

# Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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## Secret? I Don't Think So

*What Does the Word of God Have to Say About It?*

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he wrote that the time would come when people would not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts/desires they will choose their own teachers who would tell them the things they wanted to hear; simultaneously, turning away from the truth and desiring instead, fables. (2 Tim. 4:3-4 KJV paraphrased) According to Webster's Universal Dictionary and Thesaurus (1993, Tormont), a fable is defined as a story involving mythical, legendary or supernatural characters or events.

Then Peter comes along warning that in the last days people would run after erroneous teachings. These are wells without water, clouds that are carried along by a violent storm.... He says that when they speak great pompous, but vain words; they will mislead people through the lusts of the flesh.... While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: (2 Peter 2:17-18 KJV by reference)

A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of watching a video tape of *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne (2006, Beyond Words Publishing). I had begun to hear about its teachings about two months prior. So I sort of

*Secret?*

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## The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

When I was a teenager I wanted to be a fashion model. I would watch the modeling shows with pretty ladies, in beautiful clothes. I would read as many fashion magazines as I could get my hands on. "What a glamorous life it must be to be a professional model," I thought to myself. At the tender age of fourteen I believed with all of my being that my dream of becoming a professional fashion model would some day come true.

Well, thirty years and several careers later I am now closer to gracing the runway as a professional fashion model than I was as a teenager. But, I must say, all is not lost. As I think about fashion models, as well as the designers that create the clothing, I realize what they represent to the general public. For the most part, society (including you and me) relies on fashion designers around the world to create clothing (including shoes and accessories) that will complement our individual shapes; look good on us; and ultimately increase our level of confidence in who we are and what we are capable of accomplishing. If we are honest with ourselves (particularly females) we know that "how we look" affects our mentality and sense of confidence.

If we depend on the clothing designers to create the fashions; what role do the models play? They, of course, show us what we could potentially look like in the clothing (or speaking more realistically – since I, myself, don't routinely interact with ANY women that look like professional models – we get an overall idea of how we can coordinate fashions to make them work for us).

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Now, after that laborious exercise you are probably wondering how I plan to utilize that story as an effective analogy about modeling leadership. Well, I do actually have a plan. In II Corinthians 3:2 & 3 (paraphrased), Paul told the Corinthian believers that they are epistles (letters) of Christ. He said that the Holy Spirit had written on the tables of their hearts. And since that was the case, they were “known and read” of all men. Wow! This is so powerful. Here Paul is saying that believers are how God corresponds with humanity!

You see, God writes His plan, purpose and destiny in our hearts. We translate this to mean our passions and desires in life. When we, as believers, open our hearts to God; His desires become our desires. And thus, He has given us the desires of our hearts.” (Ps. 37:4 KJV) Therefore, as we prayerfully follow the desires in our hearts; people in our environments watch us and have the opportunity to see what God wants to take place in the earth, in the lives of believers, and in every area of society.

Here is the connection. Believers ARE fashion models! As we live our daily lives following our passions, we show forth the designs of the Creator. When we take classes to fulfill career or other goals; coach little league; make sacrifices in our relationships; help others; put forth our best effort on our jobs; and so on, we literally walk the “Run Way” of life. We show on-lookers that they can have peace in their homes, joy in their relationships, effectively overcome financial obstacles, etc. The list is endless! And just like we rely on clothing designers to increase our level of confidence through the fashions they create; believers that model God's desires increase the confidence level of those around them. Once people see leadership being modeled by believers in ordinary situations, they too begin to believe that they can achieve similar outcomes in their lives. Friends that's what modeling is all about!

So, I encourage every one of you to mount your run way every day with the goal of prayerfully and boldly pursuing your passions. For it is in this daily activity that God speaks to others, and they too begin to pursue their dreams. And in

this way, God is able to speak (through us) to millions of people around the world!

Let the show begin!!! ◀ *ff* ▶

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*Secret?*

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looked forward to seeing this film, mostly out of curiosity as to the author's perspective on Jesus or the plan of God. Every time I hear about some great teaching, knowledge or wisdom, I always wonder what the author does with Jesus, God, and the Plan of salvation.

