

Why does my life seem to be full of troubles?
Why don't I find the peace that comes from having a pattern or plan for my life?
Why does it seem as though I am merely drifting through life with no rudder and no course to follow?
Have you ever asked yourself these questions?
Have you ever felt as though there was nothing interesting, peaceful, or beautiful ahead for you?
Rare indeed, is the individual who has not been perplexed at times
for the seeming lack of goals and lack of planning in his life.
Did God send us forth on this earthly journey to merely drift, or is there behind all, a great master plan
for everything in the cosmos and for each individual in that cosmos?
---Jack H. Holland

SPIRIT in ACTION

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We Welcome You!

There Is A Plan (Part 1)

Jack H. Holland

It is a well-known fact and law of physics that energy *always* seeks a goal---it has to have a terminus, a place where it can express itself. It is equally well known that all matter is reducible to electromagnetic energy. Hence, all that man is---his very being---seeks a terminus. There is a plan for all man's energy: to seek the highest possible outlet.

As the Scriptures tell us, the things which God has prepared for us are beyond our mundane, worldly awareness. Throughout the ages all the great masters have taught that God's plan for us is the perfect plan for our growth in *every way*.

Many try to use the intellect alone to determine their life's role. The intellect is a wonderful tool. The great Creator gave us a mind and we must use it. We must realize, however, that the intellect is a *worldly* tool, subject to the knowledge of the world and limited to that which is *known*. It is limited by all the physical encumbrances and problems inherent in matter. Above all else, *the intellect is always at the present level of mass consciousness*. It cannot move beyond that which is known.

In other words, we know that the intellect is held to finite knowledge---the current state of consciousness and the current awareness of Truth. All things which we call creative have gone

beyond the current state of mass intellect. Creativity comes from an initiating source that is not *now* in this state of awareness.

As a result of the limitation of the intellect, and because most of us base our plans on that which is of the intellect (the known), there is very little creativity in our work, or in our lives, and a haphazard plan seems to be at work there. Many of us find our lives meaningless, without purpose, which causes a lack of enthusiasm and inspiration in our living; but we must recognize that this occurs because we are working with the finite knowledge of the world and have not gone to the infinite source. We have not allowed our energy (spirit) to seek and find its normal terminus.

Many do not even recognize that there is an infinite source of knowledge concerning the plan for our lives---an infinite source that will bring into manifestation all the good that seems to be lacking.

Logically, if we use our intellect, we should recognize that since we are energy, energy with a focal point, there must be a terminus for us. There must be a perfect plan for the expression of the unique energy pattern that each individual represents. What our intellect does know concerning energy indicates that there must be a perfect method of expressing that particular energy frequency. We see this in all forms of energy with which man has worked, whether it be in the electrical, chemical, or biological fields. We have seen this through experiments with atomic energy, nuclear energy, hydroelectric energy, biofeedback, radionics, etc. Every form of energy that man has understood indicates that for each type there is a perfect terminus, a perfect way of expressing its unique potential and pattern. Hence, could man possibly be an exception? No! not at all.

We have all seen what happens to energy, at least to electrical energy, when it is thwarted in following its normal manner of expression. Just as a live wire which has lost its terminus will lash out, be destructive to much around it, and eventually lose all ability to function, so too does the energy within all things, including man, when there has been no real, permanent terminus established.

Man has a perfect way of expressing his life force---energy, spirit. He must discover within himself the perfect plan referred to in all the great scriptural messages. Interesting, is it not, that within all forms of energy with which man has learned to work, the pattern of expression that the energy force must use to work perfectly has always been found within! The uses of electricity were discovered by studying the nature of electricity; the harnessing of atomic and nuclear power came into being by studying what was within, not what was without.

Man, who is more complex than anything else we know in the universe, can only discover his perfect plan for his expression of the life force (spirit, energy) by going *within*. To unearth the great plan requires only the faith that it is there, a conscious desire to seek the pattern within, and the willingness to follow through. Too often man believes that he can dictate his life through outer manipulations, through outer activities, through outer understanding.

There is a great plan (God's plan) at work in us, just as in all created things. In the smallest seed a plan is ready to come into manifestation. Within the acorn is a perfect plan for a mighty oak. The mighty oak, however, of which the acorn is the potential, can be thwarted, perverted, twisted, through outer manipulations.

The great scientists in biology and botany have recognized that to improve a specie, to be creative with that particular life force (energy), they first needed to discover what was within and work to bring forth that which was good, basic, in the original. They could not consider only what their finite intellect decreed. They had to find out first what was good within the specie. They had to look for God's plan. ...

