

Foreword by Anthony C. Sciré
Author of *The Power of 2*

LIVING WITHOUT LIMITS

Say “Yes!” to “How?” and
Break Through to a Life Filled
with Infinite Possibilities

JACK SMITH

A *Possibility Press* Book

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Break Through to a Life Filled
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Jack Smith

Foreword by Anthony C. Sciré
Artwork by Mike Schuler

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Dedication

To my beloved wife, Vickey, who introduced me to my faith and a life filled with limitless possibilities.

Acknowledgment

My dream of becoming an author has been a journey filled with encouragement and love, given endlessly and unselfishly by my friends and family. For that, and much more, I will remain forever grateful. My wife and two daughters have shared and supported my every endeavor. They taught me that success isn't about position; it's about passion.

One of my best friends, Mike Schuler, graciously took the time to create the pictures for this book. He's as genuine in life and spirit as anyone I've ever met. His honesty, warmth, compassion, and concern shine for everyone to see. He has shown me that the answer to "How?" is always "Yes!" With friends like him, how could I not be encouraged to reach for the stars? He is more than a friend; he is a brother in Christ who motivated me to know the difference between the tire kickers and the buyers. There are those who live their lives tip-toeing around what they really want, but then there are those who pay the price for the ride of their lives.

Thank you to the staff at Possibility Press who worked hard to help make this book what it is. For that and the friendship we've developed, I am deeply grateful.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you God for, without you, none of this would have been possible.

Jack Smith

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Do Good, Have Fun, and Make Money!

*“Are you ready to break through the limits you’ve
accepted in the past, to reach the pinnacle of whatever you are
passionate about claiming?”*

—Tony Sciré—

Wow! What an honor and great pleasure it is to write the foreword for *Living Without Limits*. The book is especially relevant for me, as I recently made the big break from the limits of corporate life to being on my own. It’s great and I love it!

Now don’t get me wrong, I had a great ride for many years with MCI and was able to climb the success ladder to vice president of International Relations/Europe. But the ladder was not leaning against the wall of my passion—speaking and writing. It was leaning against the wrong wall.

Jack, a man of great accomplishment, although he’s too humble to admit it, has had a lot of people setting limits for him which he had to overcome. So he has quite a story to tell. With this book, he can help you get a new perspective on how you can get free of whatever self- or other-imposed limits you may have accepted that are holding you back. Jack’s writing makes you feel as if you are sitting in his living room being mentored by a man with experience

and a sense of humor that will make you smile and even laugh out loud. Not many can spin a tale to get a life-changing point across like Jack can.

One of my mottos is “Do good, have fun, and make money!” When you continue to do good for others in your business or career and have fun with it, the money will come. I’ve lived a great life so far, and have had a great corporate run, but it took me twenty-eight years to follow Jack’s advice to live a really powerful life without limits. I only wish I had taken his advice years ago.

Are you one of those people who has an opportunity right in front of you to do exactly that? Are you ready to break through the limits you’ve accepted in the past, to reach the pinnacle of whatever success you are passionate about claiming? I hope so. It’s the only way you can really discover what you’re made of and the only way you can create a great life for yourself.

Read this extraordinary book, live without limits, and make it happen—*for you!*

Blessings “2” you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Sciré' in a stylized, cursive script.

Tony Sciré
Speaker, Consultant, and Author of *The Power of 2*

“When you are inspired by some great purpose, some extraordinary project, all of your thoughts break their bonds. Your mind transcends limitations. Your consciousness expands in every direction and you find yourself in a new, great, and wonderful world. Dormant forces that weren’t accessible to you and facilities and talents come alive, and you discover yourself to be a greater person, by far, than you ever dreamed yourself to be.”

—Patangali

“The limits people set for themselves or accept from others form the dimensions of their reality. Will you spend your entire life talking about what you could, would, or should have done yesterday or will do tomorrow—or seize the opportunity and power of the moment?”

—Jack Smith

Is Your Foot on the Brake or the Accelerator?

*“It’s up to you to stand your ground
and clearly claim your dream.”*

—Jack Smith—

For years, I let manuscripts lie around the office or sit trapped in the computer. I never went for my dream because I let fear keep me stuck in neutral. The dream engine was revving alright, but my thoughts of failure and rejection caused me to set a limit that wouldn’t allow me to put it in drive and hit the accelerator. My wonderful wife, Vickey, had been telling me for years to just go for it, but my foot had been planted firmly on the brake.

