

THE SECRET TO SUCCESS

Introduction – Success is functioning effectively as a human being created in the image of God.

A. There is a secret to successful functioning revealed in the Word of God. Let us illustrate this with Paul's letter to the congregation at Philippi.

Philippians 4:10-13

1. This letter is a thank you note from Paul to the congregation for financially supporting him.
2. Most people are happy because the circumstances of their life are good.
3. Paul offers a non-circumstantial contentment – “the secret to being content in any and every situation....”
4. Most people are either driven to achieve goals or passive and content. Paul presents a combination of contentment and an “I CAN DO” attitude based on the strength that God gives us in Christ.

B. The Secret Revealed

Philippians 4:4-7

1. No matter what our external circumstances we have a reason to rejoice in the Lord.
2. We must choose to stop being anxious, which only saps our energy and never solves anything.
3. Turn over the concerns of your life beyond your control with thankful prayer to God.
4. The results of this act of faith will be an inner peace that transcends all human understanding.

C. Take charge of the two things you can choose to control.

Philippians 4:8-9

1. Discipline your thought life so you concentrate on having a positive godly perspective of life.
2. Put into practice Christ-like behaviors.
3. If you have set godly, attainable, and reasonable goals, then you can succeed in reaching them.

Conclusion – Our circumstances or others' perception of our situation do not define our success.

Philippians 1:12-14

The Solution to Problems

Only God can reach our deepest needs. We must begin with “because God has met my needs of security and significance....”

We must change our goals from desirable to attainable ones.

**God in
Christ**

