



# HALF TRUTHS

GOSPEL CLARITY IN A NOISY WORLD



**CONTROL  
IS THE  
GOAL**

**HALF  
TRUTHS**

“Satan was not wholly incorrect when he told Eve partaking of the banned tree would make her “like God” (3:5), as to be more aware of the horror of sin is to come closer to God’s knowledge of all things (v. 22a). However, as he is wont to do, the serpent never gave Eve the whole truth. He did not tell her man would develop a love for perversion by such knowledge of evil. Moreover, he lied outright in asserting that death would not follow her transgression (v. 4).”



“To tell half-truths and outright lies is in our enemy’s very nature (John 8:44). He enjoys calling God’s truthfulness and goodness into question with subtlety, as he did with Eve by over-emphasizing what the Lord forbade instead of what He permitted (Gen. 3:1b). His tactics have not changed, so let us beware lest he deceive us as well.”



**Today's Sermon: "Control is the Goal"**  
**Passage: Matthew 14:22-33**

- 1. What is the kernel of truth in desiring Control?**
- 2. How is wanting control harmful/unhelpful?**
- 3. How does the gospel tell a better story?**

I can engineer the good life. If I put in the right inputs (diet, exercise, spiritual disciplines, emotional regulation, 8+ hours of sleep per day, and 57 min of sauna/15 min ice bath per week) then things will go well for me.



Great Clips®

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**POLAR PLUNGE**  
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**1. What is the kernel of truth in desiring  
Control?**

**What kind of things do we want to control?**

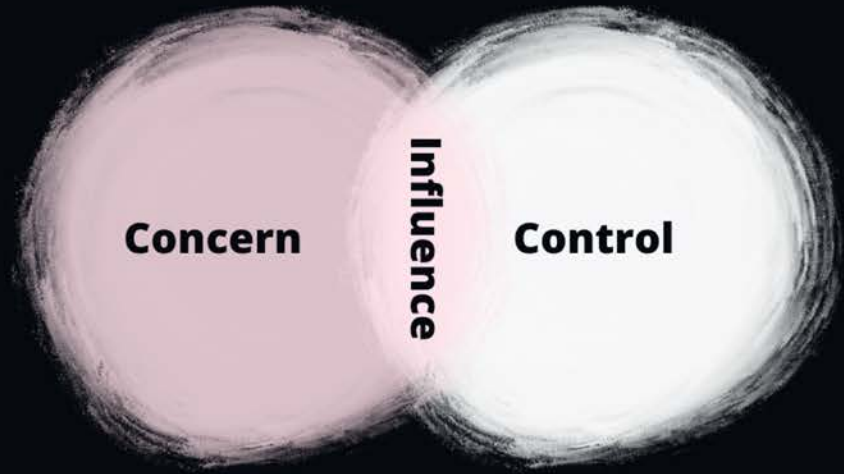
- 1. What is the kernel of truth in desiring  
Control?**
- 2. How is wanting control  
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*A goal is an objective that is under my control. When reaching an objective depends solely on my willingness to do certain things, it may properly be called a goal.*

Crabb, Larry. *The Marriage Builder: Creating True Oneness to Transform Your Marriage* (p. 92 - 95). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.



**Control**



Little People, BIG DREAMS

# GRETA THUNBERG



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*A goal is an objective that is under my control. When reaching an objective depends solely on my willingness to do certain things, it may properly be called a goal.*

*A desire is an objective that I may legitimately and fervently want, but cannot reach through my efforts alone. To fulfill a desire requires the uncertain cooperation of another.*

Crabb, Larry. *The Marriage Builder: Creating True Oneness to Transform Your Marriage* (p. 92 - 95). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

# Proverbs 3:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

# Proverbs 3:5-6

<sup>21</sup> Many are the plans in a person's heart,  
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.



