



THE
CIRCUS
OF
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CERTAINTY

PART 3

- **What sources of hope do you have in your life?**

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when dreams come true, there is life and joy.

Proverbs 13:12 (NLT)

Don't worry and say, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' The people who don't know God keep trying to get these things, and your Father in heaven knows you need them. The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you.

Matthew 6:31-33 (NCV)

Key Thought: We must remember our provider and rely on our provider.

- **Where in life do you currently feel hopeless? What has caused your hopelessness?**
- **In what ways have you seen God provide for you during times of need?**
- **What has God's provisions taught you about His faithfulness?**
- **Why do you think so many of us have easily forgotten that God is our provider?**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

- **What things are keeping you from truly trusting God? How can you remove these barriers?**

Key Thought: The Bible gives us these principles when it comes to finances: diversify your investments, don't cosign for a loan, save, avoid debt, tithe, and work diligently.

- **How could following these Biblical principles help you in improving the way you handle your finances?**
- **How differently do you think your life would be if you were free from the bondage of debt and were able to freely give?**
- **What are some of the blessings you have experienced as a result of your tithing?**
- **Where is God calling you to give? What's your next step in putting yourself in a position to freely give?**

Final Thought: Live in absolute faith in God. Put your complete trust in Him, and by doing so, you will be among the heroes that can change our world today.

Next Steps: If you are feeling hopeless when it comes to your finances and need help getting them back on track, then consider enrolling Financial Peace University. In this class, you will learn from Dave Ramsey on how to manage your finances in a Biblical way, how to get out of debt and how to stay out of debt. You can express your interest in FPU on the connection cards in your Sunday talk notes.

If you are not regularly tithing, then consider taking the 3-month tithing challenge. All you have to do is regularly tithe for a 3-month period and if you don't experience God's blessings as a result of your tithe during that time, then your money will be refunded. You can sign up for the 3-month by taking a 3-month tithe challenge envelope by the auditorium doors on Sunday.

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What are your top three worries?

Explore

Read Matthew 6:25-34.

- What three worries did Jesus discourage among His followers? Why? (6:25)
- Why is food a trivial matter? (6:26)
- According to Jesus, how do clothes stack up as a subject of great concern? (6:26)
- What creatures did Jesus use to illustrate God's reliability as a provider? Why? (6:26)
- Why are God's creatures consistently "fed and clothed"? (6:26)
- What benefits does worry bring? (6:27)
- What fact from nature did Jesus use to illustrate the folly of worrying over clothes? (6:28)
- What comfort can followers of Christ find in the beauty of nature? (6:30)
- What priorities should we have in life? (6:33)
- What does God do for His children when they keep the right perspective, refuse to worry, and trust Him? (6:33)

- Why is it silly to fret over the future? (6:34)

Reflect

- Why do some of us worry about clothes more than others?
- How do you think God feels about our society's preoccupation with food?
- If God is really in control of the universe, why do we worry so much about so many things?
- How do you think worry is affecting you emotionally, physically, and spiritually?
- How would you answer someone who interprets this passage to mean that God promises to give His children everything their hearts desire?
- What is the difference between planning for the future and worrying about the future?
- What worries do you struggle to keep under control?
- What can help you entrust your worries to God?

Apply

- What worry will you entrust to God today?
- What steps can you take today to change your priorities from worldly ones to kingdom ones?