





3. Such Doing/Practicing Leads Us in the Way of Peace

- » We will know the God of peace
- » Verses 7 & 9 go together – ‘the peace of God’ comes from ‘the God of peace’
- » We enter into the calm of God

3. *Power Through Christ*

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:10-14

We learn to be content over time

- » Paul experiences much and little (v11-12)
- » Through it all Paul learns to be content (v11)

‘Content’

- » Used once in N. T.
- » A word from the Stoics – a description of Socrates – balanced in all situations
- » The Invictus games – injured war vets displaying discipline, resolution (2017 in Toronto)

‘I have learned the secret’ (v12)

- » Used once in N. T.
- » A word from the mystery cults of Paul’s day – speaks to an initiation rite
- » Paul says he has learned a secret!

The Secret

- » The secret is that our empowerment to be content is found in Abba/Christ (v13)
- » The source is not found in ourselves but God
- » He is the one who strengthens/empowers us

He is defined neither by wealth nor poverty but by a contentment that transcends both, and by a power in Christ which enables him to live in any circumstance.

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God's Triune Power in Us

- » A power which is found for all in Jesus Christ
- » Available to us all, in whatever situations we face
- » Whether in humiliation or in abundance God is present to us (v 12)

Experienced in Community

- » Paul experiences this power in community – not a Lone Ranger perspective
- » Paul is in jail (Ephesus)
- » He is encouraged by the love gift from the Philippian church (v10,14)

- » The financial gift is described by Paul as a 'fragrant offering pleasing to God' (v18)
- » Even so our tithes/offerings are received by God as pleasing offerings
- » The community is brought together through practical service and love

- » Paul reminds the Philippian church that even as they sacrifice God will supply their needs (v19)
- » Giving and receiving
- » Allows us to be both the giver and thanksgiver
- » Such action mirrors the goodness of God to us

Summary

1. Paul is concerned with our 'patterns of thought'
 2. Practice in daily living
 3. Power received through Christ
- » All of which leads to the experience of knowing God's peace and empowerment