Knowing The Secret

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Knowing the *secret* is learning to be *content* by asking God and thanking Him for all the blessing that He has bestowed upon us. There is so much of so many things today, that being content seems to be out of reach or impossible, but Luke 1:37 says, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." Philippians 4:13, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

God is clear 1 Timothy 6:8 *"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."*

The world remains in a continual state of *discontent*, but *materialism* leads to *coveting,* and coveting leads to *greed*—the serious sin of wanting more, the latest, and the best, but never saying *Thanks, Lord, for Your blessings on me,* and never *learning* to be content with what we already have—what God has already blessed us with.

In a world that is content *only* with the *latest,* the *best*, and the *most*, the true believer should be thanking God for that most blessed privilege of knowing God's full *Truth* and for the living *hope* of *Heaven* through faith in God. With many blessings already received; the multitude of good things already enjoyed; and the *privilege* of forgiveness by faith in His Son, Jesus Christ—our thanking God should *never* end!

The value of knowing God's full Truth cannot be calculated, but most people do not *know* God's full Truth, nor do they *know* the *God* in whom they *should* trust. Unfortunately, most would not *live* God's full Truth even if they *did* know it. And the secret: John 17:3 *"This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* It is knowing Jesus and trusting in Jesus.

John told those who came to Him to be baptized—but who had *not* shown any sign of repentance Luke 3:9 *"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire."*

Fruits of repentance is doing what he *said* to do—and *learning* to be *content* with what God had already given would be included. Luke 3:11 *"He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath [food], let him do likewise."* To others 13 *"Exact no more than that which is appointed you."* 14 *"Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages."*

John was explaining how to live God's Truth—like *"Being content with your wages,"* which is universally rejected by the world. The desire for more money, higher wages, more time off, and better working conditions is so widespread today—no one seems content with what they are paid or where they are working—even though God says 1 Timothy 6:8 *"Having food and raiment let us be therewith content."*

A poll of wage-earners—and asking what they would *like* to be paid—the majority of them, and regardless of whether they were earning *minimum* wage or a *high* salary, said they wanted to make *twice* what they *were* earning. The human heart is never satisfied—that is, until it is *converted* by God—and allowing Him, through His Holy Spirit, to *teach* us how to be *content!*

We must *pray* for a *contented* spirit and a *thankful* heart—it is a secret that can be known. Philippians 4:1— *"For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."* 12 *"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."*

Knowing the *secret* of being content is being *in* the *will* of God—and God's *will* is explained in His *Word.* 1 John 2:17 *"And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."* The will of God is to *not covet* the possessions of others, but to be *content* with what God has given to us.

Being content is *learned* under God's *training*. God's Word always gives scriptural advice, like—Being content with what we *have*; being content where we *work*; and being content with where we *live.* That contentment is a reality when we are *in* God's will.

Hebrews 13:5 *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"* God will provide what we need when we need it—we just trust Him in faith to do it.

Satan tries to have us be *discontented* about something; or with someone; or about anything. The devil wants us to desire *more and* never be satisfied with *less.* We should not always want *more*—but be content with less and even giving *away surplus*—not keep *accumulating extra*. We should *cherish* or appreciate what we *have*—not *resent* what we *lack.*

The apostle said—2 Corinthians 12:10 *"I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses"*—for the sake of God's Truth, he meant; *"for when I am weak, then am I strong"*—by the ability God would give. He *knew* the importance of persevering in faith and doing what God wanted him to do. He learned that 1 Timothy 6:6 *"Godliness with contentment is great gain."*

The apostle was grateful that some members sent him gifts. When the opportunity presented itself, they *again* responded in love. The apostle wrote Philippians 4:10, *"I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it."*

The apostle's goal was *not* to see how many things he could *collect*, but how faith in God could be *applied* or put into practice. He was a *prisoner* in Rome; *confined* to an apartment Acts 28:30; and

guarded by a soldier Acts 28:16. He was under *house arrest,* and he was not allowed to work at a trade to pay expenses. But in that situation, he had the opportunity to *trust* God in faith to *provide* what he needed each day.

His expression of thanks reveals his attitude of contentment—in spite of very difficult circumstances. His letter reflects his *confidence* in God's *promises* to provide—no matter what the situation was. He knew that *God* controlled everything, and if he *met* things according to the *Word* of God, with the Holy Spirit's help, the promise would be *fulfilled*—Romans 8:28 that *"All things work together for good to them that love God."*

If the apostle would keep trusting God—for strength, courage, peace, and contentment, God would give him success. He was *sure* that God would take care of him if *he* would choose to *trust* God. The Holy Spirit had enlightened him to know the difference between *wants* and *needs*—something *we* can learn by keeping our trust on God.

Each morning, we should ask God to reveal any attitude in our *heart* that is not in accordance with His *will*, and for the ability to make corrections in our *direction* or changes in our *attitude*. 1 John 2:17 *"The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."*

It is *not* the will of God to keep *accumulating* more things and to keep *stockpiling* more possessions—with no thought of who could use the extra we have. Jesus said—Matthew 6:32-33 *("After all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

Our Christian duty is to keep trusting God in faith—*then* God provides our Scriptural needs of the moment. No matter what our present situation may be, there is no need to worry—but there *is* a *faith* to apply, to put into practice. If we will *trust* Him in faith, God will prove *faithful* to His promise. *Outward* circumstances are to have no *effect* on our *inner* contentment.

Those with the *most things* are generally the *most unhappy*. They do not *know* the secret because they have not *read* the Book, God's Book, the Bible. More *money* does not equal more *contentment*. Most people think that God does *not* actually provide things today, but the true believer in Christ has faith in God that He *will provide* all of our Scriptural needs—and more.

Jesus said this about eternal life—He said to *"Sell,"* and *"give to the poor,"* because this would Luke 12:33 *"Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted."* (34) *"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* Accepting His advice means we are trusting God each day. What we do with our *treasure* shows the attitude of our *heart*.

1 John 2:15 *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."*

Jesus said that it is not possible to *love God* and *love the world* at the same time. We cannot love *God* and love *money* concurrently. Luke 16:13 *"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

14 "And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. 15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

We cannot love the world, *nor* constantly desire things *of* the world, because unbelievers are preoccupied with fulfilling every desire and never asking if it *is* God's will. The world puts much effort to accumulate material things that are seen—*lust of his eyes.*

Matthew 13:22, *"Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful."*

1 John 2:16 again, *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."*

The human heart can be *obsessed* with *pride*—*boasting of what he has and does.* The *serpent* tempted *Eve* with these very things, but God wants to see the *opposite* in us—*lowliness* of mind and *humility* of heart.

Trusting God in faith to provide the Scriptural needs of the moment is the *right* attitude, so by the grace of God, may we be able to take a good look at what He has already given and say, *Thanks, Lord, for Your blessings on me. Forgive me for not realizing how blessed I am to know Your truth, and to be able to trust in the Atonement Blood of Your Son.*

If we will maintain our *faith* and *trust* in Him to provide our needs each day in a right and scriptural way, He Philippians 4:19 *"Shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* Of *that* we can be sure.

Our only concern is to be *in His will*—learning to be *content* and *thanking* Him for—1 Timothy 6:8 *"Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."*

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