

## What's the one thing for a breakthrough?

One of the often-asked questions by churches is, "What's the one thing we can do to break through to the next level?" At [www.injoy.com](http://www.injoy.com), the Pastor's Coach, Dan Reiland, gave some thoughts about the "one thing" that makes the difference at each level of numerical growth, with the caveat that Spirit is the real catalyst. This is not to say that other things aren't important, just an attempt to identify one thing that makes a breakthrough possible. Each succeeding level incorporates the skills gained at earlier levels.

- **1-200:** the minister leading in the mission is the key in making a breakthrough. Vision and communication skills are important, but many churches go beyond this stage without those. (The mission is bigger than our congregation, and can't be done without all of us *and* God.)
- **200-400:** the organization must empower unpaid staff to take some key roles of the minister. A number of programs should be able to function without the minister.
- **400-800:** staff is critical in their ability to enlist, organize, and equip people for service. Recruiting is not an option at this stage.
- **800-1200:** vision must be compelling, crystal-clear, and consistent. They know where they are going, why, and how they will get there.
- **1200-1800:** communication by the minister must be excellent. Beyond being the beloved minister at this stage, the church needs a leader who can move people, even if he/she never gets to know them all personally.
- **1800-2400:** staff is again the critical factor at this size, but they must be leaders at this point—people who can empower and develop others to lead.
- **2400-3000:** this is another tough size transition. Many megachurches are stopped at this point. This church needs world class execution. Staying focused, aligned, keeping the ministry lean are all challenges at this stage.

Some of you may be saying, "We're still in the smallest category. Why would we care about the larger ones?" Our human tendency is to think that if we could just grow to a larger size, we would have it made. Yet it's clear that each size has its challenges and skills, and they all require working together and allowing Spirit into the process. It is about being the best ministry you can be at whatever size.

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