

Volume 1, Day 22: Freedom from Struggling to Please God

My young woman listener from Europe continued, "... God sent His Son, not to condemn, but to save the world from the penalty of sin." And I love this freedom, and I guess that's where the relaxing comes from. It's not just to find a couch and become a potato. What relaxing means is that I'm not **striving so hard** on the inside. I don't mistrust God's love such that I have to earn what He wants to give me. And then I can relax into that reality."

That's something Jesus talked about with his disciples when He talked about this journey in Matthew chapter six. He's talking about the birds of the air and the flowers of the field and how they don't toil or spin, but God provides. He cares for them. And He asks the question, "How many of you, by worrying, can add even an inch to your height." And then Jesus says this (and I'm going to use "The Message" by Eugene Peterson) "What I'm trying to get you to do is to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, that you can't respond to God's giving." Now, that's where the shift needs to happen.

For all of us, we're used to getting. We're trying to **get** God's will, **get** a voice, **get** a relationship, **get** a ministry, **get** something. We've been taught all that, but **this** relationship is not about what I can get from God. It really is as if we were each morning waking up and saying, "God, what are you giving me today? What do you want to put into my life? And if it's just peace and if it's just calm it's okay."

It may not be words of wisdom and revelation and knowledge every day. It may just be the security of God's assurance, "I'm with you. I've got your back. You're safe in me." Let's grow in the beauty of this relationship. Relax.