

[margins]

Part 3: Pace

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The spiritual goal of margins:

Forever change my approach to life.

Margin is the space between life and losing it.

When it comes to margin, God wants you to:

Sabbath

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” – Exodus 20:8-11

Rest

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:29

This is what the LORD says,

“Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
and you will find rest for your souls.

But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” – Jeremiah 6:16

Rest from the treadmill of:

I am never going to make it

I won't be able to keep up with them

I will be poor

I won't measure up

Count

Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
If only we knew the power of your anger!
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom. – Psalm 90:10-12

God is constantly calling his followers into the margin
to see if we will trust that he can fill the gap.

Practical Application

Choosing to live with margin and trusting God to fill in the gap, I will add, subtract, do a little more, and do a little less in these areas:

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Small Group Questions

- 1) What does your closet look like? Crowded? Overstuffed? Organized? Labeled? How is it a reflection of how you approach margin in your life?
- 2) How do you approach Sabbath? What could you do differently to enhance your focus on God on your Sabbath?
- 3) How is your rest? What is keeping you from truly resting in God's presence?
- 4) Let's do the math! If the average person lives to 75, how many more days do you have left? Does knowing Jesus change the way you want to spend those days?
- 5) What did you write on your application card?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?