

Knights of the 21st Century

Trail 15

Gentlemen, welcome back. Trail 15. It's hard to believe we're here already, isn't it? I got thinking about this whole journey we're on and I got thinking about some things I've asked of you and asked of me to become as Knights of the 21st Century and we stated talking about what would it be like if you and I were to move from where we are and start to move forward and so what I want us to think about is what would it be like if we were to – remember that map that we did. And on that map it had an X and you would hit that point on the map. Remember that one? Well that's sort of where I want us to start. I want us to start by thinking, alright I have to get from here to there. Now that actually seems sort of daunting, doesn't it? What if I miss the point? What if I can't find it? Roy and I got talking about this and he was telling me that trying to find the X is like looking at one side of the coin which is sort of where you and I have our inner voice. It's kind of calling us to try to find that X. It's what we're made to be, what we're made to do, but the pressure of what if I blow it, I only get one shot at life. Well Roy was telling me and it's a great illustration. On the other side of the coin is the God of the universe is at the X. The God of the universe is suddenly saying I am here. I'll meet you at the X. What if God were to be

revealed from His point of view for Him saying let's enter into this relationship? What if God's standing on the X, your X, to meet you? It will suddenly change how you view life. Not only is there an X for you to find but on the other side of the coin there is a God drawing you to the X. The pressure sort of tends to come off, doesn't it? You know I think that we are, we can be so much larger than life. I think that so often when we connect with God, you as men become larger than life. I, I really actually believe that when we get to this particular point, this trail, this particular journey will free you up to say, okay I can inspire. I can do things I never dreamed I could do before. I can begin the process of doing what I was designed to do at the highest level because I am joining what God's doing.

So here, let's consider being bigger than life. Let me read you this statement to go with that concept. A knight's calling is an abstract part of his life serving, as a centering point around which his life is lived. This is the desire, right? We want to get to the X. But God meets us and He says I'm going to give you a calling. The calling is what I place inside of you that's the inner voice from our side of the coin. This is what I've been – I have this sense this is something – I have something to do, but on the other side of the coin is God like a magnet drawing us to himself. And when we're drawn to himself, when we're drawn to who God is as we arrive

there, we're going to arrive on our design too. It gets pretty exciting. So the issues that we want to look at is that discovery.

If you've ever seen the movie "Iron Man", where Iron Man is this kind of this fictional comic book character who has gone through a series of events in his life that have changed how he views life. And for the most part, he was an eat, drink and be merry guy, Tony Stark before he had the opportunity to have his life changed by an experience that caused him to say I think I know what my X is. I think I know what I'm all about and suddenly he finds out what's important. One man sacrifices his life for him. He makes a dramatic rescue by creating something that he's good at doing. Part of his inner voice, part of that which he's called to do, but out of this thing that he creates, it changes how he views life. And in changing how he views life, something begins to dramatically happen.

I want you to think about this particular scene in the movie "Iron Man". He's safely now back in the United States, safely now back. He's with his company. He's safely now back in an area that allows him the opportunity and the freedom that's his to say, you know what, I can create something that can be for the good of man. So what you watch is him creating this Iron Man suit. It's like a modern day suit of armor. It's impenetrable to weapons. It has all kinds of moving parts. It has all kinds of computer capabilities and as you watch, as he starts to test through everything, it's a cool man

experience. All the parts are moving and it looks powerful and impressive and he takes it off and instead of impatiently trying and trying again, after a few attempts he decides he's going to go fly. And he almost loses control because he gets too much ice on his suit and almost crashes to earth. But the whole experience is him pushing it to the edge to find out what he can be in light of what he's designed, where he's been able to go. Now Tony Stark is the creator of Iron Man but at the end of the scene when he comes crashing back through his house and lands on top of one of his cars and the scene all kind of comes to the end there as he gets the fire extinguisher blown on him, we stop, we look at Tony Stark and we go, okay, there's something that's happened in Tony Stark that's different. He's finally figured out that he has a true X as opposed to the eat, drink and be merry X, the senselessness of the spandex male. He also has the opportunity to be the creator of this. Now that's where it gets broken down a little bit, because you have a creator. I have a creator and He's calling us to Him.