How does one discover the great plan within himself? How does one go to the initiating, creative power and live by the master plan that is there? Some of these questions have been answered effectively in the wonderful Lord's Prayer. We ask the all-knowing, infinite Intelligence that Its Will be done. "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We seek a clear understanding of the meaning behind this prayer. We "let go and let God." We

recognize that infinite Mind can easily answer what the finite finds burdensome and not understandable. Infinite Mind frees us from the enchainment of the limitation of the known.

We must recognize that as we yield ourselves more fully to God (Divine Intelligence), the great master plan begins to be more apparent to us. We become aware of the working of the master plan through inner peace, an inner joy, an inner feeling of security. The peace that passeth all understanding is the peace that results from our awareness that we are following a perfect plan---a plan designed by Infinite Intelligence, and designed for each alone.

(Part 2 concludes in May)

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Man has been on earth for thousands of years. After all this time there are still people who are walking in darkness while all about them is the Great Light that Isaiah saw, the same Light that John said lights every man coming into the world.

Light is a symbol of intelligence. Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding belong to every man. Truth and the consciousness which apprehends reality may be ours now and always as we learn to meditate on Jesus' words: "I AM the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"---and come to know that within the Self.

Let us release the so-called problems that have darkened our pathway that we may resurrect the Consciousness of the risen Christ as we die daily to that which is not of God. The ancients wrote, "There is no spot where God is not." Our own Nona Brooks taught, "God is everywhere, therefore God is here. What God IS is everywhere, therefore what God is IS HERE."

---Dr. Pansy B. Cantrell,
Divine Science minister and teacher for many years.

Grow into your ideals, so that life can never rob you of them.

---Albert Schweitzer

My Easter

Easter can be any day
In which I "roll a stone away"---
Easter is a white-winged dove
That overcomes all hate with love.

Easter is the strength and power
To bring some good to every hour,
To see each one as friend, not foe,
To spread His joy where e're I go.

Easter comes from dark to light.
Rejoicing for each act that's right,
Expressing good in my own way,
I must have Easter Every Day.

---Marvel Walbridge Goodeman

The Meaningful Self **B. J. Graves**

An elderly gentleman remarked, "You know, I just don't recollect who I am anymore. Margaret has passed on and my children never have the time to come and see me. I'm an old man, a useless man, who has lived past his time. Who am I, anyway, and why did I ever come to be?"

This man had been a hard worker. He had provided well for a large family. As long as they were with him he identified with them. He was an integral unit of a collective body of persons.

He belonged!

He felt a sense of importance, a right to be. His flesh and blood self was doing more than occupying space, and health and energy seemed to radiate from him. Only in later years, after he found himself alone, did he begin to question the deeper meanings of his existence.

The anxieties underlying the "identity-problem" are not confined to the elderly who have become detached from the strivings of earlier years. Rather, it is universal in scope and symptomatic of a detachment from spiritual selfhood. Our families and our vocations are important, true. But if we identify with either, 3

The Hands of Predestination
(a conversation)
Harold D. Crowder

to the extent of excluding a spiritual élan vital, that is, excluding the drive toward eternal Consciousness, or "heaven," we are depriving ourselves of the understructure of *all* existence. Our relationship with the Supreme Sustainer, God, provides the only real meaning to family in particular and to life in general. It sustains us toward infinity and reminds us of who we are: children of God.

We are spiritual creatures, capable of giving of ourselves to others. This does not mean promiscuous "giving," which leads one eventually to depression and not knowing who he is or what he really wants. It means the expression of real love. Love is a positive power emanating from God through man. To give of ourselves is most important, but we should use judgment in how we give. We surrender our inner selves completely to God only. We stand firm as His child, with our spiritual center intact, knowing who we are, and letting His love fill the nucleus of ourselves. The natural expression of this love may be a smile or any simple attention. Or it may be helping in a difficult task.

The elderly gentleman gave of himself in responsible fashion, but he failed to see where the power-to-give ultimately came from. Having relied solely on reactions from family to prove his giving-love over the years, he was eventually left alone, without identity, once they were gone. A simple recognition of God working through us gives meaning to existence.

Since everything in the universe is sustained by the Creator, especially the power-to-love and the will-to-live, it follows that He must be acknowledged as the Source of our identity also, if we are to go beyond negative existence or a feeling of uselessness. It is not difficult to relate to God. It takes only a little thought about Him to begin a relationship which gives true and lasting meaning to your life.

Feel the joy of helping another to find a better way-- a more profitable way in meeting life--- and your joy will increase.

Feel a sense of service to all mankind and your awareness of your purpose in being will grow.

---Dr. Vernon Shields

Holding the car door open for his girl friend, Scott Murphy waved good-naturedly to the middle-aged woman standing in the doorway. "We'll be back as soon as the game has ended," he called.

"Just be careful," Mrs. Brooks cautioned, and then added, "Enjoy yourselves!"

"Mom worries a lot," Sandra Brooks said, as Scott eased his father's sedan out into the traffic on Maple Street, "but she means well."

