

What is a Skyscraper?

Last week I talked about Reaching the Sky and regardless of what your "sky" may be...it is possible! Due to the overwhelming response and comments, combined with my new found fascination with skyscrapers, I decided to research skyscrapers: what constitutes a skyscraper, how many are there, what are the tallest ones, etc. My research led me to some staggering information and statistics! As I studied, I came across something that seemed to jump off the page, which I will never forget, so I wanted to share it with all of you.

First let me bring you up to date on the number of skyscrapers and exactly how far they reach into the sky. As it turns out, there is no specific definition for a skyscraper. Some have said they have to be at least 50 stories tall and others have said that 100 stories is the minimum. There are groups stating that only 300 feet and above are skyscrapers and still others insist that 600 feet is the necessary height to be awarded the title of skyscraper. So depending on your school of thought, the total number of skyscrapers may vary.

As of August 2008, New York City had 5,538 high-rise buildings (over 30ish floors). It also boasts of over 50 completed skyscrapers taller than 656 feet!!! In case you are wondering, that is more than any other city in the United States and second in the world behind Hong Kong. (I know this may come as a shock, but Tulsa only has five?) There are 25 buildings in the world that are taller than 1000 feet! The tallest freestanding structure in the world is in Toronto, Canada standing 1815 feet. PETRONAS's Twin Towers in Malaysia are the world's tallest occupied structure at 1483 feet and the Sears Tower in Chicago boasts the United State's highest occupied level at 1453 feet. The World Trade Center towers stood at 1368 feet and 1362 feet with over 40,000 square feet of usable space on each floor. (An interesting side note... the Tower of Babel is believed by most historians to have stood somewhere in the range of 694 feet. This would have made it the tallest structure in the ancient world and taller than any other structure built in human history until the construction of the Eiffel Tower in 1889.)

I have to be honest, as I was reading about all these buildings, I thought to myself...why don't I have one? I want one! I remembered the feeling I experienced as I stood on the rooftop of 30 Rock last week and I immediately fell into the entitlement trap. I want the car they have or the home they have. I want the family they have or perfect kids they have. I want the business or idea they have, etc. My mind ran wild for a brief moment until it dawned on me that I do have a skyscraper, it's just not a physical one. My skyscraper is my Greatness. My skyscraper is Mentorship Mastery and Mentorfish. We all have skyscrapers because we all have Greatness!

So while I was accumulating statistics and pondering my Greatness, I was still a bit surprised that I could not find a universal definition for the word skyscraper. Just as I was about to call it quits, I came across a definition that I will never forget...here it is..."a building can be considered a skyscraper if it protrudes above its built environment and changes the sky line". When I read this I went nuts! This is exactly what Greatness is...the ability to protrude above our environment and change our skyline! When we rise above our environment to a level that changes the skyline, we are skyscrapers. This analogy can be used

with any area of our lives: fatherhood, motherhood, wife, husband, business owner, etc. because there is greatness in all of these. The key lies in learning to rise above our current environment and change the skyline. Very few of us will ever build a physical skyscraper, but we all have a skyscraper of Greatness to build...what is yours?

Tonight, in my October Live Keynote, I am going to be covering keys to rising above your current environment in order to change the skyline of your life. Tune into Mentorfish tonight at 8:00PM CST for this training on, "Becoming a Skyscraper". See you tonight and Live Great this week!