

**November 22nd, The Secret
Part 6 in the series 'The Human Race'**

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Think of a time when you wanted something really badly and you received it/it happened. How did you feel about it? How do you feel about it now?

Studies show that after your basic needs are met, the more you buy the less happy you're inclined to be. Is that surprising to you?

READ Philippians 4:10-13

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. **11** I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12** I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13** I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

What is contentment?

To be content in all circumstances, do you have to want nothing more than what you already have?

What does Paul mean in verse 13 when he says 'I can do all this through him who gives me strength'?

READ Matthew 13:24-30

24 He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, **25** but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. **26** So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. **27** And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' **28** He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' **29** But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

How does this parable help us understand how evil will be dealt with by God?

How does knowing God has a plan to deal with evil in this world make you feel?

Explain Jim's necklace analogy from the message.

What is 'the secret'?

Answer: Gratitude that comes from our connection with God.

READ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

16 Always be joyful. **17** Never stop praying. **18** Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Is Paul suggesting we make joy, prayer and thankfulness a To Do list that we check off each day?

Discuss how resting in God's love and grace results in joy, prayer and thankfulness.