

Thrive, Not Survive

(Transcript of audio recording of his teaching)

[The identity of Jose's friends was purposely eliminated from this transcript for their privacy]

Quite some time ago, a very close friend – of Croatian heritage, born in Australia – had an encounter where he was led in the Spirit by God, for this to be brought to his attention. God was revealing to him that he is not to survive, he's not to be in survival mode. As a son, he needs to be thriving. So not surviving, but thriving. He then shared that with me, and then we ended up going to Koorong over in Fyshwick to the bookstore. He just shared this thing with me, maybe a day or two before, that same week. And we were going to the bookshop, and we were walking around, and as he and I have done many times, we walked through that bookstore. Many, many, many times we are led to a specific book on a particular topic that God is trying to let us know about or get our attention on. So I saw him walk past the bookshelf, and there's a book about not surviving but thriving. So he ended up buying the book. God was dealing with him, but He still got my attention as well.

Sometime has gone by, and this is now about over a month ago, and it was probably around 5 o'clock in the morning, and Jesus walked into my room. He whispered in my ear and said, "Survival is sin", and then Jesus left. "Survival is sin", and my immediate response was, "But I thought we're supposed to survive. We're supposed to overcome all this stuff that's coming against us, and we need to survive it and rise above it and fight it and overcome it". That was my immediate response, and then I kept meditating on it, and I started assessing myself.

And because it was the days and weeks leading to packing and moving¹ and getting ready to leave and organizing the cleaning of that house, I was having late nights because I was still working full-time from home. And I'm not eating properly, I'm not sleeping comfortably, and I've got things on my mind that I need to deal with, and so on. And so I got all my multi-vitamins and supplements, and whatever, and I'm going, "Okay. So I'm just going to take these things because I don't want to get sick, I don't want to get run down, I don't want to get burnt out. I'm trying to survive this transition period now, so I'm going to supplement so that I keep my immune system strong, and I'm getting minerals and vitamins, not from food but from supplements".

So that's what was taking place just before Jesus walked into my room and said, "Survival is sin". So then I did my house-hunting, and then I came here, and I was on the phone with another of my friends. And so I told him what Jesus said to me when He whispered in my ear that survival is sin. And he said on the phone back to me, "Yes, because we're not meant to be surviving. We're meant to be thriving". How did he know that? So I came down here and I said to Laurence, "This is what just happened last night while I was on the phone to my friend", and I shared what I've just shared with you guys, and then he said this to me on the phone. And then Laurence said to me, "Well, this is what I got from God". It was again the same thing, about not surviving but thriving. So I get confirmation through Laurence, I get confirmation through one friend, and I get confirmation through the book, and I've got confirmation through my other friend.

And then Ruth² and I were also talking about how I need to get a bed. I never, ever bought a bed for myself, and I've always had fairly crappy beds, and it's never been really that important. But in all this transitioning, I'm finding I'm not sleeping, I'm not resting, and when I came here³, well this bed was really lovely compared to what I've been sleeping on. So three times as well the Lord brought it to my attention that I need to get a proper bed, using Ruth, and then using my two friends as well. So, I saw that particular thing as not just being in survival mode, but thriving, and that God can provide just like He's provided the apartment for me to live in.

1 – Jose had to move out of his house because his lease had terminated.

2 – Laurence's wife

3 – Jose stayed with us for a week until his new house was shown to him by the Spirit (in a dream)

So, I've been meditating on it some more, and I realise now that the Sons of God need to operate in certain ways: That when others are looking at them, what they see is, they don't see someone struggling, trying to fight things or deal with stuff or stressed out or feeling overwhelmed or, "I can't really do everything, or what I need to do". Like, you're just in a constant struggle.

What they should see in mature sons, because we're in a process of maturity, is they should see us thriving because we are the head and not the tail. Along with that, there is something that Laurence played a week or two back from Mike Parsons⁴. As I've been meditating on surviving and thriving, I've been getting in my spirit. "One puts a thousand to flight, but two puts ten thousand to flight".