"I'm sure she does," the young man replied, adjusting his stocky frame to a more comfortable position, "most mothers worry and it's useless."

"Useless?"

"Yes," the red-headed, freckle-faced college boy answered. "Worry is useless because all things are predestined, and to any reasonable, religious-minded person I can prove it."

"I'm religious-minded," Sandra stated curtly, her dark eyes intent, "so tell me about predestination."

"Do you believe that God knows all things---- even before they happen?"

"Yes."

"The future, then, is predestined. For instance, if God knows we will both be killed in an automobile accident, nothing can change our fate."

"Suppose God changes His mind?" Sandra asked.

"Then He must know from the beginning His mind will be changed, otherwise, His knowledge of the future is necessarily limited."

Sandra Brooks quietly observed the passing scenery for a few moments. Finally she spoke.

"Three men went into a hotel," she began. "When they checked in, the desk clerk charged each man ten dollars or a total of thirty dollars for all three. Later, the clerk decided he had overcharged the three guests. So he called a bellman and handed him five dollars, instructing the employee to divide the money among the three men."

The bellman, however, was not quite as honest as the desk clerk, and instead of dividing the five dollars equally among the three guests, he refunded each man one dollar, keeping two dollars for himself. This meant that each guest paid nine dollars for his room, which amounts to a total of twenty-seven dollars. The bellman kept two dollars, bringing the sum up to twenty-nine dollars; but since the original amount paid by the three was thirty dollars, what happened to the other dollar?"

"What do three men in a hotel have to do with predestination?" Scott wanted to know.

"I'll explain the connection in a few moments," Sandra promised, "but first, try and solve the problem."

During the course of the next several miles Scott Murphy added, subtracted, multiplied, and divided, trying to determine what had happened to the elusive dollar. Finally his face broke into a broad grin. "The dollar isn't really missing!" he announced. "Some of the facts which make up the problem have been misrepresented. The men didn't actually ..."

Sandra interrupted. "You are right!" she exclaimed, "and the same holds true concerning your predestination theory. You have taken a few facts, as you perceive them, and built a case, but you have ignored the certainty that an infinite number of relevant facts exist of which you know nothing.

"You have speculated concerning God's mind and His way of doing things, but your speculation has evolved from 'a mere *human* mind'.

"I'll give you another example of how a few incomplete misdirected facts may appear to prove a point:

"Last year in geometry class someone wrote on the blackboard, "A monkey can climb a tree. I can climb a tree. Therefore, I am a monkey." The person who wrote on the blackboard was trying to be funny, of course. We know we aren't monkeys, but the hypothesis is cleverly stated, because if we close our minds to all information which suggests that we are not monkeys, the progression of facts appears to indicate a grain of truth.

Things are not always what they seem to be.
And your ideas about predestination are similar.

"Faith changes things," Sandra continued. "I believe that God is good, but if we close our minds, or just drift through life, so to speak, how can we be open to His truth and goodness? We are God's children, destined for high things, and all things are possible with God. What we receive in life, however, depends on our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs. We are not robots. Our highest destiny is shaped by our thinking, doing, and expecting the highest good."

Scott, realizing that he had lost the debate, was glad to see the stadium come into view. "I hope we don't have trouble finding a parking place," he muttered, as if talking to himself.

"Don't worry," Sandra teased, "there is nothing we can do about it anyway, it is all in the hands of Predestination."

For centuries, men have been able to see God
in flowers, in mountains, in the plains,
in the stars, in the rain, and in the wind;
but so far,
*few men have been able to see God in
themselves.*

As soon as men
remove the blindfold of hate from their eyes,
and recognize the divine purpose in one
another, *there will be peace on earth.*

---Phillip Gray

It is in loving not in being loved
We find our quest;
It is in giving not in seeking gifts
The heart is blessed.

Whatever is your longing, your need,
That do you give;
So shall your soul be fed
And you indeed shall live.

---Anonymous

(In 1973 Mariana L. Brierton wrote the following article for the then daily studies booklet - *Aspire*)

Resurrection '73 --- and Always

The RESURRECTION is a fact! It is TRUE!
One is free to believe it or not!

Some accept it with the head, but the "glad news" never reaches their heart. It is, however, in the depth of conviction, the length and breadth of personal commitment to Christ, that the full measure of meaning and the never-ending joy of Easter morning is found.

Remember Thomas, the doubter? The other disciples told him, "*We have seen the Lord!*" but Thomas replied, "*Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.*"

He was not even satisfied with what his own eyes might tell him! He said he must touch the wounds. What a moment it must have been in the life of that prove-it-to-me disciple when our Lord appeared eight days later saying, "*Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.*"

John 20:27

It is significant that according to the record Thomas actually did not attempt to examine the wounds of Jesus as he had said. Instead, he immediately exclaimed, "*My Lord and my God!*"

How, indeed, could he have looked upon that face and those out-stretched hands and done otherwise? Christ, the resurrected Son of God, was standing before him!