If I were a bird, I would’ve been content to swing on the perch in my cage. Even though the door of opportunity was wide open, I would’ve just sat there and swung back and forth in my “air rut”—doing nothing.

I encourage you to shed any limits others are imposing on you and any you are, perhaps unwittingly, hanging onto from the past. I urge you to shed the shackles you may be in and head for the mountaintop of life. The foundation is a strong work ethic, and the draw is a worthwhile goal or dream. But how does one break through the limits and stay excited enough to keep going? And what about those who say you can’t do it?

Over the years, I've used the principles, thoughts, and ideas in this book and shared them with many people. I wish I could say everyone took my advice. Then they, too, could have discovered how rewarding and exciting it can be to set your sights on something special—and then go for it.

The limits people set for themselves or accept from others form the dimensions of their reality. Will you spend your entire life talking about what you could, would, or should have done yesterday or will do tomorrow—or seize the opportunity and power of the moment? Have you ever wondered what happened to the twenty-four hours you have every day? I used to, but I don't anymore.

There were two things that helped kick me into action: 1) a friend named Mike who believed in me, and 2) the realization that the only permission I needed to go forward was from me!

I hope this book inspires you to never allow yourself or anyone else set your limits. Many will try to throw up roadblocks, but you'll keep going. They'll fail to stop you because you've become a no-limit person. Ideally, they'll have a change of heart and join you! Had I listened to the critics who had never written anything for publication, you wouldn't be reading this book.

Continue dreaming and reaching for the life you envision. Who is to be more admired; the person who reaches for his or her dream or the one who sets or accepts limits and refuses to take action?

To Your Success,

Jack Smith

“ **A** *rgue*
for
your limita-
tions and,
sure enough,
they’re
yours. ”

—Richard Bach

“T*wenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the things you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”*

—Mark Twain

—Chapter One—

What to Do if “*They*” Say You Can’t

“Always stay on track!”

—Jack Smith—

As a wise person once said, “Worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but you don’t get very far.” Others can set our limits only if we give them permission to do so. Have you ever allowed anyone to set yours? If so, what you’re about to read will encourage you to tune them out. Before you know it, you’ll be breaking the bonds of your limits and shining with all the potential within you.

After serving his tour of duty within the U.S. Marines, a young man met the woman of his dreams. After a four-month courtship, the couple made their marriage vows in a preacher’s home with only five present, including the bride and groom. Ten months later, they were blessed with their first child. Being a very faith-filled couple, they agreed he would go into the ministry. This would mean hard work and extensive study at one of the finest universities. Could he do it? His friends and family said no; his wife smiled and said yes.

He had graduated forty-seventh in a high school class of fifty-three, and had never applied himself to anything except sports. Many had given up on him and certainly not without reason. He had spent three years getting through his senior course requirements and had

four warrants out for his arrest when he joined the Marines. But he also had one deep-down gnawing desire that drove him. The oldest son of his family, he earnestly desired to be a better husband and father than his dad was. His father not only tried to set limits for him, but did it in a cruel-hearted way, hurling such comments at him as, “You’ll never amount to anything”; “You’re just stupid”; “You’ll never have anything.” It’s sad that some people never get beyond the limits they permitted an unkind person to set for them—perhaps a parent, teacher, peer, or someone else. Fortunately, others seek and obtain the help they need from positive supportive friends like mentors or leaders.

The Challenge to Succeed

This was the big day. There he sat in front of a big desk, in his new clothes with a fresh haircut, waiting for the professor to come in and welcome him to the university. At least, that’s what he assumed this meeting was to be about. Entering the room in a handsome navy suit, the professor seemed friendly enough. His expression was quite serious and he wore his glasses low on his nose, giving him a distinctly intellectual look. “Young man,” the professor began, “I’ve been going over your high school transcript.” “Yes, sir,” replied the former Marine. “Well, to put it bluntly, I’m not sure you’re college material,” the professor confessed. “Why would you say that?” the young man inquired, looking puzzled. “Well,” the professor continued, “with your low grades, I don’t want to waste your time nor ours.”

Now the young man began feeling sick and numb. Here was someone else besides his father trying to set his limits! The prospective student envisioned a bull’s-eye in the middle of the professor’s forehead. My, did he ever want to tell him *exactly* what he was thinking! Nevertheless, he continued showing respect for the gentleman who was obviously in charge.

Do You Believe You Can?

