

Lighten Up!

Message #5 "Stuff"

Philippians 4:10-20

May 3 & 4, 2008

"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. ¹³ I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." vs. 12-13

Key Words/Key Observations

1. Contentment is an _____. Vs. 11-12

"...for **I have learned to be content** whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty."

2. Contentment is _____. Vs. 11, 12

"I have learned the secret of being content..."

3. There are some key "_____ " to **being content**. Vs. 13

"...the secret of being content..."

The Key: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

Paul's "Secrets" to Satisfied Living

Secret #1: Develop _____. Vs. 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."

"A generous spirit is transferable and tends to be contagious. If you are generous in your finances, you tend to be generous in your relationships with other people. If you are stingy, legalistic even, in your finances, you tend to keep track in other areas as well." Pastor Phil

Secret #2: Practice a _____. Vs. 11-12

"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." vs. 12

Secret #3: Nurture a _____. Vs. 13, 19-20

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength... ¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Notice: My God shall meet all your "needs", not wants; those are insatiable.

See: Malachi 3:8-12

"...Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.'" vs. 10

"Those who constantly seek more; more money, more stuff, more clothes...more, more, more are simply trying to find a satisfaction that they have not yet discovered anywhere else. They are looking to be "full" and yet there is a hunger for meaning, satisfaction, safety and significance that will not be found outside of Christ. He desperately wants you to be satisfied and fulfilled, with Him." Pastor Phil

Secret #4: Prioritize the _____ **in my life.** vs. 17-18

"...I am looking for what may be credited to your account...I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God."

Paul teaches some really important concepts about giving:

It is “...a fragrant offering...sacrifice...to God.”

It has a “...your account...”

Secret #5: Nurture a Vs. 12, 14, 15, 18

“I rejoice greatly in the Lord...it was good of you to share in my troubles...in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only...you sent me aid again and again when I was in need...I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied...”

See: 1 Chronicles 29:9-16

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” vs. 14

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19