

# Youth 82



What's  
It Like to  
Be a Teen  
in the  
Netherlands?

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Your Human Potential Is  
Incredibly Greater Than  
You Have Realized  
By Herbert W. Armstrong

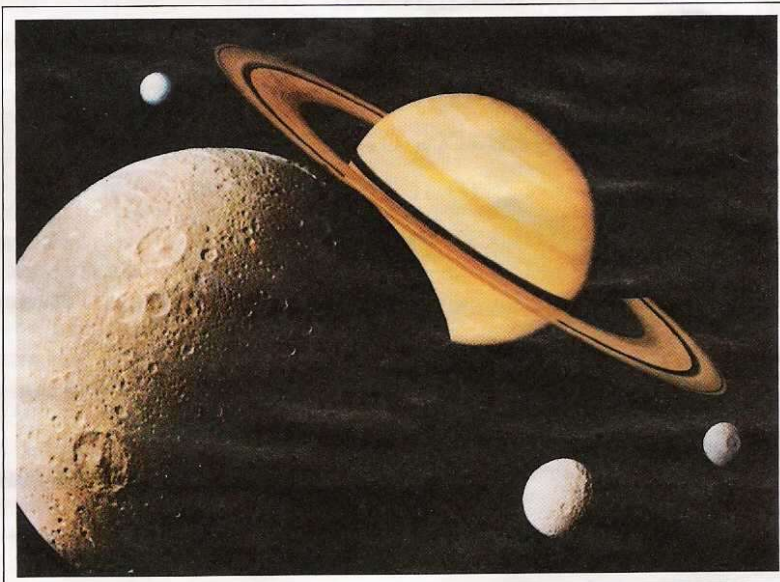
# Your Human Potential Is Incredibly GREATER Than You Have Realized

By Herbert W. Armstrong

**D**on't sell yourself short! The possibilities that lie ahead for you are transcendently greater than you have ever come to know!

When I was an adolescent of 16, as I have said and written many times, **AMBITION** was aroused in me. It was on my first summer vacation job away from home. I had never thought very seriously before of making something of myself in the world.

I had devoted my time, as most boys do, to "having fun." I had played baseball, football and spun tops. At age



12 I became interested in wrestling. Those were the days when wrestling was wrestling — not a deceptive comedy show like professional wrestling later became. Those were the days when Frank Gotch was world champion — a *real* champion — the days of Farmer Burns, Zsbysco and other

superstrong men. The older brother of a neighbor boy I played with had set up a real wrestling mat, and we boys were learning all about half nelsons, arm locks and toe-holds.

Then at 16 I had a summer vacation job in another town. My employer complimented me on my work, and this caused me to try hard. He began telling me I had abilities to make a real success of my life

— I could really accomplish big things, if I applied myself.

Ambition is the **DESIRE** to accomplish, **PLUS** the will to apply oneself energetically with determination. I didn't then know *what* I would do — in what field I would become such a success — but I began to believe in

Courtesy of NASA

myself, and began to apply myself to studies at the public library, entirely aside from the high school studies.

At age 18 I put myself through a course of self-analysis, by means of a book I found in the public library, *Choosing a Vocation*. It helped me avoid "fitting the square peg in the round hole." It set forth the requirements for success in the professions, businesses, occupations. This self-survey, coupled with a survey of occupations, led me into the advertising profession.

I applied myself vigorously. As I grew into the 20s, I became quite successful. With an office in Chicago's Loop from age 23 to 30, I was finally earning an income that, on today's dollar value, would amount to \$150,000 per year.

Then, at age 34, I was challenged most seriously, and was led into an intensive, almost night-and-day, in-depth study of evolution and the Bible. My marriage depended upon it, and I did not believe in divorce.

This in-depth research OPENED MY EYES to an entirely NEW HORIZON!

Up until then I had been imbued 1) with *self*-confidence and 2) with an horizon limited to mental or physical secular fields.

In other words, I interpreted "human potential" in terms of the physical and the material, as I suppose most everybody does today.

Commonly, people will think of human potential as the possibility of making such a success in life as a Thomas A. Edison, an Einstein, a Paderewski, an Arthur Rubinstein — or, historically, a Napoleon or an Alexander the Great.

But now a WHOLE NEW HORIZON loomed transcendently before my mind's eye — something immeasurably greater and more wonderful than any physical, material or mechanical accomplishment.

And now, too, an entirely NEW kind of CONFIDENCE began to grip me. I began to exchange SELF-confidence for the confidence that is FAITH in the living Jesus Christ.

Self-confidence began to disappear. FAITH, which is RELIANCE on God, began to grow.

And a potentiality that is possible for humans now loomed up stupendously greater than anything I had conceived of before.

I had begun to see, in the Bible, something TREMENDOUS that seems hidden from human eyes in this world. I began to realize that the Gospel message that GOD sent by Jesus Christ involves a vast comprehension of God's great PURPOSE! I

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began to discover the missing dimension in knowledge — knowledge undiscovered by science, untaught in higher education, glossed over entirely by religion.

Actually, I began to realize that the biblical revelation, and the message Jesus proclaimed, is in fact such STUPENDOUS knowledge that what is being disseminated as higher education is dwarfed into insignificance!

But that monumental message, which was Christ's Gospel — His glorious GOOD news — was soon suppressed, in the very first century!

It is concerned with the Creator's

all-encompassing, overwhelming, overall purpose, involving not only man, but the entire vast and limitless UNIVERSE, to be *made over*, by man, when man comes into his projected GLORY! This is no imaginary, illusory play on words — it is REAL!

It means that the great majestic GOD is, literally, reproducing Himself in MAN; that mortal MAN has the transcendent potential of being born into the very GOD FAMILY as an immortal SPIRIT being in superlative GLORY and with creative power, under God and under Christ, to literally make over and renew the faces of planets throughout the vastness of endless SPACE!

It is true that hardly one in a thousand humans ever realizes, even partly, his purely human potential *as a human*. The average human never utilizes even 5 percent of his mental powers. On the purely human level, man has the potential — if an American — of becoming President of the United States. Or of becoming a Thomas A. Edison or an Einstein.

But that potential is as nothing compared to the spiritual and transcendent potential of being born into the very GOD FAMILY — and inheriting the very capabilities of GOD!

Actually most of these exciting, inspiring, mind-expanding TRUTHS are never even remotely considered in the religious teachings of this world!

My book, *The Incredible Human Potential*, has appeared in bookstores all over the English-speaking world. It's a story too comprehensive to even begin to condense in this article.

Actually I feel with deep conviction that I myself really did not author this book — that the living Jesus Christ is its real author. I was merely like a stenographer writing it down. And with that understanding, I feel I may say that this is the most important — the most tremendously revealing — book since the Bible! Although it is sold in bookstores, interested readers may send for a free copy now, by mail. □