I want you to walk through with me this whole nature of the calling and two other parts of the growth of a knight that get pretty spectacular actually as we start to work this through. Roman numeral one. The warrior's calling can be seen and understood. Guys, just so you know, you can see, in essence, see your calling and understand it. Here's what it is. Number one. The call is a life

theme or a mission statement that is the basis for making wise decisions. It's a life theme. It's a mission statement that you are sort of discovering. Now where did the life theme come from? Well it comes from the other side of the coin, right? God's drawing you to the X and what you're discovering as you're doing life, is you're discovering what He already knows and all of a sudden these things start to rise up in you. Now if I ask you, now this is where I want you to just enjoy just a moment, think about what centers you. What is it that causes you when turmoil is all around, when you kind of go to your place that all of a sudden you settle down. Is it in your ability to do something mechanical? Is it rooted in a way that you think? Is it rooted in an experience from the past? What is it that kind of centers you, so instead of you just running around going like a crazy man, you begin to say, I, I'm, I feel like this is narrowing in. I think I know what I'm supposed to be doing. That's centering. As you find those areas, there's a couple things that center me. My family always is involved in centering me. That's really big for me. My inner voice that causes me to love to do what we're doing this very moment, you and I talking, is part of what I love to have part of my existence. There's a centering that sort of comes. I come alive at that point. There are certain things that cause me to go, oh that's real healthy to know where I am moving. Now where do you think that comes from? Where do you think that sweet spot comes from?

Where do you think that centering comes from, that life theme, that mission statement? Well it comes from a God who is calling us to Himself.

Look at number two. The call is a life map that provides a plan of action and determines his future. You see the call is the same as we've been talking about. It is a life map. It's a life map that's going to pull you. Now the only thing we're talking about differently is your inner voice is what you're discovering about that map. It's putting all the pieces together. The call is like the magnet of God that's pulling you to the X. Now how do you lose track of the X? Well lose sense of your calling. You lose sense of who He is. You stop believing that He can pull you to Himself. It is not self-discovery, guys. We're not talking about that. We're not talking about you and I just figuring us out. Like Tony Stark, well I'm now supposed to be Iron Man, I'll build the suit. You're actually discovering that I'm this man who is moving forward, moving towards something that I was designed, there's a designer to be, and in that is a tremendous amount of freedom.

Look at number three. The call guides his perspective and dreams of becoming an inspiration within the larger forest. Underline that word, dreams. The call guides his perspective and dreams of becoming an inspiration within the larger forest. It's what allows you to now say, oh, I get it. I get about what I'm about and you don't

get distracted by everybody else. One of the guys that works with me at Knights of the 21st Century is a guy by the name of Floyd and actually Floyd runs what we for the most part do with about twelve hundred guys at LCBC, when he's sort of our COO guy. And now he, he sent me this thing by John Maxwell. John Maxwell is a very good writer on leadership issues and it's about this article about some monkeys. Now you send me something on monkeys, I'm going to read it. Just, I don't read a lot, monkeys, you got my attention. It's about three monkeys that are placed in this area, this caged in area, and there's a pole and at the top of the pole are bananas. Monkeys love bananas, so the monkeys are placed in this room. They come scurrying up the pole and grab the bananas. However, when they get to the bananas, a cannon of water is shot at them almost knocking them off. They don't really enjoy getting sprayed by this cannon of water so they scurry back down the pole. And one by one the monkeys will try and one by one the cannon will go off and after awhile, no matter how many bananas you put up there, the monkeys won't climb the pole. The interesting part of the experiment was, however, is that one of the monkeys was taken out and a new monkey was placed in there and as soon as that new monkey got in there, he goes, wow, big pole, bananas. I think I'm going to climb up to the top of the bananas here at the pole and get the bananas and as he starts to climb up, everybody knows what's going to happen,

right? Here comes the water, Uh-huh. Before he gets to the top of the pole, guess what happens? The other monkeys pulled him down. What's interesting is the water cannon was actually turned off. He would never have been hit by the water cannon but the other monkeys were so afraid for him, their dream shattering experiences. The failure of them to find their call that they pulled them down and one by one, no matter how many monkeys they added, as long as there were monkeys in there that believed that at the top of the pole there was a water cannon, the rest of them would be keeping them from getting there. That's so often true for you, right? God has a call for you, but somebody in your life has had their dreams shattered. Somebody in your life has had things not work, so they keep pulling you down the pole. God is pulling you in. You don't believe you can get there. You're just like being told by another monkey that you can't get to the top of the pole and get what you want. Guess what? The God of the universe is calling you not to what you want but what you were designed to be which is even better.

