

**LIVING LIFE WITH MARGIN**  
**Making Room for What Really Matters – Part 1 of 3**

*“You have six days to do your work, but every seventh day you must stop and rest! Do this so that you, and your animals, and your house staff and your foreign workers may be refreshed.” Exodus 23:12*

**KEY TRUTH:** Margin is the space between my **LOAD** and my **LIMITS**.

**Living with Margin has the Benefits of a Healthier...**

- **MIND**
- **BODY**
- **RELATIONSHIPS**

**Steps to Begin Living a Life with Margin:**

**STEP #1:** Accept my **LIMITATIONS**

*“I have learned that everything has limits . . .” Psalm 119:96*

*“Our time is limited. You (God) have given us only so many months to live and have set limits we cannot go beyond.” Job 14:5*

**STEP #2:** I owe to myself to ask this question: What **DRIVES** me to live my life without margin?

*“Some people are never satisfied with what they own, and they never stop working to get more. They should ask themselves, “Why am I always working to have more? What a senseless and miserable life!” Ecc. 4:8*

**STEP #3:** I must expect **PROBLEMS** and **DELAYS**.

*“In this world you will have trouble!” John 16:33*

*“Sensible people will see trouble coming and avoid it, but an unthinking person will walk right into it and regret it later.” Proverbs 22:3*

**STEP #4:** Allow for **UNPLANNED** time in your schedule.

*“It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you’ll starve to death; for God wants his loved ones to get their proper rest.” Psalm 127:2*

**KEY OBSERVATION:** The **FASTER** you go, the more margin you need.

*“Only someone too stupid to find his way home would wear himself out with work.” Ecc. 10:15*

**STEP #5:** Remove **ACTIVITIES** from my life.

*“There is a time to keep things and a time to throw things away.” Ecc. 3:6*

*“We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way and the sin that so easily holds us back.” Hebrews 12:1b*

*“Everything is permissible for me – but not everything is beneficial.” 1 Cor. 6:12*

*“Some of you are keeping things God commanded you to destroy. You will never defeat your enemies until you throw away those things.” Joshua 7:13b*

**STEP #6:** Take the **ADVICE** of Jesus.

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matt. 11:28-30*

### **What Happens When You Live Life Without Margin?**

1. When your margin decreases, your **STRESS** increases.
2. As your margin decreases, your relational **INTIMACY** also decreases.

**BOTTOM LINE:** The reason we live without margin is because we do not fully **TRUST** God.

*“Be still and know that I am God...” Psalm 46:10*

*“The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” Isaiah 58:11*