



MARGIN

Thriving Within Limits

Giving Yourself Away

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What is Margin?

Margin is the space that should exist between a healthy, sustainable load and our maximum limits

- ❑ Margin is where our reserves & buffers are.
- ❑ Margin allows us to live with vitality & focus
- ❑ ...to nurture our most valuable relationships
 - ❑ ...to stay tuned in to God even when busy
 - ❑ ...to respond graciously to interruptions
 - ❑ ...to dream & pursue opportunities
 - ❑ ...to have money available for emergencies, opportunities & gifts.

Why do so many live w/o margin?

The Core Issue: Lack of Clarity & Focus on what is most important

W/O Clarity & Focus we:

- ❑ Get involved in too many Activities and make too many Commitments
- ❑ Try to manage too many Choices & too much Information
 - ❑ Work more than we should
 - ❑ Spend more than we make or have
- ❑ Bottom line: Without Clarity We Conform to the Pattern of the World

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,*

So, we need to take back our lives, right?

How do we do that?

but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)

Taking Back our Lives
Requires Thinking Differently

Taking Back our Lives
Means giving up some things

Hebrews 12:1 ...*let us throw off
everything that hinders
and the sin that so easily entangles,*

Why?

So we can...

*...run with perseverance the race
marked out for us.*

...in such a way as to get the prize.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Jesus: Gaining clarity is important

Luke 12:13 *Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."*

14 *Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"*

15 *Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (NIV)*

Jesus: Gaining clarity is important

Luke 12:16 *And he told them this parable:
"The ground of a certain rich man produced
a good crop.*

17 *He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I
have no place to store my crops.'*

18 *"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will
tear down my barns and build bigger ones,
and there I will store all my grain and my
goods.*

19 *And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of
good things laid up for many years. Take
life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' (NIV)*

Lack of Clarity is Dangerous

Luke 12:20 *"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'*

21 *"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."* (NIV)

➤ What keeps us from being
"rich toward God"?

Foolish Spending > Selfish Hoarding

Faithless Worrying > Anxious Striving

➤ Lack of Clarity & Focus about what
is most important

Potential Pitfalls

When I live for me and am not rich toward God

- ❑ I might not be able to enjoy it, or not for very long - won't be with me after death
- ❑ Won't Last - will deteriorate (moth & rust)
 - ❑ Will make me a target for thieves, friends & relatives
 - ❑ Will fuel temptation
- ❑ Will cause Great Regret in the life to come when I have No Eternal Investments

Clarity

Luke 12:31 *But seek his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well. (NIV)*

= Take back your life & Give yourself Away

= Be Rich Towards God = St3

Then you will be set for life in 3 Worlds:

1. World Around you – what we see and experience within the world system
2. World Within you – where we tune in to and respond to God, unseen by others
3. World to Come – His Kingdom & Eternity

But, if I'm rich toward God
how will I...

- Continue to live the lifestyle I'm used to
 - Send the kids to college
 - Replace my lost retirement savings
 - Get that _____ I really want

2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (NIV)*

What If...

- ❑ you knew the current world and economic situation was coming to an end
- ❑ all the resources you currently have would soon be worthless
- ❑ you had some time to invest in things that would be valuable in the next economy.

This life is your window of opportunity to lay up treasures for God's Kingdom/the world to come, to give yourself away.

Those investments will go with you into the coming economy with absolutely no risk of loss.

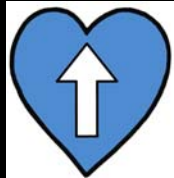
It's in your best interest

God is for You. He wouldn't encourage you to give yourself away, to lay up treasure in His coming Kingdom, unless He was sure it was in your best interest.

He wants you to have the joy of investing your current treasure--that will one day be worthless--in His Kingdom, producing value that will last you for all eternity.

We lay up treasure in His Kingdom when we give ourselves away: time, talent & treasure in ways that please Him

Here's the Clarity & Focus that can free us
to Take Back our Lives and then
Give Ourselves Away



G – God's Glory



O – Outreach



S – Stewardship & Service



P – People & Relationships

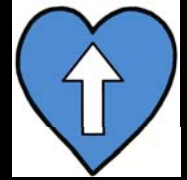


E – Eternal Values



L – Life-Change Journey

Giving Yourself Away



□ By Doing Everything for God's Glory

1 Corinthians 10:31 ...*whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

2 Corinthians 4:7 ...*we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

Giving Yourself Away

□ In Your Marriage - *each ...must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.* - Ephesians

5:33 (NIV)



Giving Yourself Away

☐ To Your Kids



Ephesians 6:4 *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

Deuteronomy 6:6 *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

7 Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (NIV)

Giving Yourself Away



□ Within the family of believers

Hebrews 10 :24 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)

Giving Yourself Away

□ By Making the most of opportunities



Colossians 4:5-6 *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; **make the most of every opportunity.** Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (NIV)*

Giving Yourself Away



□ By Serving - **1 Peter 4:10** *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

Mark 10:45 *...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

□ By Giving Financially - **2 Corinthians 9:7** *Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (NIV)*

Running with Focused Margin >

- ❑ Improved intimacy/walk with God
 - ❑ Shalom/Peace & Joy
 - ❑ Health & Vitality
 - ❑ Healthier Relationships
 - ❑ Time to dream & plan
 - ❑ Freedom to Serve/Give
- ❑ Time & Money to Make the most of opportunities
- ❑ Joy of laying up treasure in Heaven & anticipating eternal reward



Take away

Gaining and maintaining margin in our lives frees us to give ourselves away.

Giving ourselves away pleases Jesus and lays up treasure for us in the world to come