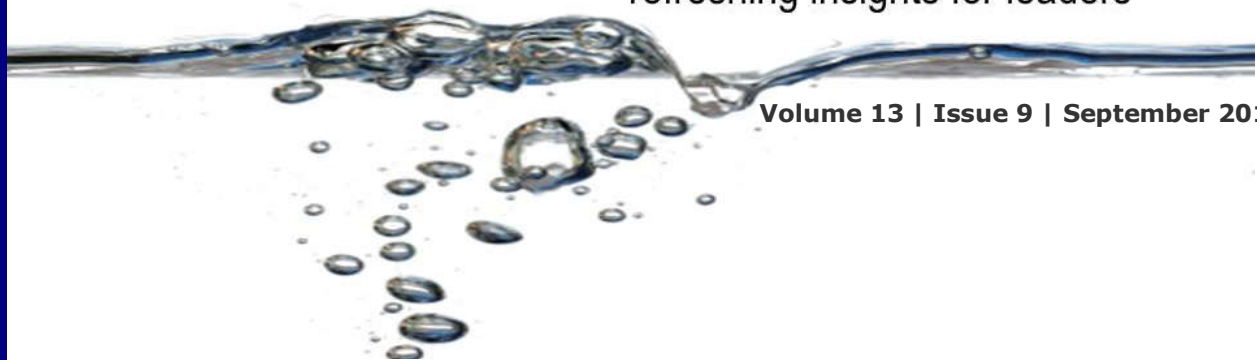


# } QUENCH

h2o sermon source™

refreshing insights for leaders

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A man in a white dress shirt and dark tie stands on a lush green hill under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. He has his arms raised in a gesture of triumph or praise. A laptop is open on the grass in front of him.

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The cover for the 'Legacy' sermon series features the word 'LEGACY' in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the text is a glowing blue fingerprint graphic. The background is dark with a grid pattern.

**LEGACY**

6 SERMONS

The cover for the 'iWorship' sermon series is divided into two sections. The top section shows five people in various worship poses (arms raised, kneeling, etc.) against a dark background. The bottom section features the 'iWorship' logo in a white box on the left and a silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on the right.

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# ARE YOU WILLING TO FAIL IN ORDER TO SUCCEED?

Why do some people, companies, churches, leaders, or organizations seem to excel above all the rest? What is it? Is God playing favorites? Does He desire you to bear fruit than me? There is one key ingredient that launches people and organizations out of mediocrity and makes them someone everybody is talking about. That one ingredient is the willingness to fail and take risks. A leader will “jump” when no one else will. A leader will risk potential embarrassment and ridicule to be the first one to “do it.” A leader is willing to be called a loser in hopes of winning.

Risk to some is a bad thing, because risk brings with it the possibility of failure. Risk therefore is avoided because we have been trained to avoid failure.

So many pastors and church leaders look across the horizon at successful ministries, pastors, and leaders with partial envy and admiration. Then we write off their success by making statements like, “God is just doing something unique with them. There is a special anointing on them.” What we basically have said is, “God is doing something sovereign, he is playing favorites, he wants them to be more successful than me. There is nothing I can do about it. It is out of my hands!” Hooey! Keep that mindset and you will live in mediocrity for the rest of your life. Go ahead and relieve yourself of all responsibility. You are just a pawn in life. God doesn’t love you as much as he loves them. Ohh . . . you don’t believe that. Then you have to believe God has ordained you for greatness. God has written a game plan of unimaginable success for your life and ministry.

The difference between winners and losers is you have to decide to be willing to risk it all or play it safe. Look at the RISK Moses took when he said to three million people, “Follow me into the desert. God has a better place!” The risks are incomprehensible! When David mouths off about, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine who defies the armies of the living God?” and proceeds to meet the giant face to face. Talk about risk! This is a life or death move, there was no middle ground. In poker terms, this is “all in!” When Joseph shares the dream in his heart life went from bad to worse . . . to worse!

"A man who won't die for something is not fit to live." Wow! What are you so convinced and committed to that you are willing to give your life to see it succeed? The sad part is, most won't even commit to give it a full day's effort. They find themselves spending more time on Facebook and doing frivolous activities. A recent survey found that the average office employee spends 1/3 of their day messing around on the internet.



