

"I'VE GOT A SECRET"

Introduction:

Popular T.V. program

The Secret of the Consecrated Life

Triple text -
Daniel 1:47
Ps. 27:14
Prov. 3:32

I. The Secret of Victory

A. I Cor. 15:57, "Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"

B. The Kind of Victory

1. Victory over death, v. 55

2. Victory over Sin

3. Over all circumstances of life, Rom. 8:35-37

C. The Way of Victory

1. Through our Lord Jesus Christ

2. Through faith, I Jno. 5:4

3. Through the power of the H.S., Acts. 1:8.

II. The Secret of Purity, Mt. 8:1-3

A. Cleansing Required

1. Leprosy symbolizes the vileness and loathsomeness of sin.

2. A type of impurity - *need of a pure heart - Ps. 24:3, 4*

3. His cry is "Unclean, Unclean"

4. Isa. 54:6, We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."

5. "Vile, I to the Fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die."

B. Cleansing Requested, v. 2

1. He came to Jesus

2. He worshiped Jesus

3. He prayed to Jesus

C. Cleansing received

1. As a gift

2. As a testimony

"His touch has still its ancient power;"
No word from Him can
fruitless fall.

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III. The Secret of Fruitfulness

A. The Privilege and Promise of Fruitfulness.

1. Abraham, Gen. 17:6, "I will make thee exceeding fruitful."
 2. Backed by the infinite resources of the Almighty, v.1
 3. The Promise of Christ in John 15:1-16
 - a. Fruit, v.2
 - b. More fruit, v.2
 - c. Much Fruit, vs. 5,8.
 4. He has chosen and ordained us, (v.16) to bear fruit.
- #### B. The Conditions of Fruitfulness

1. For Abraham, Gen. 17:1, "Walk before me, and be thou perfect."
2. For the disciples of Christ, Jn. 15:
 - a. Disciplinary pruning, v.2
 - b. Cleansing through the word, v.3.
 - c. Abiding in Christ the vine, who is the source of fruit, vs. 4-7, "Without me ye can do nothing."
 - d. Let His words abide in us, v.7.
 - e. Prayer, ask what ye will, v.7
 - f. Continue in the love of Christ, vs. 9,10, 12,13.
 - g. Keep His commandments, Obedience, vs. 10,14.

3. Peter's Secret: Growth in the graces & virtues.
I Pet. 1:5-8

IV. The Secret of Continuing

A. The Importance of continuing

1. To avoid needless anxiety over the eternal security of your soul's salvation.
2. To avoid the handicap of an "up and down" experience of obedience and failure.

B. The Secret of Continuing

1. Absolute assurance of God's power to keep you from falling, I Peter 1:5, Jude 24.
2. Absolute assurance of God's willingness, purpose, and promise to keep you from falling.
3. Constant abiding in Christ, Jn. 15:4
 - a. Instant confession and renunciation of every sin in your life as the H.S. reveals & convicts.
 - b. Constant dependence on the Lord Jesus to keep that which you have committed to Him.
 - c. Commit yourself and your all to the Lord, Ps. 37:5

"There's a little secret, Worth its weight in gold;
Easy to remember, Easy to be told;
Changing into blessing Every curse we meet,
Turning earth to heaven; This is all, KEEP SWEET.

Make us kind and gentle, Harmless as the dove;
Giving good for evil, Meeting hate with love.
What though trials press us, What though tempests beat;
Naught can move or harm us, If we just keep sweet.

Jesus, keep us sweet, Walking in Thy love,
Jesus, make us meet For Thy home above."

-- A.B. Simpson.

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