

## Lead a Culture of Positive Risk-Taking

I've said many times that I want everyone on my staff to make at least one mistake a week.

Through Saddleback, I've learned that if you're not making mistakes, then you're not trying anything new. If you're not trying anything new, then you're not learning, and if you're not learning, then you're already out of date.

I want my staff members taking risks and making mistakes. That means they're being innovative, and it means they're not afraid to try.

Now, I don't want them making the same mistake every week — that means they're not learning. But I tell them, "Make a new mistake each week." I also tell them, "Show the innovation and creativity to do something that you've never done before."

**Nothing great is ever done without talking risks**, and I want a staff full of leaders. Leaders take risks. There's another word for risk-taking: **faith**. Faith is a critical element in the success of your ministry. Will you believe God for big things?

One day I asked my staff to flip to Mark 10:27 in their Bibles. It's the verse that says, "*All things are possible with God*" (NIV). I asked my staff to circle the word "all" and then to write the letters "NSD" next to that verse.

NSD means No Small Dreams. We serve a big God, and he says the size of your faith will determine the size of your blessing in life: "*According to your faith it will be done to you*" (Matthew 9:29b NIV).

In Matthew 25, three servants were given different talents. One was given 10 talents, and he went out and doubled it. Another servant was given five talents, and he went out and doubled it. But the guy with one talent dug a hole and essentially said, "I didn't want to lose it. I didn't want to take any risks." The master said, "You wicked, lazy, unfaithful servant." Why?

Because **by not taking risks you are being unfaithful**.

So what are you going to do to take risks in your ministry? If you're not taking any risks in your ministry, then you don't need any faith. If you don't need any faith in your ministry, you're being unfaithful.

Please, go out and make a mistake this week.