

## The Greatest Secret

People make many decisions at the first of the year to be better people, resolutions to do this or that. In most cases they don't last. Why? I believe this is because people don't have the ability to change themselves within themselves, in their own strength. Will power is not enough to gain control over the flesh. So I give you a resolution that will lead in time to victory in all of the others you might want to make.

Come to know and learn the greatest secret life has to offer and live by it - and your life will change more than you ever thought possible, you will find the peace and abundant life that has always been so elusive, the true life that all men long for.

What is the secret? How can I learn it? Who will teach me?

Philippians 4:11-13 - Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for *I have learned* how to be content (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am. I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have *learned* in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want. I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency.

You must LEARN of Him, you must LEARN the secret of giving up yourself to Him and letting His strength flow into you, of putting all of your cares on Him and trusting Him from your heart. You must wait on Him and hope in Him and exchange your strength for His in actuality. You must walk with Him in His yoke not your own. You must enter His rest and learn to always abide there.

Matthew 11:28-30 - *Come to Me*, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take My yoke upon you and *learn of Me*, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and *you will find rest* (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne.

Isaiah 48:16-18 - Come near to me and listen ... Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, "I am the Lord your God, *who teaches you* to profit, *who leads you* in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your well-being would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Isaiah 40:28-31 - Even youths shall faint and be weary and young men shall feebly stumble and fall exhausted; but those *who wait for the Lord* (who expect, look for, and hope in Him) *shall change* and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up as eagles. They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint or become tired.

Job 14:14 - ... all the days of my struggle I will *wait*, until my *change* comes.

Isaiah 64:4 - Who acts in behalf of the one who *waits* for Him.

Amp - Who works and shows Himself active on behalf of him who [earnestly] waits for Him.

Psalms 62:1, 2, 8 - For God *alone* my soul waits in silence; from *Him* comes my salvation. *He only* is my Rock and my salvation... My soul *wait* only upon God and silently *submit* to Him; for my hope and expectation are from Him. Trust in,

lean on, rely on, and have confidence in Him at all times, pour out your hearts before Him.

My salvation comes from Him alone. My hope and expectation are only from Him.

My part:

- Come to Him
- Wait upon Him
- Silently submit to Him.
- Trust Him and have confidence in Him.
- Learn of Him.
- Pour out your heart before Him and give Him all your cares.
- Put your hope and expectation in Him alone.

When I do my part, the part He has given me to do not what *I think* I should do, not necessarily what I have been taught to do, I shall change. He will act in my behalf. I shall renew my strength. I shall lift up my wings and catch the winds of the Spirit and soar over the problems of life. I shall run and not be weary and walk and not faint or become tired - because it is His strength I walk in not my own. I have all of my cares and burdens on Him not myself, and trust Him and relax and rest. Therefore I am at peace, while He works it all out for me. And the strength I live in is not my own but His, so all of the stress and strain of life gets passed over to Him.

Secrets & Mysteries

Come to the Lord and learn the secrets and mysteries of life.

Deuteronomy 29:29 - The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Who does He reveal them to?

Psalm 25:14 - The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He will make *them* know His covenant.

What is God's hidden secret? What is the mystery?

Colossians 1:26-27 - the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God will to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory...

Colossians 2:2-3 - that their hearts may be encouraged...attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of *God's mystery, that is Christ Himself*, in whom are hidden all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge.

1 Corinthians 2:7-13 - But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory...things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him. God has revealed them to us through the Spirit...We have received the Spirit who is from God so that we may know the things freely given us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom but in those taught by the Spirit.

## Enter His Rest

Therefore, let us fear if while a promise remains of entering His rest, any of you may seem to have come short or it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also, but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by *faith* in those who heard. For we who have *believed* enter that *rest*...The one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from *his* own works as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest so that no one will fall through following the same example of disobedience...(Hebrews 3-4)

This is a state of life we need to learn to live in - where we are resting from our own works and trusting instead in the Lord, with all of our cares and all of our lives upon Him. Not *striving* to make things happen but looking to Him, *expecting* them to. Until we get to this place, we will never be truly and fully effective and we won't experience to the full His abundant life. We will always be struggling and will live more in Romans 7 than in Romans 8.

