

ROOM TO BREATHE
Pastor Dennis Clanton
Woodland Church
Sunday, February 21, 2021

“I’ve put my life in your hands. ... You, GOD, I trust. I’m leaping and singing in the circle of your love; ... You ... gave me room to breathe.” (Psalm 31:5–8, Message)

Discipleship is Stewardship.

“And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?” (Luke 16:11, NLT)

FINDING ROOM TO BREATHE FINANCIALLY

“The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.”
(Romans 7:25, Message)

1. Determine your priorities.

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” (Matthew 6:33, NLT)

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.”
(Deuteronomy 14:23, LB)

Four Margins for Breathing Room Financially

- **First margin, 10% goes to God.**

“Honor GOD with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over.”
(Proverbs 3:9–10, The Message)

- **Second margin, 10% goes to Debt or Savings.**

“The borrower is servant to the lender.” (Proverbs 22:7, NLT)

“The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.” (Proverbs 21:20, LB)

- **Third margin, 10% goes to Investments.**

“Don’t be obsessed with getting more material things. Be relaxed with what you have. Since God assured us, “I’ll never let you down, never walk off and leave you,” (Hebrews 13:5, The Message)

- **Key: Fourth margin, learn to live on 70%.**

“Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5, NLT)

2. Put the financial margins in place.

“Don’t allow yourselves to be weary or disheartened in planting good seeds for the season of reaping the wonderful harvest you’ve planted is coming!” (Galatians 6:9, PT)

3. Discover the joy of generosity.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16, NKJV)

“The godly are generous givers.” (Psalm 37:21, NLT)

“And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35, NLT)

4. Start today.

“You don’t know the first thing about tomorrow. You’re nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing.” (James 4:14, Message)

The man who goes alone can start today; but he who travels with another must wait till that other is ready. -*Henry David Thoreau*

Tomorrow changes today!

“Today is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2, NLT)

GROWTHWORK

1. Where do you need to start?
2. What are your dreams?
3. What are your obstacles to overcome?
4. Who is encouragement partner?
5. What does your spouse or parents say about your plan?
6. What do you start and stop doing today?