Don are ill. You'll have to run this race for us."

Tommy looked as though he'd been hit by a truck. But he took off his jersey. He fell to his knees and bowed his head in prayer for a moment. Then he jumped 'up and said, "O.K. Coach, I'll do my best."

So the whistle went off and the race started. The coach says he deliberately looked everywhere but Tommy. He couldn't bear to watch him. He felt guilty for having put the boy in a position to be embarrassed before 60,000 people.

Then he heard his boys exclaiming, "Look at Tommy!" Tommy had moved ahead of the two stellar Yale runners. The only man ahead of him was the Harvard man, the greatest one-miler in New England at the time. The coach watched, spellbound, as Tommy closed the distance and finally breasted the tape five yards ahead of the Harvard man and won the race and the meet and the championship for Fairfield. Pandemonium reigned. Everything was

THE EXCITING EXPERIENCE OF LIVING

Scripture: John 10:10; 14:6

How to live life to its fullest potential, how to live creatively, how to live it successfully, this is the major problem confronting every one of us. How to maintain the zest for life under the bludgeonings of circumstance, how to keep the thrill in life under routine daily tasks, how to maintain a sense of delight and excitement as long as one is on this earth, this is the challenge. One's life on earth is very precious. It is very fragile and it is very short. And down in our hearts we know that we should do the best we can with it, but - God help us - many of us mess it up. We never fully grasp the point of it, never get to the essence of it, and consequently never live with it what we could.

I talked with a man who regards himself as an intellectual of a rather left-wing variety, whom some people would write off as a beatnik. He impressed me as a person essentially. But since he was in rebellion because life was no good. It was filled with injustice and pain, he said, there seemed to be no meaning in it. Since he was out of harmony with it. I told him that I, too, recognized that life was filled with injustice and pain, but that I for my part, found meaning in it because mankind is constantly rising to higher levels by overcoming this injustice and pain, and by striving toward that off divine event toward which all creation moves." I told him I found life positively wonderful.

When he asked me how I had come to see it so, I answered that it had been through equating Jesus with life and truth. I told him that I look upon Jesus as the wisest person who ever lived and believe He has the meaning of life incorporated in His person and His teachings. Wistfully the man remarked, "I wish I could have that sense of meaning;" I assured him that he could if he would really acquaint himself with Jesus, the real Jesus, who lived in Judea and Galilee and who still lives.

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Several years passed. Then Mrs. Peal and I, being in London, went to dinner one evening in a famous hotel restaurant where the assistant maitre d', a dapper cultivated young man, looked strangely familiar. As he seated us he gave us this wonderful smile, "Don't you remember me?" he beamed.

I stared at him in amazement. "You're Hans!" I exclaimed. "You're Hans!"

"Yes, I'm Hans," he nodded happily. And he said, "Do you remember what you told me about my dream come true? We'll get to the top in this profession you have to train in London for a time. So, as you see, I have got as far as London. I am on my way. Positive thinking, you know"...

I fully expect that one of these days I shall walk into one of the great hotels of Europe and find the maitre d' to be Hans, the former bus boy.

What do you want from life? Have your dreams come true? Have your hopes been realized? Have you become what you aspired to be? No? Well, one of God's greatest gifts to us is that there is always something ahead, always something to dream of, hope for, aspire to. Life is good, because God made it good. He wants us to live in the expectation of our dreams coming true. Never lose that expectancy no matter how old you may be, for your true age is not a matter of how long you've been on this earth, but is determined by how vital your dreams are. So long as you are not afraid of that which is high, you can know the excitement of living.

The full excitement of living is experienced when you find what you can do with yourself when you have strong motivation. How wonderful it is that when a man who

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But Dr. Eaton has done a very suggestive thing. As you turn from *The Mystery of Life* the left, there is a heavy foliage, and through this foliage has been cut a great hole through which you can see in the distance a colossal fire of Christ. It is an unforgettable reminder that the mystery of life is resolved for us through Jesus who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and also "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

The full excitement of living comes to those who in a moment of insight who by a lifetime of devotion and prayer, come upon the greatest truth in all this world - the mystery, that Jesus Christ is God's answer to life and eternity. He lifts us into an area where mystery gives way to certainty. We come upon this reason, or by experience, or by intuition. In our deepest moments, when life is reduced to its essentials, He offers the answer. And the excitement of living which flows from Jesus

Christ in this way releases the greatness that is within us.

Everyone has greatness within him, everybody has a prisoner within him, a self that is never released. We know this because there are aspirations built into people. You have your aspirations. There are dreams built into people. You have your dreams. If you have lost your aspirations, if you have lost your dreams, you have lost life; because life is a spiritual thing, an upthrust. These capacities for aspiration, for having dreams, are put into us by God so that we may grow as we learn to cultivate the proper conditions of growth.

