

The Infinite Game that is the Kingdom

Are you playing the ‘finite game’ or the ‘infinite game’?

What’s an ‘infinite game’? Taken from computer gaming, that’s being involved in an undertaking that has no end in the medium, short or long term, which is easily achievable. It’s one where the events, those involved and its interactions are fluidly dynamic. It’s equivalent of being in a situation where you have no overall control and no idea of where things are going.

This is what the Kingdom is like. Our involvement and our life in the Kingdom is like a pawn on a chessboard – we can’t see the big picture and we are moved by circumstances outside of our control. Sure, we have some theological inkling of the end, but when and how is not understood. Even if we are confident that we know everything because of our study of the Bible, we are still clueless.

We are in the Kingdom’s ‘infinite game’ of “The Clash of Kingdoms”. So we need to learn to play the ‘game’ and not allow our secular or Christian prowess to get in the way because these will neutralize any success we might be able to achieve.

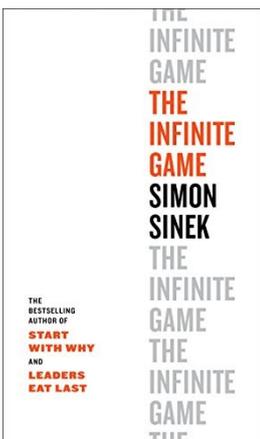
IMPORTANT: Playing the infinite game is the only thing that matters, according to business guru Simon Sinek.¹

Simon writes: “How can we win a game that has no end?”

The simple answer is we can’t. However, that’s exactly what so many companies are trying to do. The problem is, there is no such thing as “winning business”. In a game with no finish line and no agreed upon rules or metrics it is impossible to "be number one", "be the best" or "beat our competition". In this Infinite Game, there is only ahead and behind. Leaders of organisations must understand the rules of the Infinite Game. Failure to do so dramatically increases the chance that they will set themselves on a path that eventually drains them of the will and resources to play at all. Eventually they will drop out of the game and no one will care. Their competition will just keep playing without them.”²



“Trying to play an infinite game with a finite mindset can be catastrophic.”³



“On one hand, none of us can resist the fleeting thrills of a promotion earned or a tournament won, yet these rewards fade quickly. In pursuit of a Just Cause, we will commit to a vision of a future world so appealing that we will build it week after week, month after month, year after year. Although we do not know the exact form this world will take, working toward it gives our work and our life meaning.”⁴

“The leaders who embrace an infinite mindset, in stark contrast, build stronger, more innovative, more inspiring organizations. Their people trust each other and their leaders. They have the resilience to thrive in an ever-changing world, while their competitors fall by the wayside. Ultimately, they are the ones who lead the rest of us into the future.”⁵

1 – Simon Sinek (2017) “The Infinite Game: How Great Businesses Achieve Long-lasting Success”

2 – QUOTE: Simon Sinek www.thegrowthfaculty.com/event.php?eventId=a1J4G0000BHXvs&promoCode=Vmail&utm_source=VirginAus&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=Aus#agenda

3 – kissly.net/book/3028678C7F2B6A7C33F4?utm_source=ps55&utm_medium=pyxojekaqyhy.gq&utm_campaign=fnom&x=11216976

4 – Book Review www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/547570/the-infinite-game-by-simon-sinek

5 – Notes: soundcloud.com/penguin-audio/the-infinite-game-by-simon

Do you see any Kingdom strategies in Simon's business statements above?

I repeat: **Playing the Kingdom's infinite game is the only thing that matters**

If we attempt to undertake our Kingdom assignments and fulfil our Kingdom responsibilities using our experiences of life in the world system we will fail miserably. This is why so many Christian leaders crash and burn. They treat what they call their "ministry" as a business and add religious or spiritual flavour to it so that God will be pleased with them and bless it. That doesn't work.

Why do so many missionaries give up? It's the same as 'the failed minister/pastor' syndrome – it's caused by the wrong mindset.

We are in an infinite battle, one that keeps going until Father brings it to an end, when he's ready. If we don't see it like this, with an ultra-long-term ending, we will look for immediate or short-term success. This is a futile attitude and one that causes us to give up because success is not measured by our standard, but by Heaven's metric.

When we give in or give up, the enemy takes ground and advances his kingdom. We have to stay the course (but not just so we can go to Heaven) so that everything we do expands the Kingdom or lays a foundation for future Kingdom expansion.

This is the 'infinite game' we are in, so change your attitude and your work ethic.

RESOURCE

- Listen to a short sample audio of Simon's book⁶

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1-10-2019

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6 – soundcloud.com/penguin-audio/the-infinite-game-by-simon [4:08]