

Highs And Lows

"I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound.

*In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret
of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.*

I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:12-13

Watching the 5 month old child bounce up and down in his bouncer, I was captured by the look of pure joy on his face as his little body bobbed around aimlessly.

He was in his glory as he enjoyed his newfound ability to move safely on his own.

When we grow to maturity we find "bouncing" less entertaining and very disturbing. Most people in adult life wish for a steady journey without the ups and downs that so often must be endured by all of us.

Paul speaks of learning a "secret" that enabled him to go on through the ups and downs that created financial and other suffering in his life.

Paul did not learn this secret in a classroom. He learned it in the crucible

of affliction. There were no short-cuts to gaining this secret knowledge. It could only be understood through being part of the school of experience.

Too many people simply wish they could "pop a pill" and have all the medicine they needed to smooth out the journey in life. We are a pill popping generation and the mentality of most people in western society is that there is, or should be, a quick fix to life's problems by the experts.

What the secret is that Paul learned was not how to quickly fix his problems so they went away. Instead he gradually learned that when the problems did not go away, God's strength sustained him in "all things".

Are we ready to endure because the Lord supplies the needed grace and encouragement? After you

have diligently sought to eliminate the problem and it persists, will you look to the Lord for the grace to endure?

This is the secret and the Lord is willing to teach you how to keep on when quitting seems so attractive. Come to your Lord and Saviour and seek His power to endure. He is waiting for you so come and come now.

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