The reason I wonder is because I am of the mind that if there is any truth, it must precede from God and be supported or further revealed by Jesus Christ. “If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free...” He goes on to say that he (Jesus) is the Way, the Truth, and the Life ... (John 8:31-32; 14:6 KJV paraphrased)

Shortly I'll share with you some of the tenants of *The Secret*. But first, I must tell you that I could not help saying to myself that, the truth of these teachings originates in the scriptures. How can they be touted as secretive, hidden, or lost?

For the sake of contemplation, let's discuss the teachings of this “*secret*.” Simultaneously, let's lay its teachings along side the scriptures. For those of us who recognize the Holy Bible as the inspired Word of God; it is imperative that we align all precepts to which we would give our consideration.

### **The Book**

During this discussion, I will reference the book version of *The Secret*, as opposed to the film version.

On the back cover of the book it reads “As you learn *The Secret*, you will come to know how you can have,

*be, or do anything you want. You will come to know who you really are. You will come to know the true magnificence that awaits you in life. – from the Introduction”*

### Comparative Analysis

**The Secret says:** *As you learn The Secret, you will come to know how you can **have** ... anything you want.*

**The Scripture says** (repeatedly):

- ✚ Ask, and it shall be given to you. (Matt. 7:7 KJV paraphrased)
- ✚ Give and it shall be given to you... *in abundance* (Luke 6:38 KJV paraphrased, *italics added*)
- ✚ All things whatsoever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive. (Matt. 21:22 KJV paraphrased)
- ✚ If you will ask any thing in my name, I will do it. (Matt. 14:14 KJV paraphrased)

**The Secret says:** *As you learn The Secret, you will come to know how you can ... **be**... anything you want.*

**The Scripture says:** As he thinks in his heart, so is he. (Prov. 23:7 KJV paraphrased) For the sake of balance, we are then warned that if a man thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. (Gal. 6:3 KJV paraphrased)

The scriptures are replete with admonishments to “be...” “...as He has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.” (Eph 1:4 KJV paraphrased) “... He has made Him (Jesus Christ) to be sin for us ... that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Cor 5:21 KJV paraphrased)

We have both the opportunity to “be” who God says we are to be; or to “be” who we, ourselves, choose to be. The choice is ours; but so too are the consequences of that choice.

**The Secret says:** *As you learn The Secret, you will come to know how you can ... **do** anything you want.*

**The Scripture says:** I can **do** all things through Christ which strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13 KJV paraphrased) I think that just about says it all.

I had to ask myself, what exactly does *The Secret* teach, that is so different from what we (the body of believers) already know to be true?

### Laws

God is Creator and Governor of the whole of the universe and existence, ad infinum. Therefore, all laws governing the universe and creation (specifically) were created by Him. There are laws that govern the spiritual realm and laws that govern the physical realm.

According to the teachers of *The Secret*; “the greatest law in the universe is the *Law of Attraction*.” I am not aware that *attraction* is itself a law. I am aware of the attribute or function of *attraction*. The “attribute” of *attraction* is one of the characteristics of some of the Physical Law(s), governing the universe. *Attraction* is one of the characteristics of the Law of Gravity. The activities in the nucleus of an atom have the attributes of “*attraction*.” Inherent in the laws of Aerodynamics is a function of the attributes of *attraction*. Its relationship (both directly and inversely) with gravity enable air travel and space exploration. The functions of *attraction* can be found in various disciplines of Quantum Physics, Cellular Biology, Psychology and many of our Physical and Natural laws.

Physical and natural laws, however, are intended to govern the physical and natural worlds. We reside in a physical body, and live in a natural environment; however, we are spiritual beings. It is imperative that we recognize this because as spiritual beings we are governed by Spiritual Laws. Physical Laws govern the world we live in and as we understand and cooperate with them we are able to live out our lives. We are to have dominion over the physical dimension and to cooperate with the physical laws that govern them. And this we see from...

