

# Canadian Missionary Link

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## Limitations vs. Power

"Forgive us for looking so often on the Limitations of our lives, instead of realizing their limitless Power

### IN THY POWER

*And forgive us for our incomprehensible slowness in making us of that Power."*

(From "Prayers for To-Day.")

This prayer goes to the very root of the matter, for it is what we are always doing, isn't it, looking at our limitations when the demand for service, with its attendant opportunity (for please don't ever forget that the two go together—Siamese twins), comes to us. We are apt to think at once, and only, of our Limitations and forget to think on—up—to God, and His limitless power, which is ours in Christ Jesus. Without doing this we just say quickly, "I can't."

There! You can't.

Oh, it's so fatally easy to say. Just two sleek little syllables. But it doesn't matter how small the Demand, nor how large the Opportunity, the same answer is made to fit them all. "I can't"—"simply CAN'T." Like that. And the door has shut—shut out the Demand, and the Opportunity with it of course, (don't forget that!) And there is nothing in this world so happy, so enriching, so enlarging, and enabling as serving God! Too bad.

"But I know I can't." How do you know? You never can tell till you try. You can do so many things so well—make the family clothes, entertain, manage your home and finance it, plan and carry out so many domestic enterprises, make so little go so far. However do you do it? And is this Service, God's work, the one thing you can't do?

And yet His Service is the one thing

we are promised power for! Paul knew this for he said "In Him who strengthens me I am able for anything." Think of it—Anything! "Able for anything—IN HIM." "Anything"—that Circle work, that Band Leadership, building up the gone-to-pieces Circle and reviving the moribund Band; making your particular desert blossom like the rose; moving mountains; redeeming India—it is all alike possible to Him, and whatever you undertake for Him, IN HIM, all Heaven's power bending down to you, to strengthen you to do it.

Ah, that's the secret. All the power you need at your command, IN HIM.

And yet we keep on, some of us, and to our own undoing we keep on, "looking at the limitations of our lives" like Peter at the "strength of the wind" when he was walking to His Master on the waves. The wind was terrifying, it was indeed; but then he had His Master to look at, why did he look at "the strength of the wind?" (Why do we look at our limitations?) No wonder he began to sink; but it was all right as soon as he shouted "Lord save me" and we read "they both" entered the boat—Peter too, walking those same very un-solid waves, but he had Jesus' hand now. Such a difference!

First—It is fatal to look at our limitations. We will never get anywhere, only sink.

Second,—"We are able for anything" linked up with Him. The very same things that we, with our limitations, were so emphatically un-able for.

There was a little hunchback in China who came to a Mission Hospital hoping that the miracle-working lady Doctor there could cure her crooked back. Life