The focus of your life should be to enter this rest more than to try to improve yourself or to try harder and harder to do what you believe the Lord requires. When you learn trust in Him, when you live through Him and He through you, you are at peace - and things happen, changes are made - finally! You have finally entered "life." And you find you are fulfilling more of His desires than ever before. You find you can actually live as you always knew a Christian should!

You will find yourself beginning to change, to find the power to fulfill those same resolutions you make year after year. You will have peace because your trust will be entirely in the Lord and you trust Him enough to work things out for you. What joy to live a life of trust and expectation rather than striving to make things happen, always fearing they won't.

## Make the Lord your Trust and Refuge - Psalm 91 (amp)

This psalm is describing the same place of rest, of trust, of entire commitment. Only in this place do you find the blessing of this psalm fully fulfilled.

THIS IS THE SECRET OF LIFE!

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].

I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust!

For [then] He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

[Then] He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge; His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler.

You shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day,

Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not come near you.

Only a spectator shall you be [yourself inaccessible in the secret place of the Most High] as you witness the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place, There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.

For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service].

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent shall you trample underfoot.

Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he knows and understands My name [has a personal knowledge of My mercy, love, and kindness—trusts and relies on Me, knowing I will never forsake him, no, never].

He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.

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### Notes - Secret of a Happy Life, (Hannah Whittal Smith)

#### The Life Defined

I shall now, therefore, consider it as a settled point that the Scriptures do set before the believer in the Lord Jesus a life of abiding rest and of continual victory.

The chief characteristics of this life are an entire surrender to the Lord and a perfect trust in Him, resulting in victory over sin and inward rest of soul; and it differs from the lower range of Christian experience in that it causes us to let the Lord carry our burdens and manage our affairs for us instead of trying to do it ourselves.

When I speak of burdens, I mean *everything* that troubles us whether spiritual or temporal.

I mean first of all ourselves. The greatest burden we have to carry in life is self; the most difficult thing we have to manage

is self. Our own daily living, our frames and feelings, our especial weaknesses and temptations, our peculiar temperaments, our inward affairs of every kind - these are the things that perplex and worry us more than anything else and that bring us most frequently into bondage and darkness. In laying off your burdens, therefore, the first one you must get rid of is yourself.

You must hand yourself with your temptations, your temperament, your frames and feelings, and all your inward and outward experiences, over into the care and keeping of your God and leave it all there.

He made you and therefore He understands you and knows how to manage you; and you must trust Him to do it. Hand over the management of your unmanageable self into the hands of One who is able to manage you. Say to Him, "Here, Lord, I abandon myself to You. I have tried in every way I could think of to manage myself and to make myself what I know I ought to be, but have always failed. Now I give it up to You. Take entire possession of me. Work in me all the good pleasure of Your will. Mold and fashion me into such a vessel as seems good to You. I leave myself in Your hands and I believe You are, according to Your promise, make me into a vessel unto Your own honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use and prepared unto every good work." And here you must rest, trusting yourself thus to Him continually and absolutely.

Take your cares to the Lord and leave them there and come away and forget them. If the worry comes back, take it to Him again; and do it over and over until at last you can forget you have any worries and are at perfect rest. Believe He takes your cares and leave all the responsibility and the worry and anxiety with Him. Keep them in His hands.

Relax every strain and lay off every burden; let yourself go in a perfect abandonment of ease and comfort, *sure* that since

He holds you up, you are perfectly safe. Your part is simply to rest. His part is to sustain you, and He cannot fail.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusts in Thee.” This is the divine description of the life of faith about which I am writing. It is no speculative theory, neither is it a dream of romance. There *is* such a thing as having one’s soul kept in perfect peace, now, here in this life; and childlike trust in God is the key to its attainment.