**Growing  
Concern**

**Concern**

**Influence**

**Control**

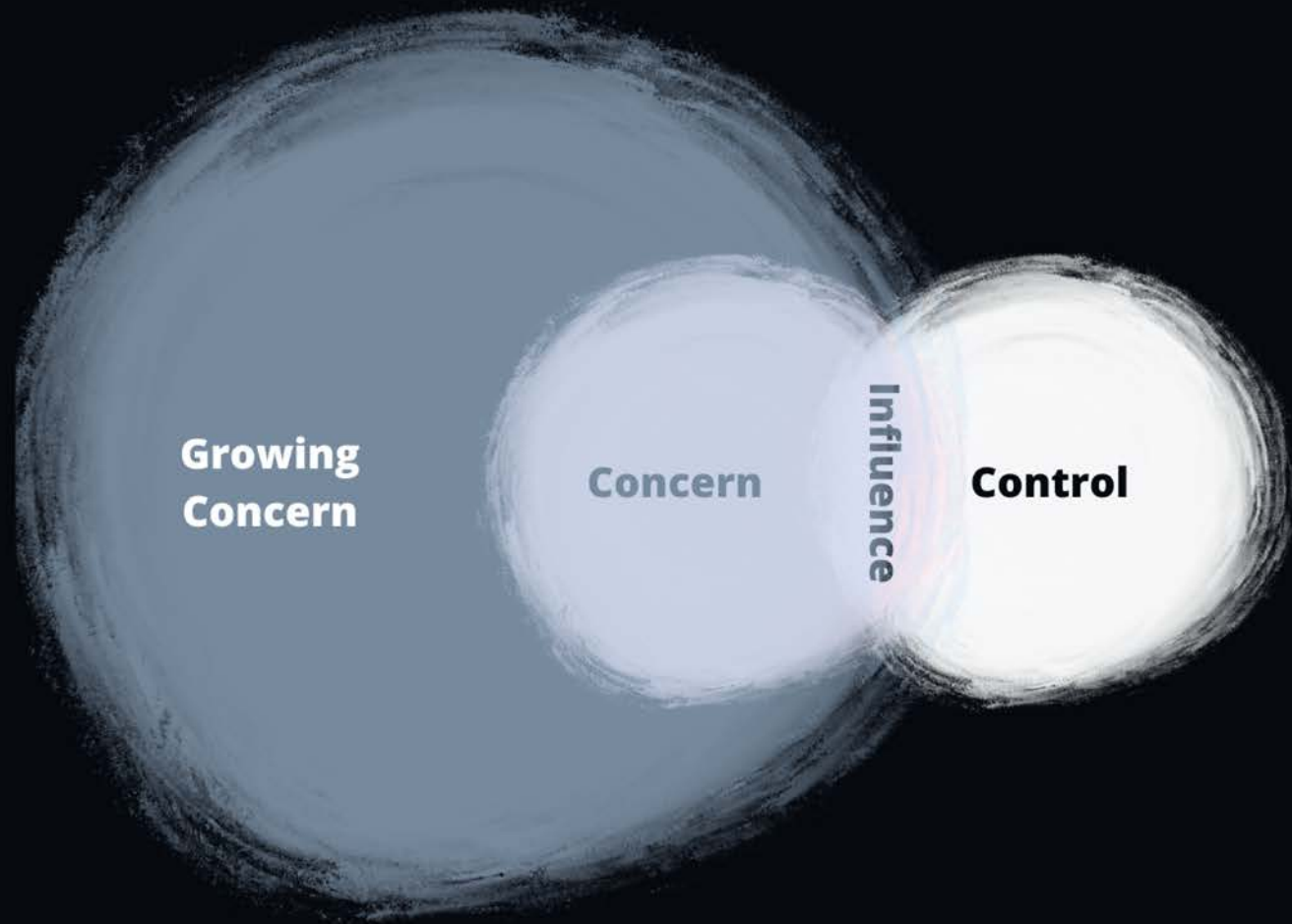
## News anxiety is nothing new – but it's on the rise

Fear and anxiety around the state of the world and possible future scenarios are not limited to the 21st century (even ancient texts tell tales of the end of the world or invaders from faraway places). The difference today is that our constant access to information, particularly news and opinions, means we can 'confirm' our fears with a quick online search or by opening our social media apps. In fact, **negative content gets twice as much engagement on social media than positive content.**

The psychological effects of excessive consumption of negative or threatening content can be serious, especially if you have preexisting mental health concerns such as depression or anxiety. **Feelings of fear, hopelessness, sadness and isolation are all associated with doomscrolling and news anxiety and, in extreme cases, the symptoms can mirror PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder).**

Consuming happy or calming content on the other hand can improve a person's outlook and make them more likely to perceive their own personal challenges in a more positive way.

The best way to reduce news anxiety sounds simple, but it can be tough to do in practice: stop reading bad news.





Little Hopes





- 1. What is the kernel of truth in desiring Control?**
- 2. How is wanting control harmful/unhelpful?**
- 3. How does the gospel tell a better story?**

## Matthew 14:22-33

<sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

# Matthew 14:22-33

<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

<sup>28</sup> “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

<sup>29</sup> “Come,” he said.

# Matthew 14:22-33

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

**Jesus is the one in control of the waves of  
life!**

# Gospel Application

What are some desires that we have that we have made them into goals to control?

# Gospel Application

What are some desires that we have that we have made them into goals to control?

How can you trust the one who is truly in control to help you with the things you want to control?