

**THE ONLY “SECRET” WE NEED TO KNOW**  
**Philippians 4:10-13**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. The secret to:
  - 1. Solving the Rubik Cube.
  - 2. Making fluffy pancakes.
  - 3. To living a happy life.
- B. 10 Life Secrets (4 Of 10):
  - 1. Sometimes people are mean for no reason.
  - 2. Being fat isn't the worst thing in the world.
  - 3. You will not stay this good-looking forever.
  - 4. Your best friends will change, and so will you.
- C. The true secret to contentment.

**I. A SATISFYING SITUATION, vs. 10.**

- A. The Philippians' Gift.
  - 1. I rejoice in the Lord – greatly!
  - 2. Paul is not rejoicing in the money amount, but in the love shown him.
  - 3. Emphasis was not on things, but on people.
- B. Lacking Opportunity.
  - 1. You remained concerned, but had no opportunity to show it.
    - a. Had they lost contact with Paul? Acts 20:6, 16
    - b. They faced their own deep poverty? 2 Cor. 8:2
    - c. They had no one to send to Paul?
    - d. Circumstances beyond their control.
  - 2. Concern for Paul had been revived.

**II. A STARTLING STATEMENT, vs. 11-12.**

- A. Not Speaking from Want.
  - 1. It was not the gift that was important.
  - 2. But the love that was shown for Paul.
  - 3. This was not a hint to send more support.
- B. Contentment.
  - 1. Greek – “Perhaps others have not learned to be content, but I have.”
  - 2. Contentment:
    - a. Not because of complacency.
    - b. Not because of false peace based on ignorance.
    - c. Not because of pretending circumstances are good, even though they are bad.
    - d. Not just trying to see the positive side.
  - 3. The word contentment.
    - a. Can be translated “satisfied.”
    - b. 1 Tim. 6:6-8.
    - c. Heb. 13:5
    - d. Not adversely affected by outward circumstances.

- C. Paul Had Learned Contentment.
  - 1. His Christian life – a learning experience.
  - 2. His conclusion, with the Lord’s help – he could face any challenge.
  - 3. It was not a “miraculous” contentment.
    - a. Through painful experience, 2 Cor. 12:7-10.
    - b. Through earnest prayer, Phil. 4:6-7.
    - c. Through the highs and lows of life.
    - d. Through humble means and in prosperity.

### III. THE STRENGTHENING “SECRET,” vss. 12-13.

- A. The Secret.
  - 1. In any and every circumstance.
    - a. Whether undesirable – suffering need and hungry, 2 Cor. 11:27.
    - b. Or having abundance and being filled.
  - 2. I have learned the secret: I can do all things...
    - a. Strength for every situation.
    - b. Through Him [Christ] who infuses power into me.
      - i. *Dunamis* (to strengthen) – our word “dynamite.”
    - c. God provides the strength.
    - d. All things – matters based on vss. 11-12.
      - i. Good and bad.
      - ii. All things the Lord requires of us – consistent with His will.
- B. The Source.
  - 1. Through Him – lit., “in” Him.
    - a. Many today use the verse, but are not “in” Him.
    - b. Gal. 3:26-27
    - c. Col. 2:6
  - 2. Paul’s secret: Jesus Christ.
    - a. The mystery contentment, 4:12.
      - i. Learning to rely on Christ, 4:13.
      - ii. Not self-sufficient because of our own resources, 4:11.
    - b. Because of Christ, 4:13, 19.
    - c. The Lord was the source Paul’s strength.
    - d. And the source of ours, vs. 19; Col. 1:11; 3:3.

### CLOSING

- A. In a materialistic world, we can learn to be content with what we have.
- B. In an immoral world, we can live pure and moral lives.
- C. In a pleasure-filled world, the focus of our lives can be the things of God.
- D. In an idolatrous world, we can give ourselves to Jesus and to Him alone.
- E. The difference between being able to “do nothing” and being able to “do everything” is Jesus Christ!
- F. Are you “in” Him?