

Chapter 8 Summary

Experiment and Take Risk

Nicole Paige

LS318 Dynamics of Biblical Leadership

Beulah Heights University

Professor McLeod

In chapter 8 "Experiment and Take Risk," we learn that leaders must be willing to try things in a way they've never been tried before. Outside of decision making, to be an extraordinary leader, across all areas, great leaders become instinctual over a period of time. Successful leaders have learned the mastery of anticipating business patterns, finding opportunities in pressure situations, serving the people they lead and overcoming hardships. According to James Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner, Leaders have to "break out of the norms that box you in, venture beyond the limitations you usually place yourself in, try new things and take chances."

It does not matter how bold as a leader is, they cannot do it alone, they must influence their followers to be bold and take risk along with them. Chances are the uncertainty of those risks will frighten the people they lead. Leaders can't expect their followers to drive their company to victory if they don't know where the leader is headed. Leaders must be great communicators, and this is especially true when it comes to performance and expectations. Because change can frighten the people they lead, "Leaders should dream big but start small," states Kouzes and Posner. To have a significant impact on keeping others motivated, leaders should split major goals into smaller milestones. This will help to reduce fear, clarify direction and increase the likelihood of early successful outcomes.

According to Kouzes and Posner, "Whenever you challenge the status quo, you will sometimes fail." Failure is not always a bad thing, leaders can learn from their mistakes, it's often times crucial to their success. Many leaders who fail push themselves even harder to become active learners. That desire and motivation to become an active engaged learner along with hard work ultimately helps them achieve their aspirations. Leaders should create an environment where people are not afraid of failure when taking risk for growth. If the risk was not a successful

experience, talk to them as to what they could have done differently and lessons they learned. But make them feel safe and motivated to try again. Whether Success or failure, never stop growing , keep moving forward, strength resilience and grit is the key.