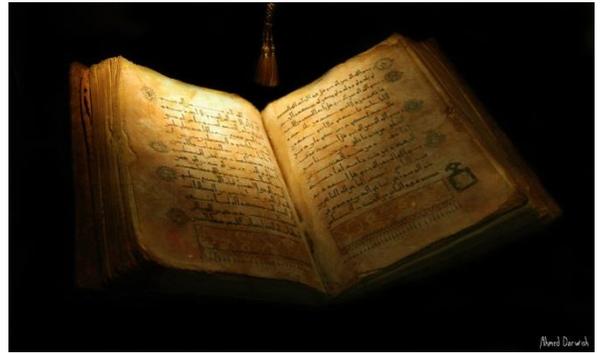


The *Secret* of *Personal Contentment*



Philippians 4:9-13, 19

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Introduction

- There is a word that immediately grabs our attention when we hear it.
- It excites us inside because it implies something hidden that will be revealed to us.
- It gives us an “edge” in some way over other people and offers hope for us to be finally satisfied in some way.
- It is a hidden technique that must be revealed and mastered to become most beneficial.
- That word is “_____”!

If you could learn the “Secret” of Personal Contentment would you be interested?

God has revealed this secret in the pages of His Written Word, the Bible. All we have to do is find it, believe it and apply it.

9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. **10** I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. **11** Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. **12** I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13** I can do all things through Him who strengthens me... **19** And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:10-13, ESV)

Understanding “Contentment”

- It is a condition of settled, personal satisfaction with one’s current situation in life
- It is being at peace in whatever conditions might exist.
- It is attacked by the World System, pressing us to believe we must have more to be satisfied! (1 John 2:15-16)
- It involves having what we need to accomplish the will of God as He directs us. (Philippians 4:13)
- It is an assurance in the loving character and provisional resources of God to meet our needs to accomplish His will.

Two Godly, Christian Examples:

Missionary Pioneer - Hudson Taylor (and) Orphanage Founder - George Mueller

⁹ Put into practice what you learned and received from me, both from my words and from my actions. And the God who gives us peace will be with you. ¹⁰ In my life in union with the Lord it is a great joy to me that after so long a time you once more had the chance of showing that you care for me. I don't mean that you had stopped caring for me—you just had no chance to show it. ¹¹ And I am not saying this because I feel neglected, for I have learned to be satisfied with what I have. ¹² I know what it is to be in need and what it is to have more than enough. I have learned this secret, so that anywhere, at any time, I am content, whether I am full or hungry, whether I have too much or too little. ¹³ I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me...¹⁹ And with all his abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your needs. (Philippians 4:9-13, 19 GNT)

Lessons on Achieving Personal Contentment

1. Contentment must be learned. (:11a)
2. Contentment can be found in any situation. (:11b-12)
 - Either in “Bringing Brought Low” or “How to abound” / “Be in Need” or “What it is to have plenty”
 - Facing “Plenty” or “Hunger” / “Well Fed” or “Hungry”
 - Living in “Abundance” or in “Need” / “Living in Plenty” or “In want”
3. Contentment is strengthened by Christ’s power and abundant riches to supply our needs. (:13, 19)
4. Contentment in the wrong things is dangerous, uncertain and vain.
 - Being “full” and not needing the Lord. Being poor and stealing thereby profaning His name. (Proverbs 30:7-9)
 - Personal arrogance and not submitting our plans to God’s will (James 4:13-16)



Here’s the “Secret” to Personal Contentment:

God will supply your every personal need in all conditions through His strengthening in order to accomplish His specific will for your life.

Application: Exploring Your Own Personal Contentment & Strengthening

1. To what degree am I willing to walk in the will of the Lord as He reveals specific aspects of it to me?
2. What is God calling me to do that requires His strengthening to accomplish His will? (See 1 John 5:14,15)
3. In times of “need”, do I draw deeply from the Lord’s power or my own resourcefulness?
4. How content am I in whatever I do, or do not have?
5. What “wanted things” are creating discontentment within me presently?
6. If I had no prospect of having those “wanted things,” could I live contentedly in the Lord?

Ponder Point: The most contented people on the earth are NOT those who “have everything they want” but rather, those who are grateful for everything God has provided them and will provide them from His limitless resources!

For Further Meditation: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10; Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Peter 5:7; 1 John 5:14, 15