***"No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they'd die for."***

***Dr. Martin Luther King***

Dr. King made a similar statement, "No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they'd die for." Life takes on a whole new perspective when you discover and live the unedited version of God's plan for your life! You will never be the person God has called you to be until you take risks to accomplish it. Our Bible tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. Walking in faith is taking a risk. It is stepping out to do what you cannot confirm by the natural senses will be a success.

Faith is coming to the edge of reality and taking a leap of faith. The edge is where fear ends and faith begins. Hold onto fear and you'll never leave the comfort and safety of the firm ground.

When I teach and coach other guys who are looking at doing a church plant, one of the main things I point to the short history of our success as a church was each time we took a risk it advanced our church! When our church was one year old and meeting in a school I knew it was time to lease a space 24/7. Several key people in our church came to me and were in opposition. "Pastor, this is too much. It is too big of a risk to commit to this early in our growth." We went for it, God blessed and we doubled in size in one year. When I announced to our lead team that we were going to go to two services at the first of the year and every department needed to double their team of volunteers I met resistance. In all of their comments and feedback here is what they basically were saying. "Why can't we play it safe? Why can't we wait a little longer until we are packed and it is obvious that we need to add a second service?" Sounds a little like what Moses heard; "Why can't we go back to Egypt? We were better off there as slaves." Needless to say we expanded to two services. God blessed and we reached more people for Jesus. Yet, one of my board members who I esteemed as a personal friend resigned from the board and left the church, you bet it hurt. When you take risks there will always be collateral damage. Every victory has its costs. This great nation is what it is today because of the countless men and women who gave their life to maintain our freedom. They were willing to *risk* their lives for our freedom!



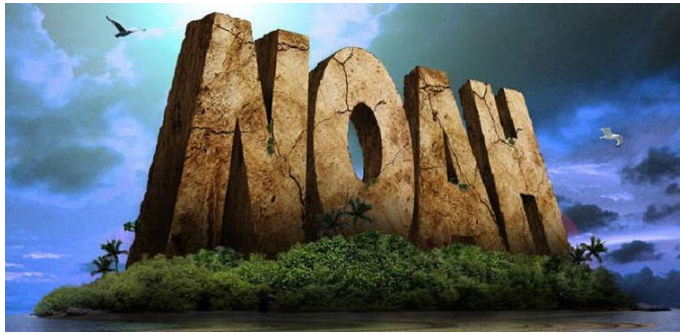
My pastor and mentor, Gerald Brooks, has said for years, "Your ministry will only grow to the level of your pain threshold." The higher you go in ministry, the further you advance, the greater the pain. Why do so many churches stay at 50-75 people? Because leaders are resistant to put in the work it would take to grow it to the next level and the pain they would have to endure. Trust me, the battle scars get bigger the further you go. Everybody wants the rewards, but they only come when you put forth the EFFORT and are willing to take a RISK! How many more lives COULD be won for Jesus IF we were willing to take some daring risk to advance the Kingdom. I challenge you to pursue the dream that is buried deep

within you. It's not just you. It is not a random idea or thought. It keeps coming up in your spirit over and over again. How long will you push it back down? It is a God idea waiting for a HERO of the FAITH to give it birth! I believe in you! I believe you have the guts to go for it. I believe when you step out in faith you will set things in motion and it will explode bigger than you ever imagined!

Quench the Thirst of a Generation!

*Pastor Dean*

# Just For Fun



In the year 2011, the Lord came unto Noah who was now living in Buffalo and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing along with a few good humans." He gave Noah the blueprints, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."



Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. "Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?" "Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed a Building Permit. I've been arguing with the Boat Inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbors claim that I've violated the Neighborhood By-Laws by building the Ark in my back garden and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Local Planning Committee for a variance."

"Then the Local Council and the Electricity Company demanded a shed load of money for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it."

"Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the Greater Spotted Barn Owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!"

"When I started gathering the animals the RSPCA took me to court. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodations were too restrictive,



and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space."

"Then the Environmental Agency ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd



conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood. I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew."

"Immigration is checking the visa status of most of the people who want to work. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with ark-building experience. To make matters worse, the Inland Revenue seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species."

"So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

"Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky." Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. Someone beat me to it."

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