And God said “Let us make man in Our image and likeness...and let them have dominion over...so God created man in His own image....” (Gen 1:26, 27a KJV paraphrased)

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground (this part of man is governed by physical laws) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (this part of man is governed by spiritual laws). (Gen. 2:7 KJV paraphrased) We know that we are spiritual beings because we are created in the image and likeness of God. God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24 KJV paraphrased)

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (Eccl. 12:7 KJV paraphrased)

The Physical laws, the ones that we have present knowledge of, are too numerous for this discourse. However, the Spiritual Laws are concise and resolve themselves into two governments: The Law of Righteousness (also known as the Law of the Spirit of Life) and the Law of Sin (also known as the law of sin & death). These two laws are mutually exclusive. One cannot be a citizen of both governments as participation in one, precludes participation in the other. (Rom. 8:2 KJV by reference)

While I do know, from personal experience, that if we sincerely desire specific outcomes/events, it is possible to see them realized. The idea of realizing one's dreams is not inconsistent with the teachings of the scriptures. There were areas where the teachings of *The Secret* ran into conflict with my own system of beliefs:

The Secret (pg5): "It doesn't matter who you are or where you are, the law of attraction is forming your entire life experience, and this all-powerful law is doing that through your thoughts."

So from this I gather that it doesn't matter whether or not I regard God in my heart; or my fellow man as my equal; as long as I think positive thoughts; concentrate on wealth and possessions; or focus on "what I want;" then everything is okay? Never mind that the scriptures teach that we reap what we sow. And that is a mockery to God if we should do otherwise. (Gal. 6:7 KJV paraphrased) Never mind that the scriptures teach that we are obliged to guard our heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. (Prov. 4:23 KJV paraphrased) According to the scriptures, the heart defines and reveals motive. Our motives govern the dictates of our life.

For the body of believers, it is important to recognize that any teaching or oracle that does not clearly and fervently represent God as supreme and Jesus Christ as the "way" to God; falls miserably short of representing truth according to God. Now for those of you who believe that you can have life, love, peace, happiness, etc. without God, the gospel is not for you.

It is imperative that we the body of believers know that God has provided all things for us in Christ Jesus. And that is not necessary for us to compromise our integrity, or our trust in God for temporary possession of things.

### **What Do You Really Want?**

It should not be thought unusual that we could have control over our individual "worlds." That we could speak things into existence (ie., create). After all we are our Father's children. Like Father, like "sons."

### **You want to be wealthy?**

◇ Give ... and it shall be given to you, immeasurably. While we may desire good things we are directed to be watchful that we do not pursue "things" in such a way that we forget the Lord. Recall the warning that Moses gave to the children of Israel. Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God ... and say in your hearts, "my power and the might of mine hand (or thoughts) have gotten me this wealth...remember that the Lord your God gives you the power to get wealth that he may establish His covenant..." (Deut 8:11, 17-18 KJV) Paul further admonished the church at Corinth, let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth. (1 Cor. 10:24 KJV paraphrased) Is it more important that you be wealthy than that the will of God should be done in your life? What is wealth? Who has defined it? Cannot wealth be defined as one living a life in harmony with the purpose of God for them? Can it be a life where our needs are met and our fellowship with God and man is whole.

◇ When God asked Solomon what he wanted, Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge in order to lead God's people...And God said to Solomon, Because this was in your heart and you did not ask for riches, wealth, or honor; nor the life of your enemies or long life for yourself; but has, instead asked for wisdom and knowledge so that you could wisely judge my people, ... wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and (*as a bonus*) I will give you riches, and wealth, and honor, such that no other king past, present or future can be compared to you. (2 Chron. 1:11 KJV paraphrased, *italics added*)

◇ Wealth gotten by vanity will be diminished, but the person who gains it by working/labor will increase. (Prov 13:11 KJV paraphrased)

**You want to be healthy?**

- ◇ Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the Lord and depart from evil. This will be health to your navel and marrow to your bones. (Prov. 3:7-8 KJV paraphrased)
- ◇ Proverbs 4 teaches us that wisdom and understanding are precursors to health. (Reference verse 22) Isaiah 58, also teaches about behavior that tends to our health (Reference verse 8)

**You want to be at peace?**

- ◇ 1 Peter 3:11 ...He that desires to love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from speaking evil and deceit, do good, and seek peace diligently. (1 Peter 3:11 KJV paraphrased)

