

# THE Best IS YET TO COME

## The Infinite-Minded Christian

Pastor Lyle Tard

*He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."*

Genesis 15:5 (NIV)

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Is it okay for me to end the week by trying to intro a recording the way Pastor Mark might? Let's give it a shot.

In 1987, James P. Carse, an American academic and Professor Emeritus of history and literature of religion at New York University, wrote a book called *Finite and Infinite Games*. In the book, Carse argues that people in our world are playing one of two games. In one game, people live life in terms of wins and losses, a means to an end. Within the other game, people live life with the horizon as their limits, a boundaryless existence where the game simply continues. According to Carse, the former is a finite game, the latter is an infinite game.

What if Abraham, in Genesis 15:5, stays in the tent satisfied with the 8-foot ceiling? Does he ever become the father of many nations if he doesn't take what Pastor Mark often calls "a two-foot field trip?" On that field trip, Abraham changes teams and starts playing a different game. Carse, who passed away a little over a year ago at the time of this recording, might have said that's when Abraham started playing the infinite game.

In essence, we can wrap up what it means to dream big, pray hard, and think long by looking at Genesis 15. Abraham heard the voice of God, stepped out of the tent, looked up, and started to imagine what it would be like to actually fathom the words of God to be true as he started to attempt to count the stars. Then Abraham believed God. Abraham believed that the best was yet to come in the face of insurmountable odds. He and his wife were much too old to bear children, plus, his wife didn't have the capacity to bear a child, or so they thought. The Best is Yet to Come

is less about our current circumstances and much more about us believing what God has declared over our lives and taking the necessary steps to live out that belief.

Those who play the finite game of life look at what they can control and attempt to manipulate things to their favor so that whatever they are controlling can be mastered by them. They also count wins and losses by seeing their life as good or bad. Those who play the infinite game of life take what is in front of them and find ways to maximize their opportunity and potential, not to bring honor and glory to themselves, but to keep opportunity and potential going far beyond their life span. They count it **all** joy. To do this, we must dream bigger than ourselves, pray harder than we ever have, and think longer than our eyes can see or our minds can count. We must become infinite-minded Christians. Simon Sinek wrote a book inspired by Carse's findings in 2019 titled *The Infinite Game*. Sinek might say that one cannot win Christianity. Christianity is an Infinite Game.

As we close this week out, I'd like to offer some practical takeaways on how to dream bigger, pray harder, and think longer by walking out your life as an infinite-minded Christian

**Live for what you are for** - If you are motivated to live life based on what you are against, you might be dreaming too small and playing a finite game. Instead, create motivation from what you are for to propel your why for living.

**Make forgiveness your reflex** - Harboring unforgiveness places finite limits on you and the person you aren't forgiving. Praying hard can be praying with more passion or it could be praying for hard things. Try a very short prayer each day this weekend for someone who really bothers you. Eventually, it will become a habit.

**Make Heaven on Earth your goal** - Make the question "is what I'm doing bringing heaven to earth?" a guiding principle for the thoughts you think and the choices you make. Remember that inspiring your friends, family, and social networks to raise up others to lead a courageous life in Jesus lasts beyond you.

Keep these in mind, put them into practice, and you'll start to see that the Best is Yet to Come, in Jesus name - Amen.

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*How will you incorporate the principles of dreaming big, thinking long, and praying hard into your life?*