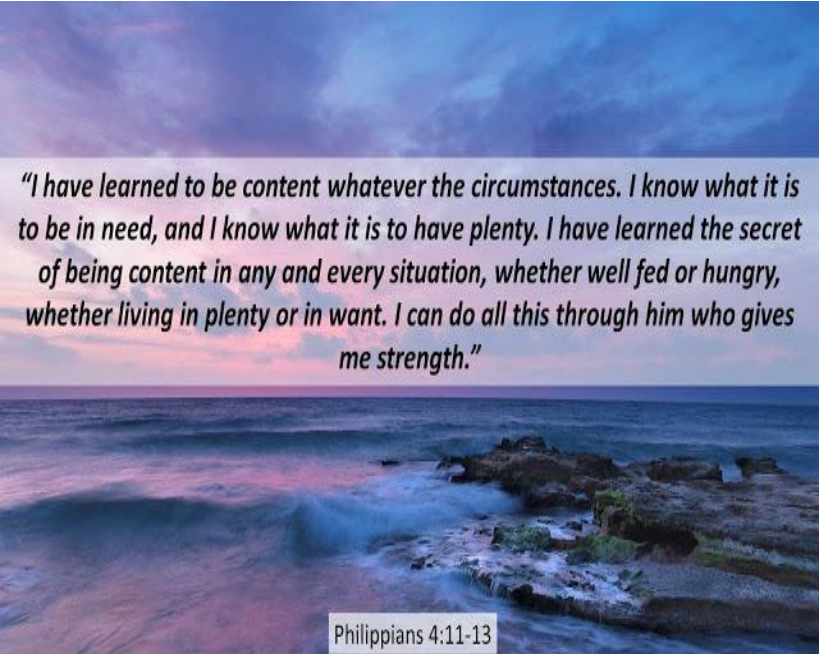


# The Secret



*"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."*

Philippians 4:11-13

By

William E. Thrasher, Jr.

# The Secret

*For I have learned how to be content wherever I am. I know how to live humbly; I know how to live in prosperity. I have been initiated into the secret for all sorts and conditions of life, for plenty and for hunger, for prosperity and for privations; in Him who strengthens me, I am able for anything. Philippians 4:11-13*

I am sure that at some point in our lives we have all met that one individual that just seems to have the world by a string. Every time you see him or her there is a smile on their face. They are always up beat. They always have music in their voice, a kind word on their tongue and love in their hearts. Doesn't it make you want to ask "What is your secret?"

I can hear some of you thinking I wish I could be like that, if not all of the time, at least most of the time. Well I'm going to let you in on **The Secret** it is possible. Have I got your attention? Good. Let's talk about it.

The first thing you have to do is assess the situation or better stated, come to grips with where you are. Paul states in our text for today: "I have learned how to be content wherever I am." Paul is here making the point that whatever his condition, wherever he is, he is thankful. He recognizes that whether he is where he is by decisions that he has made or whether his circumstance is due to decisions made by others he is still content. How do you get to that point?" Faith in God! It's just that simple. We must remember that we are in God's hands and in no better hands could we possibly be in. Not only does God know where we are, He is already where we are with us. Matthew Calls Him "Emmanuel: God with us" Matthew 1:23. The Psalmist confirms this reality in Psalms 139:8 "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." We cannot escape the presence of God, because

He is everywhere! He is our omnipresent God. The circumstance, no matter how complicated it is, is not beyond His ability of comprehension, because He is our all-knowing God. He is Omniscient. And whatever the situation, it is not too difficult for Him to overcome because He is all powerful! He is our Omnipotent God! Knowing that our Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Omnipotent God is with us suffices. Oops! I just told you **The Secret**. God is with us no matter where, no matter when, no matter why, no matter how! Whatever life presents us with, we are with God and it's going to be alright! So it does not matter Paul says whether I'm rich or poor, full or hungry, In Him who strengthens me I am able for anything. Hallelujah!

Now I do realize that this level of contentment requires a certain mindset. So I'm going to have to give you the ingredients to **The Secret** so that

you can acquire this certain mindset. Paul give us the road map that leads us to this mindset in Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

We are taught to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. The bible, which is The Word of God is our filter, our sifter: through our immersion into it we learn how to rightly divide the Word of truth. Through the Word we learn the value and importance of what is honorable and dignified, in other words what is worthy of reverence. We learn to appreciate, embrace and discern what is endearing and amiable and truly loving. We learn to invest our time and energy

in those things which speak about the kindness, graciousness, and the fine good things in others. These are **The Secret** ingredients that will shape and mold our minds and will give us the wherewithal to be at peace, to be thankful and to achieve a state of satisfaction that will endure no matter what!

Take this Secret, embody its attributes, claim them as the whole of who you are and you will become one of those who will have a smile on your face and joy in your heart. Yes my brothers and sister The Secret is yours for the asking. True satisfaction is not only possible, it is achievable through Jesus Christ! You will be just as happy in the rain as you are in the sunshine. When you are trouble on every side, just remember **The Secret**, and you won't be in distress, When you feel perplexed, remember **The Secret** and you won't be in despair. When

are being persecuted, remember **The Secret**, and you won't feel forsaken, though you may be cast down, remember **The Secret** and you won't be destroyed! **The Secret** is yours for the asking. Just ask the Lord to come into your life today and The Secret will be yours.

With Jesus in your life there is nothing you cannot endure. There is nothing you cannot overcome, because with Him, all things are possible and that my brothers and sisters is The Secret!