“Sir, are you asking me to take my wife and small child and go home?” the younger man asked. “No,” the older man responded,

“What I *am* telling you, though, is that we’re reluctantly letting you into the university, even though we’re sure you can’t possibly make it.” Devastated, the young man went home and cried for hours. His wife did her best to console him. Later, after he’d calmed down, she looked at him and said something that gave him the incentive to do his best: “Honey, I had a teacher one time who always ended every class with something Henry Ford said that I’ll never forget. ‘Whether you believe you can or whether you believe you can’t, you’re right.’” He took that as a challenge to believe he could!

It’s All About Work Ethic—*and Not Accepting Any Limits*

At the end of the new student’s first semester, the professor, once again, called him into his office. “Yes, sir, you wanted to see me?” the young man asked. Smiling, the professor said, “You are our most pleasant surprise! You made two As and two Bs, a 3.5 GPA (Grade Point Average). You’ve really worked hard and shown that you have what it takes to be a success.” With tears welling up in his eyes, the pupil responded, “Thank you, sir. Coming from you, that means more to me than you’ll ever know.” “Young man,” the professor continued, “there are two things I want to tell you. First of all, you’ve learned a very important lesson—that a strong work ethic is essential for success. It’s not that you have one set of ethics for home, another with friends, and yet another for work. It’s that when you live life by the finest ethics, there is no need to differentiate—they permeate every aspect of your life. The consistency of always doing your best to do the right thing will elevate you above the standards of the world.”

The student smiled, shook the professor’s outstretched hand, and confidently said, “Thank you so much for letting me be a part of this university.”

“That brings me to the second thing I wanted to tell you,” responded the professor, adjusting his glasses. “Remember, in our first meeting, when I said we were letting you in but that you probably wouldn’t make it?” “Yes,” replied the student with a sigh. “Well,” the older man continued, “the only reason I told you that

was to prod you into either digging down to do the work or quitting and going back home. Thank you for working so hard to accomplish your dream.”

The young man went on to graduate and has been preaching full-time for many years. As you might have guessed, I was that young man!

She Decided What She Could Do—No One Else!

One of my favorite athletes of all time is Mary Lou Retton. This petite package of competitive dynamite stood up against adversity and walked away an Olympic champion. Nothing was going to keep her from giving her dream her best shot. Because of this determination, she was named *Sports Illustrated* magazine’s “Sportswoman of the Year” in 1984.

Success for Mary Lou, as with many seeking to achieve, didn’t come without its dues. Just six weeks before the Olympic games were to begin, her doctors told her that she wouldn’t be able to compete. She needed knee surgery right away. It appeared that all her work studying dance and acrobatics since age four, and gymnastics starting at five, had been for naught.

Mary Lou went ahead and had the surgery and did the necessary rehabilitation in time to compete, and compete she did. At sixteen, and coming off serious knee surgery, the odds of performing a great jump, let alone a perfect one, were almost nil. Ekaterina Szabo was leading Mary Lou by .05 of a point. Using her speed and power, Mary Lou exploded down the runway and nailed her attempt on the vault for a perfect 10. She not only became the first woman to win an individual Olympic medal in gymnastics, but she also led her USA team to win a silver.

She went on to win three more individual medals. Mary Lou refused to say no to her dream—to let anyone else decide what she could do. When the doctors told her she couldn’t, Mary Lou said, “I’ve made it this far. No one’s going to keep me from trying.” She knew the answer to “How?” was “Yes!” A full decade after her victories, an Associated Press national survey named Mary Lou Retton

the “Most Popular Athlete in America.” Not bad for someone who dared to dream big dreams and wouldn’t take no for an answer!

There will always be those who try to set our limits—they think they know us better than we know ourselves. It’s that way in business, religion, community, family life, and everywhere else. Why would we want to accept the limits others may thrust on us—especially by those who fail to dream and stretch beyond where *they* are?

We were all created to become the best we can be. What we become is the result of the choices we make and the actions we take. Boldly announce: “I never give permission for anyone else to set limits as to what I can or can’t accomplish!”

The Three Rules of Success

Remember the following three rules of success, regardless of what limits you may have accepted from yourself in the past or the limits others may have tried to impose on you. Are you ready for them? Here they are:

Rule 1: Stay on track!

Rule 2: Stay on track!

Rule 3: Stay on track!

If you get sidetracked, you’ve set limits on yourself and your potential to achieve what you desire!