



**Empowering People to Change the World**

**The Road: Contending for the Kingdom of God on  
Earth**

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## **The Road: Contending for the Kingdom of God on Earth** ***Wisdom Gained Through Our Vision Sabbatical***

- Our vision sabbatical was a time to pray and think.
- God did a lot we didn't expect during this time. We encountered a lot of battles...
- During the vision sabbatical, I have read through most of the New Testament.
- I felt I needed to get a feel for the deep themes, passion, and movement of Jesus and the early church.
- Picking up on a few ideas from my study:

### **John 16:33**

#### **First, life is about tribulation.**

- Christian or not, life is very hard.
- Life is malevolent and full of pain.
- "Suffering and tribulation" is a big theme of the New Testament.

- Paul expected tribulation in every city he went to  
*Acts 20:23, "...the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me."*
- There are clearly demonic forces in the world, set up to take you out. Life is about conflict. Life is about tribulation.
- Happiness is never the goal in the Bible; happiness is never the goal of the disciple.
  - Happiness is not the goal, but being brave is all around every situation in the Gospel story.
  - Happiness is too low of a goal.
  - This life is not about happiness, but overcoming obstacles.
- But what gives tribulation meaning? Your goal in life is not success, but the development of your character.
- Paul wrote in Romans, *"...we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*  
(Romans 5:3-5)

- Charles Spurgeon, “Trials teach us what we are; they dig up the soil and let us see what we are made of.”
  - Jesus suffered for us because there was a greater meaning—our salvation.
  - We suffer, and it’s for the development of our soul—to be more like Christ.
  - Tribulation for doing the right thing always, always, always, advances the Kingdom of God. We may not see it, but it does.

Augustine once said, “Trials come to prove and improve us.”

- God is forming God in you! When you choose to love God and your neighbor, you are inviting tribulation! But it’s suffering with meaning. You are living for something more than your own happiness.
- You taking up your cross and following Christ! Jesus said, “If you seek to find your life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for My sake, you will find it.”

**So, on our sabbatical, God showed us that life is tribulation.**

As Moses is realizing that he will not be leading Israel into the promised land, the Lord speaks, *“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”* Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, *‘Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.’*” (Deuteronomy 31:6-8)

Second, be brave and overcome.

- When life serves up fear, that is the time to be brave!
  - Being brave is the adventure.
  - Life is taking on what you fear the most.
  - Being brave is taking on our fears, taking on challenges.
  - Being brave is not backing down to evil, malevolent forces.

Theodore Roosevelt once said,

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

- Life is conflict, and the adventure is facing problems, obstacles, and demonic forces with the power of God.
- Jesus never compliments the complacent, the happy, the satisfied, but rather challenges them to overcome.
- You say to yourself, “I don’t want this burden, these problems, this sacrifice. Well, who says you don’t want it?” You absolutely need to be occupied with weighty things, heavy issues. Your life becomes meaningful in proportion to the

depths of responsibilities you are willing to shoulder.

In the book of Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, Jesus exhorts the seven churches. The following is what He says to all of them:

- 1) Listen, take heed to My voice. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
  - 2) Repent of your sins.
  - 3) Be brave and overcome. There is a reward for those who overcome.
- Be brave and run to the roar of the lion! Don't cower; stand up for a meaningful life. Don't cower.

**Revelation 21:7-8, “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”**

**Matthew 16:18-19**

**Third, Jesus is building a Church that contends for the Kingdom.**

- When Jesus is the Senior Pastor, He builds His Church.
- When Jesus builds His Church, the gates of Satan cannot prevail!
- This is ripe with conflict and courage.
- Throughout history, the true Church has had to contend against evil in all kinds of forms.
- Jesus is building an overcoming Church!
  - We overcome and contend in prayer! We are called to be a “house of prayer!”
  - We overcome and contend in government mandates.
  - We overcome and contend in our schools.
  - We overcome and contend in our jobs.
  - We overcome and contend in our marriages.
  - We overcome and contend in government.
- We are kings and priests, worshippers and warriors!

**The Road in 2021-22 will contend for the Kingdom of God in Colorado Springs! We are at the epicenter of a new revolution!**



1. We will contend in worship and prayer! We have been given prayer mandates. I want to see us combine worship and prayer in our Noonday War Rooms, Elijah Fire Prayer, and other prayer groups that will be created. I can envision more prayer in our main services.

- Kingdom of God Revolution Burn for Saturday, August 28. More to come on this.

2. We will contend in building disciples. Matthew 28:19, *“Go and make disciples of all nations...”* We are called to disciple our city. We will develop ministries in the Mountains of Culture, Spheres of Influence and will raise up key leaders for these areas.

- Kingdom of God Ministry of Health
- Kingdom of God Ministry in the Government

3. We will contend in planting House Churches. With growing animosity toward the Church and the power of small groups, we should emphasize 242 Community Groups this fall.

4. We will contend in building up our men. Let us pray for all men at The Road to attend “Wholeheart Advance” and for continuing to

develop “Wholehearted Men” on Tuesday mornings.

From this conference, our prayer should be that many men will come away ready to step into the adventure of starting 242 Community Groups, getting involved in prayer and worship, and strengthening their marriages.