

A man with grey hair, wearing a dark blue suit and a light blue shirt, is smiling and standing in the foreground. Behind him is a dark brick building at night. A doorway is visible in the background, with a neon sign above it that reads "THE NEXT INTERVIEW" in blue and pink. Above the doorway, another neon sign reads "BACK STAGE" in pink. The doorway is open, showing a brightly lit interior space with a staircase and some furniture.

THE NEXT INTERVIEW

BACK STAGE

JOHN BOGGS

Welcome to Your Backstage Pass

Welcome to your **Backstage Pass companion** for this episode of *The Next Interview*.

This guide helps you move from inspiration to action — and apply what you've learned directly to your leadership journey.

In this powerful conversation, **Doland White** and **John Boggs** explore how energy, mindset, and love form the foundation of transformational leadership. You'll discover how to shift from managing circumstances to creating possibility, and how the simple question *"What would you love?"* can change everything.

Key Takeaways (Aligned to the Four Pillars of Empowered Leadership)

1. Trust & Autonomy

John reminds us that true empowerment begins when leaders see potential — not problems. He recalls his early career lessons, where great leaders made him feel supported rather than judged. When leaders create environments rooted in trust, teams feel safe enough to take initiative and innovate without fear.

Pro Tip: When you walk into a room, ask yourself — *"Do my people feel relief or tension when I arrive?"* The answer reveals how much trust and autonomy you've cultivated.

2. Communication & Transparency

Throughout the episode, Doland and John discuss the power of asking better questions. Most leaders focus on *"What do we think we can do?"* instead of *"What would we love?"* — and that shift changes everything. Communication that starts from curiosity instead of constraint invites new ideas and restores transparency between leaders and teams.

Reflection Prompt: What's one question you can replace this week that would move your team from limitation to possibility?

3. Growth & Innovation

John introduces the framework of *Brave Thinking* — learning to think beyond circumstances, situations, and conditions. By focusing on energy and vision, leaders ignite creativity and innovation within their teams. Growth becomes a byproduct of clarity and imagination, not pressure or fear.

Pro Tip: Innovation doesn't start in a lab — it starts in your thinking. Begin each planning session by asking, “*What would we love to create?*”

4. Systems of Accountability

Drawing on *The Seven Hidden Laws of Leadership*, John compares leadership energy to water flowing through a river — without structure, it floods. With structure, it powers a city. Systems of accountability aren't about control; they're the banks that channel collective energy into measurable results.

Reflection Prompt: Where in your leadership system do you need clearer “banks” to help energy flow instead of leak?

“Apply It” Worksheet

Action Step 1: Shift Your Question

Practice: Replace “What can we do?” with “What would we love?” in one team meeting this week.

Reflection: How did the quality of ideas or energy shift in the conversation?

2-Minute Leadership Move: Before any meeting, take 2 minutes to visualize the ideal outcome — not just the agenda.

Measure: Track one measurable change (e.g., number of new ideas generated or engagement level in meetings).

Action Step 2: Lead with Energy, Not Urgency

Practice: Notice moments where stress or pressure drives your leadership. Pause. Recenter on possibility.

Reflection: How does your team respond when you bring calm, not control?

2-Minute Leadership Move: Take one slow, conscious breath before responding to challenges.

Measure: Note improvements in tone, collaboration, or reduced reactivity.

Action Step 3: Strengthen Your Leadership Banks

Practice: Clarify your team's guiding structure — values, boundaries, and accountability checkpoints.

Reflection: Where does energy currently “leak” due to unclear expectations or processes?

2-Minute Leadership Move: Write down one boundary or standard that supports better flow.

Measure: Review one key project's efficiency after these clarifications.

Quote to Lead With:

“The power of holding the image of what you would love is greater than the circumstances, situations, and conditions we face.” — *John Boggs*

Guest Resource Section

Learn more about John Bok's work in *The Seven Hidden Laws of Leadership* — a powerful exploration of how energy, mindset, and spirit fuel transformation.

[Brave Thinking Institute Website](#)

[Explore The Seven Hidden Laws](#)

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Doland White
Doland White Consulting, LLC
www.dolandwhite.com
info@dolandwhite.com