

## Next Level Thinking Part 4 by Ps Larry Elliott

BIG THINKING

BECOMING A BIG PICTURE THINKER!

It's like making the frame of a picture bigger; it expands your view and helps us realize we can actually BE more!

Learning to think BIG can help turn difficult situations around and create fruitful opportunities.

Donald Trump: You have to think anyway, so why not think BIG?

Big picture thinking brings Wholeness, Maturity and Increase into a person's life.

**John 11:1-3 NKJV** Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

### **Learn to think BIG (4 things BIG Thinkers DO)**

#### 1. **Keep Learning**

Big-thinkers are never satisfied with what they already know, they want to visit new places, read new books, meet new people and find better ways to do things.

To do this we must learn to take time everyday to think about:

- Where we are going
- What will we be doing
- Who are we meeting and
- What decisions do we need to make.

Decide beforehand you want to learn, grow and be better, so that you are a blessing in each opportunity you will face.

**John 11:4-7 NKJV** When Jesus heard *that*, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to *the* disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

#### 2. **Keep Listening (Intentional)**

To broaden our thinking we must learn from those who have already conquered, succeeded or developed in the areas we haven't  
(we can be jealous, envious or we can be intentional and listen)

That means not just hearing but listening on PURPOSE.

Next Level  
THINKING

Knowing what questions to ask

Learning how to apply what we hear to our lives and then asking more questions.

Listening actually means less talking and giving more attention (decrease for Increase) to what others have to say

And again asking specific questions!

**John 11:8-16 NKJV** The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

### 3. **Keep Looking beyond (Just your world)**

Someone once said: many an object is not seen, though it falls within the view of our visual ability, we don't see it because it's not part of our world. As humans we are trained to see our world first (as Christians we are not limited and should not be to this view)

When you come to church you will be thinking: is there close parking? Will I get a good seat? What will the message be? I hope they sing my favourite song. I'm thinking: I hope the car park is full and I have to find somewhere else to park; I hope there are no seats available and I have to stand; please, Lord, make my message great; and I don't care what songs we sing as long as the Holy Spirit is present.

We must make an effort to realize the world doesn't revolve around us, but around Christ and His purpose and plans

🤔 FOCUSING on that is BIG THINKING

**John 11:17-28 NKJV** So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die,

*Next Level*  
THINKING

he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you."

#### 4. **Keep Living the Moment**

Michel de Montaigne (Author) said "the value of life is not in the length of days, but in how we use each moment"

You can spend your time anyway you choose, but you can only spend it once!

BIG thinking helps us to make the most of every moment; to LIVE, to LOVE and to BE the best we can BE!

**John 11:29-38 NKJV** As soon as she heard *that*, she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there." Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

**Romans 8:26-28 NKJV** "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

#### **Benefits of BIG Thinking**

Maybe you are struggling to see how BIG THINKING can help you, so here are a few benefits

##### 1. **You lead better**

Big thinkers live in the moment but THINK about what's next; so they see VISION before others do and can size up possibilities and challenges before they arrive and make choices accurately.

**John 11:39-42 NKJV** Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Then they

Next Level  
THINKING

took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me."

## 2. You stay on track

BIG thinkers also know how to do little things while keep the focus on the BIG THING.

When all the small things go in the right direction they add up and become the BIG THING. Putting our daily activities in the context of the BIG GOAL keep you focused, determined and on track. The secret to success in any area of life is locked away in the little things we do every day - in other words our daily routines and practices.

**John 11:43-44 NKJV** Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

## 3. You promote teamwork / You see others as well

Big thinkers are able to connect with others because they put themselves in their shoes, they are interested to hear from others, that can contribute to the WHOLE Picture of PURPOSE!

**John 11:45-48 NKJV** Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."

## 4. You Overcome the mundane

Some parts of everyday life are not pleasant but they are important.

Big Thinkers don't let the daily grind, grind them down, because they never lose sight of the OVERVIEW.

They see the mundane as PREPARATION for the next BIG THING they are going to be part of. Choose each day to do things well, because little things make a BIG difference

## 5. You open new horizons

For us to secure the BETTER THINGS AHEAD (INCREASE) we must be able to start Believing the BEST today and seeing a Picture of what can be beyond the immediate circumstances we face.

**Proverbs 11:24-25 MSG** "The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller. The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed; those who help others are helped."

Next Level  
THINKING