

## Waiting on the Lord - The Secret of Contentment

by Philip H. Page, Jr.

One of the secrets that I've longed to understand is the secret of contentment. My desire has long been to share John's boast to the Philippians and "*be content in whatever state I'm in.*" Whether I'm in a big house or a small apartment, I want to be content. Whether I own my own business or I'm bagging groceries for the minimum wage, I want to be content. In any and all things I want to know the peace that comes from being content.

Well, in the same passage of Philippians where Paul expresses his state of contentment, he also reveals the secret. As Paul rejoices that "*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.*" He then says "*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*"

I've read that passage literally hundreds of times but I've always considered the final statement to be a declaration, not the answer to my problem. According to Paul, the secret of contentment is in knowing that you can do absolutely everything through Christ who gives you strength.

While it's very easy to proclaim "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." the hard part is coming into the knowledge that you can do everything. It was by enduring personal bankruptcy and losing all my possessions that I first became aware of what I could do through Christ who strengthens me. Then it was by being unemployed for several months that I further understood that I could do all things through Christ.

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From the Author of *Getting Up Again – Surviving Unemployment and Pursuing Destiny*

Although the knowledge came to me by experience, it is God's plan (and my sincere prayer) that all who read this would come to know this by faith. It took me several painful experiences to wake up and realize that I can endure anything through faith and belief in Christ. I simply needed to stop looking to man's methods and look to God's Word for faith.

In Daniel 2:27-28a it says "...*No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.*" The wise man, enchanters and magicians were King Nebuchadnezzar's methods for understanding mysteries. But this scripture is clearly telling us that all mysteries are revealed to us by God. Put more clearly, all mysteries are revealed by the faith that comes from reading God's word.

In Matthew 13:11 Jesus tells the disciples "...it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven...". Whether you need the secret to contentment or some other issue, it is in Christ that all secrets are revealed. While it appears that God is hiding things from us, it is in these mysteries that He reveals all that we need. And He does it in His time so that we learn all we need at the time we most need it.

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