

“THE SECRET”

Philippians 4:10-13 NIV

I Thessalonians 5:15-18 NKJV

1. If you want to be content, you got to be a giver. (vs. 11)
Acts 20:35 ... ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

2. If you want to be content, you have to know what it’s like to “go without.” (vs. 12)
 - a. Well fed
 - b. Hungry
 - c. Having plenty
 - d. Going without
Philippians 4:14 “It was good for you to share in my troubles.”

3. Contentment Bandits
 - a. Envy
James 3:16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.
 - b. Love of Money. (stuff)
Hebrews 13:5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”
I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

*If you are not happy with what you’ve got you won’t be happy with what you get.

4. We endure hardship, persecution and sad situations through our relationship in Jesus. (vs. 13)
Philippians 4:13 NLT “For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”

5. Walking out God’s Will of contentment.
 - a. No slap backs.
I Thessalonians 5:15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.
 - b. Be kind to our church family – and everyone else.
 - c. Be Joyful.
I Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always,
 - d. Pray, pray, pray. Pray some more.
I Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing
 - e. Rise above circumstances with gratefulness.
I Thessalonians 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Lessons Learned:

1. Love people and use things. Not the other way around.
2. Take the time to count your blessings – Literally.
3. Share.
4. Value the moment more than the memories.
5. CHOOSE JOY.
6. Say Thank you a lot.
7. Stop comparing.

Psalm 118:1 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.