Look at the next one to help you understand this. Number four. The call clarifies the need around him, the needs around him which must be met. The call is always about others so it's going to clarify a need. It's going to clarify the needs around you that must be met. It's a clarifying thing. Remember, warrior. Clarity of the

knight. When the call is pulling you in, you're going to become very much aware of things that need to take place, what needs to happen. I'll give you an example. The idea to protect the hearts of every woman does not mean you control a woman. It means you protect. You make her feel valued, of great worth and that when you're around you don't use and destroy that value. You enhance it and build it, right? For years I did not see that need and so as I wandered about, even though God is calling me my inner voice was being ignored and I wasn't finding that magnetic pull. I wasn't looking for the one side of the coin and I wasn't listening to God pull me on the other side. Guys you're going to discover what needs are, what true, true needs are and you've got to find fulfillment in those. Trust me. Protecting the heart of a woman is one of the most fulfilling things I do. Oh my goodness, I so come alive doing that. It's part of the call, the pull of who you and I are. There's a lot of things that are general like that and some that are very specific to you or to me.

Look at number six, or five, I guess it is. Look at number five. The call exemplifies his unique potential and strength. The call exemplifies what is unique to me so not only do I realize that there are needs and that I'm going to be clear about those needs. I also realize that I have a unique part of my call. So just so you know, there are multiple X's out there. God is on each one. There's where

He's calling us to do. My X is different than your X. My treasure that I'll find at the X, the fulfillment of who I am is going to be different from yours. That's what I love about God. We're unique. We're not the same, so enjoy the fact that the call of God will feel the same in our lives but will be at different points. It will feel like God is drawing me. This is what the soul is all about. If you're not connected to God, your spirit isn't alive right now. You're just, you haven't come alive in Christ and so the part of you that connects you deep into the heart of God is not alive. Your soul is still very active, still pulling you to God. It's what He uses you. So the call is and right now it's not really to discover your inner voice, although that would be awesome, it's just to discover Him. It's when you discover Him that you'll discover your inner voice. It's when you'll see him that it will begin to make sense.

Look at number six. The call supports his life's highest values of hope, peace, kindness, gentleness and love. It's interesting is we use those terms, your highest values. I love the term seeking the highest good in another individual is a great definition of love. When it talks about these issues, peace, and hope and love and those things that are there, these high values, these are the heart of God. These are the values of God. As a matter of fact, we asked you to have principles as we walked through the Man of Steel a couple of trails ago. We want you to have principles and those principles drive

you to these values. Your calling will be inconsistent, will be consistent with those values.

That takes us to number seven and this is so freeing when you get it and that is this. The call is a gift from God. The call is a gift from God to you. You see that gift in Christ who comes and dies in your place so you can connect to God. You see it in God saying, I love you so much that I'm willing to give you my son. You see it in the fact that He says, I want you to know that I consider you of such worth that I have a design for your life. It is my gift. I don't know whether you've ever thought about this, but God has given you a gift, internally within you, drawing you to Him. It is so freeing. It will cause you to say, I've come alive. Now I will tell you, His great gift to all mankind of Christ's death, burial and resurrection, defeating death and saying come alive in me, is that gift that opens up all the clarity of the gifts within you and therefore you helping other people arrive within the gifts within them. What a great, great gift that God gives us that allows us to understand it.

I have a gift in my life. Um, if you look on your sheet, you're going to find the words Knightly News. Knightly News right here, obviously is always a story from a guy in the Bible. This is actually the shortest one I'll do. It's only like one verse. Two verses with him. It's like Thaddeus that we did a long time ago. There's not much written about this particular guy, but he's huge. Jesus Christ

