

Chasing Margin

Controlling The Future (Week 3)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Margin is found when we surrender control in exchange for His peace.

Key Scriptures

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2 NLT

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. Proverbs 19:21 ESV

Worry weighs a person down ... Proverbs 12:25a

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Isaiah 26:3 NLT

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27 NIV

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7 NIV

We will never find margin seeking to control a future that was never ours to create.

Freedom from control comes when we:

- Identify it.

Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Psalms 32:5 NLT

- Release it.

Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Proverbs 28:13 ESV

- Leave it.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:6-7 NIV

Start talking.

- Rate yourself on a "controlling" scale of 1 – 10.
- What things do you seek most to control?
- How are worry, anxiety, fear, and control aspects of the same sentiment?

Start thinking.

- Read Romans 12:2. How is control reflective of the "behavior and customs of this world?"
- Read Proverbs 19:21. What is the "purpose" of the Lord and how will it "stand"?
- Read Proverbs 12:25a. How does worry weigh a person down?
- Read Isaiah 26:3. What is the "peace"? Who will receive it?
- Read John 14:27. What is the result of the peace Jesus gives?
- Read Philippians 4:7. How does God's peace guard your hearts and minds?

Start sharing.

- Read Psalms 32:5. What is the area(s) of control God is inviting you to confess?
- Read Proverbs 28:13. How is "forsaking" different from confession? What would it look like for you to forsake control?
- Read 1 Peter 5:6-7. Why is "casting" and leaving things with Jesus often the hardest step?

Start doing.

- What needs to shift in your heart to identify, release, and leave control issues in the hands of Jesus?
- Google "the promises of God in the Bible" and take this week reflecting on those verses.

Closing prayer.

Jesus, I confess I grasp tightly to many things in my life. I'm driven by fear, and worry to try and control so much. Forgive me for that. Lord help me to identify, release, and leave those things in your hands. Help me to rest in your promises.