This morning, Ruth shared this: She got a dream about marrying Laurence and that the two coming together, God wants to use that. And then me hearing that video about Samsung is trying to come up with a phone, Apple is trying to come up with a phone, Nokia is trying to come up with a phone – they're all competing with each other. They're all competing to have the best phone, but they're competing against each other, not with each other, to produce the best phone.

And what Mike Parsons was saying, that in the Kingdom, it should not be like that. The Kingdom should work in such a way that two are putting ten thousand to flight, and three are putting – you know, whatever the multiplication or the exponential figure is for that. So, if you are doing Samsung and I'm doing Apple and he's doing Nokia and someone is doing Ericsson phones, we all come together as brothers in the Kingdom, or sisters in the Kingdom, and we say, "How do we come up with the best phone?" So your phone may be really good in terms of the operating system, and the other one might be the user interface, and the other one might be the shape of the phone. So, we're all combining all of our strengths into producing the best phone. And so that's a very Kingdom thing, and it's a different mindset, and it's a much bigger thing.

So God also took us through some teaching that I shared with Laurence about finite games and infinite games.⁵ So, yesterday I started looking into this topic of surviving and thriving because Laurence asked me to share today, and I came across this, and so I will just read some of it. So the topic is "Time for a Paradigm Shift in Business, from Surviving to Thriving"⁶ and it starts with:

"Fight or flight. Survival of the fittest. Competing. Winning. The art of war. Only the paranoid survive. This fight and survive consciousness is in our DNA and has been the underlying paradigm for business in the 20th century and continues to this day. We learn to start behaving this way at a very early age — competing to get the best grades, to get into the best schools, the best jobs, the best promotions, and so on.

Survival is paramount. You can't do anything if you don't survive. Your business won't achieve anything or solve any problems if it doesn't survive. Survival is hard wired into our animal brains, it's instinct and comes from us having learned to survive from the earliest days of our species.

There is also something primal about competition. It can be a strong motivator and source of drive. The best competitors fiercely bring out the best in each other. They push each other beyond any limits they thought possible...

While I've lived and breathed the above throughout my career, I'm now starting to see a few issues with this mindset. One argument against the survival and compete paradigm has been beautifully laid out in the book 'The Infinite Game' by Simon Sinek. Unlike sports or (most) wars that are finite games, things like business, careers, marriage and life are infinite games. While you may beat out other candidates for a job, there is no winner of careers. There is no winner of marriages. No matter how successful one may be in life, no one is declared the winner of life when they die. The same applies to business. "All these things are journeys, not events. Infinite games have infinite time horizons. And because there is no finish line, no practical end to the game, there is no such thing as winning in an

4 – freedomarc.org

5 – "The Infinite Game that is the Kingdom"

canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/The-Infinite-Game-that-is-the-Kingdom.pdf

6 – By 'Amit' (12-3-????) "Time for a Paradigm Shift in Business — from Surviving to Thriving"
medium.com/@athakar/thrive-vs-survive-paradigm-c6858d598226

infinite game. In an infinite game, the primary objective is to keep playing, to perpetuate the game." The trouble begins "when we lead with a finite mindset in an infinite game, it leads to all kinds of problems, the most common of which include the decline of trust, cooperation and innovation. Leading with an infinite mindset in an infinite game, in contrast, really does move us in a better direction." ...

Acute stress can be a good thing. Chronic stress is not."

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I was saying to Laurence a few days back, when I was talking to my friend in that same conversation, when he said, "We're not supposed to be surviving. We're supposed to be thriving". He said, "We need to go through necessary pain, if God leads us into it. But we do not need to be entering into unnecessary pain, getting into stuff we're not supposed to because we haven't been led by God into it". But, those things that we need to go through and learn is for us to be able to thrive. It's preparation, it's training, it's us becoming mature and understanding and getting wisdom and being trained and taught by God so that we can thrive as Sons.

So acute stress in trying to learn something or develop a new mindset or a new habit, is a good thing. But if we are just always struggling and under chronic stress, then that's not really operating as a Son who thrives in the Kingdom of God. So that's what I have at the moment to share and teach on surviving and thriving.

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