

Breaking Through Comfort Zones

When looking for breakthrough there is one place you should never expect to find it. For not one breakthrough has ever occurred there and never will. Its very nature breeds stagnation while resisting the growth of spirit, soul and body essential for permanent breakthrough. This place where your breakthrough does not exist and will never occur is your “Comfort Zone” (CZ).

A Comfort Zone (CZ) is feelings, circumstances and pattern of thought or actions, which stops one from building the required disciplines or stepping out to take the actions necessary to possess the next level in the process of destiny.

In order to elevate and breakthrough to your next level in life, business, ministry and finances, you will definitely be required to

- Come out of the “Comfort Zone”
- Do what is not convenient
- Take a "chance"

The “Comfort Zone” is the place of maintaining the status quo. It beckons us daily. It is place in which too many reside but must resist its pull. The CZ can be so alluring because it appeals to our lower nature which craves and seeks out comfort, convenience and to play it “safe,” it will always take the path of least resistance. It is the “No Zone.” No change, no growth, no faith, no breakthrough.

You must challenge your CZ because it is catered to daily by the business world. Think of slogans such as: “you deserve a break today!” and “have it your way.” Starbuck’s success and popularity can be attributed to the fact that every customer designs their own personalized coffee and specialty drinks. All in an environment that is comfortable, convenient and safe. You know what you want and you get it. CZ’s are Good business.

Yes, Comfort Zones are the way of good business but not the way of the Kingdom. The following busted out of their CZ, for it was not comfortable, convenient or “safe” for...

- Abraham the father of faith who left his culture, nation, relationships (family) and economic system (father's house) to possess his breakthrough.
- Moses to return to Egypt where he was a wanted fugitive to confront and make a demand of the most powerful man on earth, Pharaoh.
- David to challenge Goliath and to succeed Saul as King.
- Joseph to elevate to the palace via the pit, Potiphar and prison.
- Noah to build the ark at age 500.
- Paul to proclaim the gospel and write most of the New Testament.
- Jesus to leave heaven, live, be crucified and resurrect.

Comfort Zones can come in all sizes both Super-sized and Regular. It has been said to do great things for God there will come opportunities when you must risk it all... put all your chips into the middle of the table and say, “OK God, I'm all in!” This is a CZ Super-sized.

For me a Super-sized CZ turning point occurred in 1993. At that time, I was partner in a Philadelphia area Financial Planning Firm. Active in a great Church as the Singles minister, involved in Street evangelism, financial seminars, Missions trips etc. Life was good! God called me out to California, to Bible school.

While excited in my spirit, it was not comfortable in my mid 30's to move away from everyone I knew. Not real convenient to relocate 3,000 miles from the area in which I had lived my entire life. It did not appear to make sense to leave the safety, partnership and everything I had built... but in reality it was very safe because it was the will of God. As a result of obedience to God's voice and turning away from the comfort zone my life, Ministry and finances have consistently elevated over the last 13 years. My friend, I want to encourage you. On the other side of your CZ is your next level. Beyond your temporary stretching, discomfort and inconvenience is: Breakthrough, Your Dream, and Maximum Kingdom Impact.

God opened tremendous doors. First to be the Dean of Tim Storey's School of Miracles and to travel with Tim where I learn the road ministry and eventually launched my own traveling Ministry in 1996. When I think of the hundreds of thousands we have ministered to in local churches, conferences, schools and businesses throughout the US and on five continents I can't help but think of the lives changed, finances raised, businesses begun, debt eradicated, miracles, etc. I'm so glad I listened to the big dreamers and encouragers and not the comfort and convenience crowd who cling to the status quo and never take big risks.

Of far less importance but fun have been the finances. Leaving a financial partnership did not make sense to the status quo group. Many well meaning brothers said finances could become a problem. But God is faithful. Being in God's will on the west coast I was able to study and take advantage of the real estate market in the fastest growing segment of America. That was a super-sized CZ moment, but a CZ does not need to be so obvious to limit you.

Most "Comfort Zones" are hidden in the daily routine of life. It is not easy to change. There are always inner resistances to daily habits that have become familiar but no longer effective. It takes change to walk outside one's comfort zone. Too often people fail to initiate change because it is uncomfortable or they perceive a cost to the change. There IS a cost to change but the HIGHER COST is in not changing, staying in the CZ, maintaining the status quo. The higher price of not changing is not busting through to your next level towards your higher call in destiny.

The cost of change and busting through CZ's is usually found in needing to ***invest Time and Resources into People, Property and Pursuit of wisdom.*** Let's face it! It can be inconvenient and uncomfortable, to do the necessary things such as...

- Add extra staff
- Release some current staff
- Train the new staff
- Give what God requires
- Develop a debt reduction and savings plan
- Practice your craft. Stay current
- Add the new division or product line, expand your sales force

- Leave behind those who need to left behind
- Stay focused and on course
- To do what is required, not what you want to do
- Sign for the loan in the new sanctuary, youth center, business division
- Build the new facility, dealing with local governments and codes

Far too many people stop in their pursuit of financial breakthrough and destiny because it gets uncomfortable and becomes inconvenient. It will never look totally “good and all clear.” Faith is not meant to remove all obstacles and inconveniences. In reality, faith is to build courage and to face greater obstacles. Faith silences the voice of inconvenience and pushing through the CZ to posses your promised land. Your promise land is worth the changes to come out of your CZ.

This month look at the key areas of your life. Identify the resistance points. Identify the actions you need to take, no matter how uncomfortable. And then... Just Do it! Bust through that CZ and ignore inconvenience and do what is necessary whether you want to or not. Do not allow the cry of comfort and convenience to silence the call to your “Breakthrough and Maximum Kingdom Impact.”

God is with you. You are made to enjoy the comfort of God which enables you to enjoy the true comforts of life and to bust through all compromising comfort zones.