Thomas certainly should have been as ready as the other disciples to accept the glorious news of Jesus' return, for this was in conformance with the promises which they had all heard; but instead of being angry with this unbelieving follower, Jesus met the questions and doubts of Thomas with a gentle command to touch the scars for himself and a simple admonishment to "*be not faithless, but believing.*"

Always Jesus demonstrated love and compassion and infinite patience. Always he

shows perfect understanding of the hearts of men.

Hundreds of years after Thomas, two more men also wrestled with belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Two Englishmen, Sir Thomas Littleton and a friend, decided that Christianity should be completely stamped out. They felt that to accomplish this they would have to disprove two important "facts;" first, the Resurrection; and second, the conversion of St. Paul on the road to Damascus. Sir Littleton was to "clarify" the first point, and his friend was to work on the other.

They agreed to give themselves plenty of time, at least a year, and then to compare their respective findings, which would finally put an end to the "nonsense" of Christianity.

When they met after their year of study, the results were not as anticipated. Not in *any way*. In seeking to disprove the Resurrection, Sir Littleton had instead proved it beyond any doubt, and during the process, had become a devout Christian.

His friend, while pouring over every available detail of that light-experience of Saul-Paul so long ago, had also been converted. He, too, was irrevocably convinced--- "*My Lord and my God.*"

These two well-educated and highly respected noblemen had set out, like Paul, only to destroy. But it became their greatest adventure, and they testified to each other of the many miraculous things which had occurred in their lives.

It could not be otherwise. Any and all who *honestly* seek the risen Lord will find him --- even if starting from the most negative viewpoint with the most unbelieving attitude --- can come to know him, to believe in him, and to find the most amazing relationship ever encountered.

Apathy is the only hindrance to this discovery. Those who are easily discouraged, or who cannot make up their minds, do not experience Christ's victory. The true finders are seekers, the door-openers are the knockers, and the receivers are those who have prayed without ceasing.

I once heard a well-known veteran of radio and the movies state in a television interview, a bit apologetically, that he “almost believed in God.”

*Could anyone accept and claim
the promises of the Living Lord
by almost believing?*

*Could anyone even hope
to have a fulfilling life
by almost believing?*

*Can one expect to do His will
and achieve His great purposes
while almost believing it is possible?*

Jesus taught that we are what our believing is. He said plainly,

“As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.” Matthew 8:13

Believing can take opposite forms.

It can be faith, or it can be doubt.

But “almost believing” takes no form at all.

It is apathetic.

Jesus Christ, who made the astounding claim to be God in human form, said that we *can* know whether his teaching is true or not.

“Anyone who chooses to do his will, shall understand whether my teaching comes from God or whether I am talking on my own authority.” John 7:17; Moffatt

The moment we are willing to live every phase of our lives according to Jesus’ direction, which he promised was God’s own way for us, then is when we know that his teaching is true. It has a definite effect on our lives.

He, who is not only the Giver, but the Gift,
is here with me now,
or He has never been anywhere.

He cares about me,
or He cares about no one.

Jesus Christ is as real to me
as he was to Thomas,
or he never appeared to the disciples at all.

His promises are for me,
or He is the most ludicrous liar of all time!

I can say in all faith and love and joy, “Yes, I know that the words of Jesus are true! Just as Thomas finally knew they were true. Just as Sir Littleton and his friend knew they were true. I do believe, and I have proved him in my life. The Christ lives in me and I in him as he is in the Father, exactly as he promised.”

Isaiah prophesied the Resurrection --- Jesus the Christ demonstrated it. He is the perfect Son of God, triumphant in life over all fear and death.

“My Lord and my God!”

Spirituality is a deep sense of inner freedom based on the realization that one’s self is in complete harmony with life, with God, and with the Self of the universe.

It is the realization that union with life, with God, and with the Self of the universe has existed from all time.

---Alan Watts

The Meaning of Happiness

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APRIL 2006

**A Divine Science Federation International
Newsletter**

L ove
I ntegrity
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We Welcome You!

*Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the
Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.*
Luke 19:38

*The kingdom of God cometh not with observation ...
behold, the kingdom of God is within you.*
Luke 17:20,21

*To this end was I born, and for this cause came I
into the world, that I should bear witness unto the
truth.*
John 18:37

Abide in me, and I in you.
John 15:4

*For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he
given to the Son to have life in himself.*
John 5:26

*I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another
Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever:
even the Spirit of truth ... for he dwelleth with you,
and shall be in you.*
John 14: 16,17

*The glory which thou gavest me I have given them;
that they may be one, even as we are one.
I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made
perfect in one; and that the world may know that
thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast
loved me.*
John 17:22,23