doesn't exist without this guy. His name is Seth. When Adam was created and then Eve was created and then they were married and then they let sin enter the world, when they conceived children, they conceived a child by the name of Cain and a child by the name of Abel. We already talked about Abel. Cain killed Abel. Cain then is expelled. God won't work through Cain anymore. Cain wants to be somebody who will not respond to the call of God, but rather his own desires, his own spandex world. So Adam and Eve conceive another child. His name is Seth. His name actually means appointed by God. Out of Seth, if you follow the lineage of Jesus, the line that leads to Jesus' earthy father, even though God the Father is his father, his earthy father Joseph comes right through Seth. The line of Jesus to Mary comes right through Seth. Seth is where God will build towards Christ. He's the appointed one, the called one. I have a son. My youngest is named Seth. Seth is the glue of our family. He is an unbelievably gifted kid. He's the only National Honor Society student we have. All the rest of our guys, the closet we ever get to National Honor is yes your Honor, no your Honor, please don't put me in jail, your Honor. He's National Honor Society guy. He's on music honor society. He's in every level. He is a musician. He is an amazingly gifted actor. He was a lead in the school musical this year. I mean, he just is, is just so much fun to be around. We have as you know, four sons, Joshua, Joel and then

what we called for the longest times, whoops and oops. Yep, we were surprised by those kids. Yep, I'll tell you, we didn't know they were coming. Caleb whoops is twenty years old, battling brain cancer. Oops Seth is seventeen years old and while everybody was battling through the issues with Caleb, Seth was the clue that made sure that everybody was okay. Do you know that when I leave the house out of all my sons, and I have some amazing sons, out of all my sons, the one that checks on Lynn's heart all the time is Seth. He makes sure his mom's okay. My boys know at the age of thirteen they go to their mother and say, you're job is not to take care of me. It's my job now to take care of you. It's to teach them how to care for a woman instead of being cared for and so Seth is a master of that. He's the appointed one, called of God in our family to do some unique things. It's so cool to watch him heading towards his X, what he is designed to be by God. Seth in the Bible was an appointed one of God to great things. I want to encourage you. That's what calling is about. That's what this whole area is. Now there's another part when you grab calling, when you understand it that God can take you to the next level.

Let's look at that. It's Roman numeral number two. Roman numeral two. The warrior's calling pushes him towards a higher level of living known as the transparent stage. The transparent stage. Now this is the only time we're going to talk about this all year. As

you get a little bit further into Oracle and some of the other areas, we sort of unpack this a little bit more. But the transparent stage is the part of man that's the miraculous. On your way to the X you start to become able to do things more than you thought you were able to do. You're able to accomplish things you never dreamed of. You can step out of your comfort zone and do the miraculous and I don't just mean the emergency thing where a car is upside down and you get an excellent, amazing strength and lifts it up. Yeah, that's sort of it in a very tiny way. This is where you get to enter the world and make such a huge difference that you never dreamed you could possibly do that. The transparent stage. Now well' tell you a lot about that stage, but suffice it to say, you don't live in it. You just experience it along the way. It is the knight at the highest way we can see him here on earth.

Look at number one underneath this transparent stage. Transparency is temporary due to its miraculous nature. Transparency is going to be for a season, for a short time period. Just because it is by its very nature requiring a tremendous amount of energy, tremendous amount of, in essence, non-support. Do you remember when I talked to you guys about moving forward from falling to fleeing to standing to advancing. Every time you enter the transparent stage, you're advancing. Not every time you advance do you enter the transparent stage. You and I can do wonderful

causes and do wonderful things advancing forward but when you enter the transparent stage, you enter it alone. You're not standing with a group of guys, you're entering this place and you're doing some things miraculous. Christ shows us the miraculous. We think of that with different things He did physically here on earth both with illness and nature and great amazing strengths. Throughout the Bible, you'll see all kinds of moments like this. I don't want us to get too confused however by saying it's miraculous and supernatural, but miraculous beyond what you're comfortable with, miraculous in what you would normally not do. You see I believe a knight, as with all this gear, all of this armor that he has, all of this stuff that he has, is designed to do something. I think he's designed for capacity beyond you and me. That's why the clarity of the knight is to take you towards your calling, your inner voice locking in and then you get on that way, do some things at the transparent level.

