

# From Dreams To Reality

## Moving From the Maze of Mediocrity

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### RESULTS

Someone suggested that “if you keep doing what you have always done, you should expect to get what you have always got.”

#### Are you getting the results you want in your ministry?

Please stop for a moment in your busy schedule and ask yourself this question. What do you aspire to accomplish? If we're honest with ourselves, there is always an area in which we would like to see different results, and maybe this area has been on our minds for some time but nothing has changed. So, we keep plodding along, spending our time and resources the same way but expecting different results. Do you want to see different results? Do you believe the Lord would have you achieve different results? If so, **you** need to change! Leaders make things happen. If things are not progressing, then the leader must take responsibility for that. It comes with the job description of any leader.

Very specifically, **do you have all the leaders you want to have in your ministry?** Are there any ministries that would excel if there was simply a better leader? Do you have an abundance of Sunday school teachers? Does each ministry have sufficient number of well-trained leaders? Are there too many qualified men who could serve on the board of the church? Are they as competent in the Word and ministry as you? Have you launched any of your leaders to replicate your church somewhere else in your community or another part of the world?

### A PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Consider the following as your plan for this year:

1. Make a **decision** about the area of your life in which you earnestly desire to see different results. Think in terms of relationships: yourself (physical, spiritual, mental); your family; your congregation; your neighbors; God Himself. Consider what you would like to see changed and write it down.
2. Set **goals**. Results are, of course, up to the sovereign Lord. At the same time, He has given us a brain and a heart that He expects us to use. In James 4:13-16, while many people focus on the brevity of life in verse 14, there is another principle at work in verses 13 and 15, and that is the setting of goals. Do you want to spend more time with your family? Set a goal (how much time per week). How about increasing your involvement in discipleship ministry? Set a goal. It must be measurable (i.e. 3 men in discipleship) and time bound (by the end of the year). Do you need more leaders? How many and by when? Then put together a plan to develop them.
3. Get **committed** to do what it takes to achieve this goal. Commitment is different than agreement. How? Agreement means “it’s a great idea and I’ll give it my best shot”. Commitment is more like “Before God and my family, I will do whatever it takes to make this happen, if the Lord wills”. The former is a good

idea (head knowledge) while the latter is head and heart. It takes commitment for the achievement of this goal.

4. Learn **new skills** to accomplish this. If it's work/life balance, do I need to learn *how* to balance my tasks so that deadlines are met? This is where a mentor is invaluable: to help you identify the resources and development actions to give you the new skills. It could be reading a book, watching a tape, attending a course, or having an informal discussion with a trusted colleague. Set goals for these activities and write them down next to your goals established above.
5. Develop a written **plan** that includes the above and integrate it into your calendar. Get an accountability partner to help you keep on track. Then, as it says in James 4:15, give it to the Lord and trust Him for whatever results He wants for you.

If one of your desires is to have more leaders in your church, BMW can help. We have designed the "Change Workshops" to help you devise a plan that will work for you. The first 8-hour workshop will help your church's leadership team rise to the challenge of making leadership development a priority in the church. The second will help you cast a vibrant and exciting vision for your church. Then, the third will help you manage the transition into some new initiatives to make leadership training a reality. You can read more about these workshops on our website at [www.biblicalministries.org](http://www.biblicalministries.org). Look in the section called "resources."

Proverbs 3:6 tells us that God directs our paths. He leaves it up to us to take the steps: set a goal, determine new skills, write up a plan, and get on with it. If you are truly interested in achieving different results, God will bless your use of this simple model for change in ways that you and I could never imagine. To Him be the Glory!!