

**Fear of Want**

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**NOTES**

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:24, Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:6, 17-19, Hebrews 13:5, Proverbs 23:4, 2 Timothy 6:5, Luke 16:11, Proverbs 27:23-24, Proverbs 22:7, Proverbs 21:20, and Ephesians 4:28

**REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION**

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?

2. Over the past two weeks, Chris shared with us a roadmap from Paul in Philippians 4 to conquer anxiety (1. Choose a positive mindset, 2. Respond with grace, 3. Remember God is with you, 4. Stop, drop, and pray, and 5. Start with thanks) and some specific steps we can apply to help us focus our thoughts on what is good. (1. Limit time on social media, 2. Limit news intake, 3. Limit exposure to negative people, 4. Immerse yourself in beauty, 5. Think about God's Word, and 6. Live your life for God). Have you tried implementing any of these steps? What happened?

**MY STORY**

1. Do you have any fears about not having enough or not being able to get what you want?

2. How comfortable are you in your finances?

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3. Is inflation affecting you? How? Does it give rise to any fear in you?
4. What are you doing to counter or live with inflation?
5. Chris defined financial freedom as "a life free from excessive worry about money". Do you agree with this definition? What's the difference between excessive worry and legitimate concern about your finances?
6. Do you feel like you have this kind of financial freedom? Why or why not?
7. Chris also defined financial freedom as "freedom from the endless pursuit of more." Given this second definition, do you consider yourself to have financial freedom? Why or why not?
8. Chris said your net worth does not equal your self-worth. What is meant by self-worth? How do you view your self-worth?
9. How do you view money? Do you base your sense of security on how much money you have?
10. Do you see yourself as a generous person or not? Why did you answer this way?
11. If you tithe or have given generously, do you have any stories about how God has blessed you in that? Share these stories in your Life Group to encourage one another.
12. Read Ephesians 4:28. What is God saying to you with this scripture?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

*Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.*

**Read Matthew 6:24, Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:6, Hebrews 13:5, Proverbs 23:4, and 1 Timothy 6:17**

1. Have you ever thought of anything as being your master? Have you thought about money being your master?

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2. What does it mean to be content? Have you learned to be content? Why do you need to learn to be content rather than just being able to be content?
  
3. What does it mean when Paul said, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength"? Can you apply this to a specific challenging situation in your life?

**BRINGING IT HOME**

1. Do you struggle with the temptation of putting money in a primary place in your life?
  
2. Do you have hope for your future? What is the source of your hope?
  
3. Where do you get your identity? Where do you get your sense of freedom? Where do you get your peace?
  
4. Do you have financial freedom? If so, how did you get it? If not, why do you think you don't have it?
  
5. How good are you at balancing between working hard and working too much/sacrificing too much to get more? What can you do to improve in this area?
  
6. When you read 2 Timothy 6:5, what comes to mind? How has your financial position changed throughout your life? How has God's favor on you changed throughout your life?
  
7. What does God say about your self-worth? Spend some time digging through your Bible; find specific scriptures that speak to God's view of your self-worth and share those among each other in your life group.

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8. How do you struggle with pride? How do you struggle with discouragement? Can you see how contentment relates to each of these? How? What can you do to be content and not struggle with these?
9. How have you seen being generous impact the rest of your life? Have you found that your generosity impacts your sense of anxiety or fear?
10. Chris said God wants to stretch our hearts and character toward generosity for our good and freedom. Ask God specifically about this. What is God telling you about how He wants to stretch you toward generosity?
11. Read Luke 16:11. What do you think when you read this? How does it apply to you?
12. Chris gave us four steps for handling our finances correctly (right thinking leads to right doing): 1. Know your financial situation, 2. Live below your means, 3. Save some for tomorrow, and 4. Share some today. Spend some time thinking about each of these steps. What do each of these four steps mean?
13. Where are you with each of these steps? Where are you doing well, where are you doing OK-ish, and where are you struggling? Could you use help in any of these areas? If you're struggling in any area or not doing as well as you could be, what are you going to do about that?
14. Chris offered two specific action items you can take immediately to help you gain financial freedom - Financial Peace University and the Tithe Challenge. Are you going to take him up on either of these? If not, why not? Is there something else you can do to achieve financial peace?

**Your Next Steps are: 1)** Take a serious look at your financial situation (Step 1 Chris gave – know your financial situation). Do you have financial freedom? If not, take a tangible step in getting there. If the state of your finances are a cause of anxiety and worry because there isn't enough, sign up for Financial Peace University. If you're caught up in the endless pursuit of more, take a real step towards generosity by choosing to give in a new and intentional way (if you're not sure how and you don't tithe already, consider the Tithe Challenge).