Look at number two and get a little bit more clarity to this. Transparency feels like a larger risk because the knight is moving beyond what he knows, beyond what he knows. You want to get uncomfortable, get outside of the things you know. It's funny, I was telling you about going to Talladega and racing NASCARs. The guys I went with were actually more nervous about it because they knew what we were going to do. I was this naïve guy, got there, go cool, we're driving racecars, you know. I was just didn't have that build

up of tension and as a result of that, I had probably, I didn't have any more fun than the rest of the guys, but certainly as much fun as the rest of the guys because I was just able to do this. I didn't know about it ahead of time and I never even thought about was it dangerous or not. It was just great. I think that sometimes you need to understand that you're about to move beyond that which you know, that which you're confident of. You don't necessarily even know the trail back in. It would be like if you were to orienteer where you were about to go into a mountain that had no trails and you had no idea where you were going and therefore no idea how you were going to get back out. If you were to take that action, you're sort of beyond what you know. Now you have equipment to help you understand how to orienteer. You have some skills, but you're actually moving now beyond anything that you know, beyond the known. There's no map for this. You're in a discovery mode at least for you. No one before you has walked down this road. Nobody has done what you're about to do that you have been learning from. This is outside of your realm of learning. Transparent stage is really cool. You say how do I get there. Actually to be honest with you, you don't. You just keep heading for the X and at different moments you'll be amazed that the calling of God will stir your heart to take an action beyond yourself.

Look at number three. Transparency requires faith and the courage to step into the unknown – underling the word unknown – in order to meet the needs of others. Transparency requires faith and it's going to require courage to step into the unknown because what you're about to do is you're going to meet the needs of others.

Winston Churchill is not a warrior, just so you know and yet when you think of the Second World War, you think of Winston Churchill. Winston Churchill was a man who realized the incredible importance of words. In a time in history when you didn't have TV for the most part, all you had was at best radio, and what happened is by words he'd have to encourage the nation, by words he'd have to find allies to join England in the fight against the rise of the Third Reich. In the journey of this great man, he realized that for such a time as this, such a moment as this, he was about to move into the unknown but he would move into it with courage because the one thing he was good at – now remember now, if you're following God and you're moving the way God wants you to, and I don't want, please don't misunderstand, I can't speak into the spiritual character of Winston Churchill. I can simply tell you that he moved into his strength. Do you know what his strength was? It was communicating. It was the ability to use words to change the world as we know it. You want to hear words. Some of the most inspiring words you'll ever hear are going to be on the screen. These are

from Winston Churchill. He says this: A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures and that is the basis of all human morality. That statement is profound. That statement says you want to know the moral heart of a man, you watch him do what he must do that is hard and scary and unknown, no matter what's in front of him because he knows the importance of what he's doing. Morality rooted in that. What a powerful, powerful call up and as a result of that, men liked Winston Churchill. A man like Hitler is defeated. I think sometimes at just such a moment they do miraculous things, Knights of the 21st Century. They do miraculous things, men of history. They do miraculous things, men like Seth of the Old Testament. They do miraculous things, even heroes that we have on the movies like Tony Stark in Iron Man. They do it for such a moment as this. Where does the morality of the world come from? It comes from a God who speaks into the hearts of men, like you and me and we do things way beyond what we thought we could do. That's knighthood, one of the most exciting parts of who we are.

One more thing I want you to look at in light of this. Number four. Transparency brings about permanent change to the core. Underline that word, permanent. Transparency brings about permanent change to the core. Gentlemen, on your dog tags is your core, your body, your soul, your spirit, your mind, your self, your

shadow. Whenever you enter into the world of transparency, your core goes with you and your core will never quite see things the same way again. Your mind will see differently, your body will know something differently about what it's able to do. Your shadow will have been handled in a clearer way than its ever been handled before. Your soul will have come alive almost like it's burning within you and your spirit will have such clarity. The choices you make along the way as your self makes decisions, wow, your core will never quite be the same.

Look at the next one. Transparency, number five, demonstrates a raw vulnerability which offers no guaranty of success. Just so you understand this. No guaranty of success. It means that you are so out here, you are so moving in and onto the edge that you might not get back. There are men at a transparent level who die in their act of transparency, in their act of bravery. As you know that about yourselves guys, it isn't ever about you. It's those who are behind you and it allows you to understand that I might now win this one. I – this is so hard for me to say this to you. You got to get out of the win-win mentality. You have to get into this mentality. I want those behind me to win. Whether or not I win or not is secondary if even important. I don't want you to get defeated. I don't want you to feel like you got to lose win. I simply say, don't hold onto win-win, because you'll never move to the level

that God is calling you to. With no guaranty of success, it's just obedience. It's that act of faith. I want you in your campfire to talk about some experiences you and I have had about that. When Roy and Kyle and I sit around and we talk about our experiences, we have moments in our life, brief moments in different history phases of our life when we step into transparency, so that those behind us can make all the difference, so that we would never be the same. And we're not the same as a result of those moments.

