

CONTROL

PRECEPT

MATTHEW 6: 25, 31-33

²⁵ Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?... ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

PROMISE

When we don't have control, we feel scared, anxious, and hopeless. We want control because in a world full of decisions and uncertainty, having control gives us a sense of stability and peace in our lives. This desire for control often leads us to worry about things we cannot influence. In fact, worrying is our attempt to control what is ultimately outside our reach. James 4:14 says, "How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone." Making plans is fantastic. But one thing to remember is that we don't control tomorrow. When we make plans, we should involve God in the process, for he controls tomorrow. We are so proud of our own planning and decisions that we claim to control tomorrow when, in fact, we don't. God's plan is perfect and pleasing. If something is perfect but you don't obey it exactly, it is now imperfect. When God's plan is good, anything we do outside of his plan is evil in comparison, which causes us to worry. Life is short, so make it count. Go to someone who has a perfect plan!

TRUST IN GOD. Psalm 37:5 says, "Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you." Understand that God cares for you deeply. Accept that He knows your needs and recognize that he is more than able to provide.

PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING. Philippians 4:6-7 tells, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Worrying is trying to control things beyond your control. Pray instead of worrying and be thankful for what has been and will be done.

PURSUE HIS WILL. Proverbs 3:5-6 note, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." This is where you have control over your thoughts and actions, aligning them with God's will. Make His will your first priority. Live a Christlikeness lifestyle, and be an instrument of God's blessings. When God is in control, not even death can rob us of experiencing Life to the full.

PRACTICE

1. **Control.** Who is steering the wheel of your soul? Is God in control? or are you?
2. **Plan & sovereignty.** In what areas of your life are you tempted to control things yourself instead of trusting God? And how can we pray/encourage you regarding this?

PRAYER

I. Worship Service

- Pray that we will all be proactive in inviting our friends and families.

II. Life Worship

- May their talents glorify God and inspire others to draw near to Him.

III. Life Line

- Pray that God will speak to His people through our postings on social media.

IV. Life Kids

- Pray for more dedicated volunteer and for our children to encounter God.

V. Life Link

- Pray that our ushers will serve our brethren filled with the Holy Spirit.

VI. Life Sports

- Thank God for a healthy body, abilities, and the gift of sports.

VII. Ministries

- Pray that God will empower all of our ministries with His strength, grace, and guidance.