**You want to be wise?**

- ◇ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives wisdom freely, without reproach...and it will be given. (James 1:5 KJV paraphrased)
- ◇ ...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ ... give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him... (Eph 1:17 KJV paraphrased)
- ◇ ...Christ Jesus, who God has made our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption... (1Cor 1:30 KJV paraphrased)
- ◇ Just as honey is sweet, so will be the knowledge of wisdom to your soul, when you find it. Then there will be a reward and your expectations will not be disappointed. (Prov. 24:14 KJV paraphrased)

**You want to be happy?**

- ◇ Jesus says, to us ... I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done...if you know these things, happy are you if you do them. (John 13:15, 17 KJV paraphrased)
- ◇ Happiness comes from a heart that does not condemn one's lifestyle. (Rom 4:22 KJV paraphrased) If your heart is at odds, or in turmoil, with your lifestyle, choices, thoughts, it is impossible to be happy. No matter how much you "think" about it and "focus" on it.
- ◇ Live your life before God; allow Him to partner with you; to direct your steps; to chastise your error...happy is the man whom God corrects... (Job 5:17 KJV paraphrased)
- ◇ Happiness comes from trusting the Lord. (Prov. 16:20 KJV paraphrased)

From what I am able to see, *The Secret* is not really a secret. And for me I'm not as concerned about what **is** being said, I'm a bit unsettled about what **is not**

being said. A teaching on life, love, happiness, health and wealth that does not take into consideration the "true cost" of both "wanting" and "having" these things is a barren doctrine. It is at best misleading and at worst eternally disastrous. It smacks of secular humanism, a school of thought that posits that man can do all things without Christ; or that there is no need to a god.

Would you rather have a God-less existence of love, life, possessions, without a promise of eternal life? From the looks of things, it only references life on earth, which we believe to be temporary; and a precursor to our eternal inheritance.

This "new" teaching from *The Secret* seems to place the Mind and it's thoughts as the Creator of our universe. It spoke nothing of what is to come after death. Nor does it teach belief or behavior that will weigh favorably on our behalf, in eternity.

There is a way that seems right to man, but this way leads to death. (Prov. 16:25 KJV paraphrased)

What will it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul? (Matt. 16:26 KJV paraphrased) No amount of wealth, health, happiness or possessions can secure your place in eternity.

◇ KJV ◇

**Bite-Sized Wisdom**

*Food for Thought*



**Blessed is the man who does not design his path, according to ungodly counsel. (Psalm 1:1 KJV paraphrased)**



...That we be no more children, tossed about by every wind of doctrine, or cunning craftiness; whereby we allow ourselves to be deceived. (Eph. 4:14 KJV by reference)



## SUMMARY

Secret?! What secret? Every truth or wisdom known in this world (past, present or future) has already been given to us in the Word of God. Some of these truths are readily visible to the naked eye. Other truths are known to us, at first mention by the constitution of our being, and require no further demonstration (like the truth of our existence). Still other truths are shown through providence (circumstance or events). When the scriptures say, that there is nothing new under the sun (Eccl. 1:9-10 KJV by reference), believe it. Imagine the Creator of all things being trumped in truth or wisdom by the thing that He has created. You'll never live to see it happen. All true wisdom was first spoken by the mouth of God. And all subsequent iterations of that truth must run parallel with the original truth, or else it is a lie. Whatever it may look like or sound like, it is a lie (in sheep's clothing).

Fashion isn't just for the Run Way. As a Body of Believers, we are to show off the handiwork of the Creator. Our lives and the pursuit of our passions should all point the way to the Father and the finished work of Jesus Christ. As those around us look on, they should be able to see the purpose of God in you. They may not know how to "label" it, but they certainly should be able to "see" it. After all, we are the only Ad Agency that the Kingdom has, let us walk worthy of this vocation.

## Point of Interest

Perhaps by now you have heard that the Center for Disease Control is preparing the nation for a potential Avian Flu Pandemic. Perhaps you are wondering what to do; and if or how something like this would affect you and your family. Naturally speaking, there is information on the stages of preparation at the Center for Disease Control website [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Spiritually speaking, the Lord says that if He allows disease and destruction to arise, and we humble ourselves; pray; seek His face and forsake unrighteousness, He will hear us and heal the land. Pray for the healing of the nations.

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