Look at number six. Transparency is about changing the knight's personhood, not about making provisions for him. Transparency is about changing who you are not changing your circumstance. So if transparency, so you understand it, it would be like this. If when I'm looking at you right here, transparency is all about what I'm becoming, the man I'm supposed to be. I want you to so understand that if I were to look over here, it is not about and this is so important, it's not about me and my provision. Maybe not even about the provisions of those behind me. Now I want that, I want that stark reality from one side to the other to be felt so that I choose here or I choose here and you know what guys, when I choose here, I'm becoming the man I'm supposed to be. When I choose there, I get caught up and never enter transparency but actually I end up trying to win, trying to be about providing. Guys this is not about providing. It is about this art, the art of becoming. I

want you to understand this is the coolest place to live as a knight. When you see it, when you feel it, when you taste it, you come alive.

Number seven. Transparency is centered on God calling Him and assisting Him with the success of His mission. I don't even have to go into detail on that one. Transparency is a God centered thing. It is not a self-centered thing. He is drawing you to your calling.

Number eight. Transparency involves actions that is outside of the knight's comfort zone which is motivated by a selfless sacrificial and heroic spirit. Transparency involves some actions way out of your comfort zone which will motivate us towards selfless sacrificial and heroic things. One of the reasons why I love movies is because movies have these moments where the hero becomes that, selfish. The hero becomes a person that is motivated not for what he can get but for what he can give. He's heroic in his very nature. That takes place in the movie "Iron Man". Um, Iron Man has realized that the equipment that his company makes which happened to be weapons are being used at the enemy's hands to kill not only U.S. soldiers, but it has killed innocent victims. Now he has the power of Iron Man and he will not let it go. Pepper Potts is the assistant that Iron Man so really cares about. She's been with him through everything. She understands him at one level and she's watching him grow to another. It's like all of a sudden, his world point of view has grown tremendously as he sees himself so much larger and

she's afraid she's going to lose him. He asks her to do something and she refuses. He said you stood by me and watch the scene, it's so key. You stood by me when I was going through all of those difficult days. You stood by me when I was a jerk and couldn't care about everybody and I was creating this world that was destroying people and now when I do want to do the right thing, you want to leave me. And she goes, I don't want to lose you Tony and he says, Pepper, I suddenly now know what I'm supposed to do. I know why I'm here and then he says, and why I'm here right now I know in my heart, I know in my inner voice, I know in my calling, I know it's right. You can't watch a scene like that, as we watch that scene kind of wrap up, you cannot watch that as a guy and not something resonating inside of you, you go, I know it's right and when you get there, don't you feel like you've suddenly gone beyond the little X in the sand and something much larger, being the man you were designed to be.

Consider this if you would. Number nine. Transparency is short in duration but can constantly be pursued. You're going to have this for such a short time period. You cannot take being out there alone very long. Short in duration but constant in pursuit. I believe that as you're heading towards the X, as you're following God's call with the bigger picture, He's going to cause you to do things beyond what you thought you could do.

Now I would be remiss if I didn't tell you about the last stage of a man. One more stage. Roman numeral three. The warrior's calling enables him to be transcendent as it relates to his death. Transcendent as it relates to his death. Gentlemen, I just want to talk to you just for a minute or two about what I would consider to be making you invincible. There's a man who wrote in the Bible, follower of Christ. He had been miraculously transformed by Christ after Christ had left this earth. This is a man who was trying to kill the followers of Christ. He was actually engaged in taking people's lives to keep them from being followers of Christ. His name was Saul at the time and then he becomes Paul. Paul writes this statement which talks about transcendency. It talks about being transparent. It talks about calling all at once. For me to live is Christ. That's my calling. That's what I am. I'm a new man now. I'm living what He designed me to be. It's all about Him and His design for me. And then He says, for me to live as Christ and to die is gain. He's invincible. The best thing I can do is live in Christ. The worst thing you can do to me is kill me and that's even better because he sees himself as eternal. Not only does he see himself as eternal, he sees presence with God as his greatest desire. You'll discover as you follow the call of God, as you follow your inner voice towards Him and as your spirit comes alive, your longing for him will grow and increase. It will cause you to view death very

differently. I've lost both my parents. We're battling cancer with my twenty-one year –twenty year old son. We're in the fight of different areas of our lives, but I have to let you know and there's really nothing other than maybe how I die, about death that scares me. Nothing. Because I know where I'm going. Not only am I going to Heaven, I mean I'm going to God who has created an X for me here on earth that will allow me to hit the maximum potential until my life breath is gone and it causes me to become transcendent in my thinking.