### How to Enter In

This life is not to be looked on as an attainment but as an obtainment. We cannot earn it, we cannot climb up to it and we cannot win it: we can do nothing but ask for it and receive it. It is the gift of God in Christ Jesus. And where a thing is a gift, the only course left for the receiver is to take it and thank the giver.

And *everything* in our salvation is a gift. From beginning to end, God is the giver and we are the receivers, and it is not to those who *do* great things but to those who *receive* abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness that the richest promises are made. Those are the ones who reign in life. The soul must be in a receptive attitude, fully recognizing the fact that it is God’s gift in Christ Jesus and that it cannot be gained by any efforts or works of our own. God gives more grace, but only to the humble.

Consecration is the first thing. You must be entirely abandoned into His care. God must have the whole case put into His hands without any reserves, and His directions must be implicitly followed.

Consecration is the entire surrender of the whole being to God, - spirit, soul and body - to do just what He pleases with us. He is our Father, He loves us and He knows just what is

best. Therefore, His will is always the very most blessed thing that can come to us under any circumstances. Could we but for one moment get a glimpse into the mighty depths of His love our hearts would spring out to meet His will and abandon ourselves to it with an enthusiasm of gratitude and joy that such a wondrous privilege could be ours.

Faith is the next thing after surrender. Faith is an absolutely necessary element in the reception of any gift.

Most Christians know that their forgiveness is a gift, but when it comes to living the Christian life, they lose sight of this principle and think that having been saved by faith, they are now to live by works and efforts; and instead of continuing to *receive*, they now to begin to *do*. (See Gal 3:1-5)

To sum up, then, in order to enter into this blessed interior life of rest and triumph, you have two steps to take: - first, entire abandonment; and second, absolute faith. No matter what may be the complications of your peculiar experience, no matter what your difficulties or your surroundings or your “peculiar temperament,” these two steps definitely taken and unwaveringly persevered in will certainly bring you out sooner or later into the green pastures and still waters of this life hid with Christ in God. And if you will let every other consideration go and simply devote your attention to these two points and be very clear and definite about them, your progress will be rapid, and your soul will reach its desired haven far sooner than you can now think possible.

Trust Him. *Commit* your case to Him in an *absolute* unre-served faith and believe that He undertakes it; and at once, knowing what He is and what He has said, claim that He does even now save you. Just as you believed at first that He delivered you from the guilt of sin because He said it, so now believe that He delivers you from the power of sin because He says it. By faith move from the flesh into the power of the Spirit.

Let your faith now lay hold of a new power in Christ. You have trusted Him as your dying Savior; now trust Him as your living Savior. Just as much as He came to deliver you from future punishment did He also come to deliver you from present bondage. Just as truly as He came to bear your stripes for you has He come to live His life through you.

You are as utterly powerless in the one case as in the other. You could as easily have got yourself rid of your own sins as you could now accomplish for yourself practical righteousness. Christ, and Christ only, must do both for you; and your part in both cases is simply to give the thing to Him to do and then believe that He does it.

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This greatest secret, the place where true life is found, can be summarized by one thing: TRUST - BELIEF - FAITH

O.T. - Those who trusted Him received.

N.T. - Calls it faith but speaks of the same thing.

It is described fully in one verse of one psalm;

Psalm 37:5 - Commit your way to the Lord [roll and repose each care of your load on Him]; trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) also in Him and He will bring it to pass.

The Bible teaches in many places that we are to LIVE by faith.

So learn these things, and you will have learned the key to life, the greatest secret life has to offer, and the power to change and become all you were created to be and do all you were created to do.

Make your resolution to draw near to the Lord and learn to actually trust Him from your heart, to keep your cares on Him while you live a life of trusting, resting and obedience.