Several years back my wife and I spent a good part of our vacation in a lovely place in Switzerland called Burgenstock, high above Lake Lucerne, from which on a clear day you could see the snow-covered giants of the Alps and, far below the blue waters of the lake. We used to have dinner every night at a nearby hotel. Now at this hotel there was a bus boy who went about his work of taking dishes off tables and stacking them and taking them to the kitchen as though it was a job he liked and considered worth doing well. When he came to your table you got the impact of an eager, upbeat personality, bright, joyous, full of life. He had a wonderful smile. And in addition to doing his job skillfully did thoughtful little extra things for the guests. He was a German boy, Hans by name, and his English was just about as poor as my German. Nevertheless, we managed to communicate and, over a period of weeks, picked up quite an acquaintance.

One day I asked him, "Hans, what's your goal in life? What would you like to be?"

"Oh," he said, as though a little embarrassed, "I have a goal but it's away beyond me."

"There's no goal that has to stay beyond you," I said. "What is your goal?"

"I'd like to be maitre d' in one of the great hotels of Europe. It's what I have always dreamed of. Isn't that nervey? For me to want to be that? I can never go that far."

"Hans," I told him, "there's no goal you cannot reach if it's a worthy one, and if it's really what you want, and if you work hard to achieve it and if you believe you can."

"But I have no education. My family has not the money."

"Stop telling yourself what you haven't got," I said, "and remind yourself of what you have got. You have a good personality. You have a wonderful smile. You have the willingness to work. Then I note you also have dreams in your heart. Those dreams are worth their weight in gold. So hold them. They can carry you far. Do you know what it is to have faith?"

"Oh, yes, sir," he assured me. "I was raised in the Lutheran Church. I have faith in God."

"That's good," I said. "Here's what you do. Get off by yourself. Be alone with God, think of what you dream of being, be sure it is very clear in your mind and then write it out. Put a specific word picture of it down on paper. Then put that paper in your wallet - or, better still, carry it in a pocket over your heart. Memorize what you have written on it, too. The idea is to make your dream a clear-cut goal and never lose sight of it."

"Keep yourself right with God, have your goal clearly in mind, love people, keep smiling, do a good job each day and see to it that every day you learn a thing or two. Make this your program, live by it and you'll go as far as you want to go."

"Thank you," said Hans. "Thank you very much. I

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Tommy was silent. His head went down between his knees and he began sobbing like a baby. The coach thought it was excitement and he tousled the boy's hair and hugged him and kept saying, "You won! You won!"

Tommy raised his tear-stained face. He said, "Coach, I didn't win it for you. I didn't win it for the team. I won it for my dad."

"Your dad?"

Tommy explained, "My dad came home from World War II in a wheelchair and never walked again. And I always wanted me to run - maybe because he couldn't walk. He used to say 'Tommy, stick with it, because some day you'll win a big race, when you do, so help me Tommy, with God's help I'll walk out of this wheelchair.' My father never did get out of the wheelchair. He never saw me run. I know how bad my father is, Coach. It's just as well, maybe, that he didn't see me run."

"Well, this morning I got this telegram, 'Tommy, try to reach your phone. Dad died last night. Hurry home. Sis.'"

"So when you came and told me I was to run I figured it was God's guidance and He wanted me to run for Dad. So I went out there knowing that my father for the first time in his life was watching me run. I ran for him."

You see, the boy's love for his father provided such

motivation that it released in him power that he didn't know he had. In similar fashion the love of God, when you really love Him, will release in you power to run the race of life with a strength you never knew you had. It was of you, of me, of every human being that Jesus spoke when He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that when we turn to Thee in worship we are eternally young. We thank Thee for reminding us that we are Thy children, with something great in us equal to the stars, a wonder and a power that can be released as we learn to love Thee and Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for the wondrous excitement of living. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

:R-ecommenj :R-eajing

THE COMPLETE SAYINGS OF JESUS
ASSEMBLED BY ARTHUR HINDS
 (Gramercy Publishing Company \$1.00)

It is with great pleasure that I am able to say that this valuable little book is again in print.

It offers an amazing reading experience, one in which the reader follows the Master through villages and about the lake and into the cities, hearing His priceless comments to individuals and His sermons to vast multitudes. As one reads all of His words at one time and in chronological order, one feels a strange compelling identification with the sights, sounds and atmosphere of those times, and the Lord's presence is profoundly realistic.

Good Reading! ◆◆◆

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