I want to show you a couple of characteristics of transcendency. Number one. He lives his life in the presence with the continual awareness of his eventual death. He lives his life right now in the present but he has a continual awareness of his eventual death. There is a point of birth, there is a point of death, a dash in between, there is eternity. He lives himself very much aware of now, I'm moving towards the X, knowing however, that life here is temporary. The X is not it. The X is what I have until death. Beyond that there are a whole number of new Xs that I have that God will guide me in.

Number two. He does not participate in denial of death activities that can be harmful to him. It will change how you do life once you understand transcendency. You have a reason to live. So you're not going to get involved in things that are harmful for you.

I'm going to walk through these, just going to fly through them, just be ready to write with me. Here we go. Unnecessary risk taking. You don't try to kill yourself. You don't get involved in things that are putting you at high risk. Number two, hyper sexuality. You don't play with the venereal diseases, you don't play with all the STDs. You don't play with all the unfaithfulness, all the things that go with that, hyper sexuality. Three, drug and alcohol abuse, partying. You don't find yourself in that. A knight is not engaged in these activities. These are not what's moving you forward because they're harmful. Overemphasis on physical fitness and health related issues. Underline overemphasis. Sometimes we just get so big on trying to preserve our bodies and we get discouraged when something happens to them. Guys, it's not about your body. That's only one part of the core. Next one, over working. We get involved in just working ourselves to death as if this is all we have between now and death. No, there's eternal involvement, just following the X, inner voice guides you, move towards it, relax a little bit, alright?

Number three. He actively plans and makes important decisions regarding the nature of his physical care prior to death. Guys, he makes plans and decisions about while he's going to take care of his family on the other side of death.

Four. He prepares for the well being of those he loves to assure that they are cared for after he's dead. So I take care of

arrangements and I take care of them. Um, that's what wills are about and everything else. We've talked about this.

Number five. He gives individual blessings to each one that will be left behind upon his death. He'll give individual blessings to those that are left behind. I am currently rewriting all of my letters to my sons because I have a grandson to write to. I'm rewriting all my letters, even my letter to Lynn. As I'm getting older, now what I'm saying is different then, but these are blessings beyond the grave that you leave for those you care about.

Number six. He trust God to guide him through the events leading to his death. He trusts God regarding the events that will lead him to his death. Now this is where I want you to really think through something. Instead of being afraid of death, I want you to think about this. Remember, it's larger than life, right. God is bigger than our little X on the sand. I am going to Him. Guess what starts when I get to Him? I really believe true life. When Cole David Walker was being born, my little grandson, he was in the womb. I think he was pretty comfortable in the womb. I mean think about it. He is being fed continuously. He gets to eat in the same place he goes to the bathroom. That's ideal for a guy. He's kind of warm and comfortable and hears the heartbeat all the time and everything is secure, but it's starting to get crowded. As he starts to come down the birth canal, I think he sort of feels like, man I want to stay where

I am, this is really crowded, this is really uncomfortable, but none of us would say to Cole, Cole stay in the womb. That's where you should live. No, we want him to come alive. I actually believe that what we do right now is sort of womb living. We live inside this womb called earth, but it's much bigger. God is much, much bigger and we're discovering our X and at our death we go down the birth canal to really live. Guys don't hold on to life, because when you hold on to life, what you do, you start trying to avoid death. Here's what I want you to hold onto. Hold onto God, for God is life and when you hold onto Him, He will take you through death into an even greater life.

So, calling, God pulling us to the X. Transparency, the ability along the way to change the hearts and lives of people in a miraculous way. And transcendency, the next part of the adventure. Gentlemen, knighthood is freeing. Let's continue to grow together as we consider the next trail. See you later.