

Talent is Never Enough

John C. Maxwell

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John Maxwell

When people achieve great things, others often explain their accomplishments by simply attributing everything to talent. But that is a false and misleading way of looking at success. If talent alone is enough, then why do you and I know highly talented people who are not highly successful?

John Maxwell

The more you believe in your potential, yourself, and your mission, the more you will be able to accomplish. If you keep believing, you will someday find yourself doing what you once considered impossible.

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Fred Smith Sr. says that a linguist with Wycliffe Bible translators told him that in twenty of the world's most primitive languages, the word for *belief* is the same as the word for *do*. It is only as people become more “sophisticated” that they begin to separate the meaning of one word from the other.

John Maxwell

Firefighters...will throw cold water on the fire of the passion that builds within you...Firefighters use phrases list these:

It's not in the budget.

That's just not practical

We've tried that before and it didn't work

Yeah, but...

But who will do all the extra work.

You're getting too big for your britches.

Who do you think you are?

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When it comes to initiative, there are really only four kinds of people:

1. People who do the right thing without being told
2. People who do the right thing when told
3. People who do the right thing when told more than once
4. People who never do the right thing, no matter what

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Jazz musician Jimmy Lyons remarked, “Tomorrow is the only day in the year that appeals to a lazy man.”

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Procrastination is the fertilizer that makes difficulties grow.

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Attempting everything, like attempting nothing, will suck the life out of you. It will sap you of energy and new opportunities. And whatever momentum you have going for you will be diminished.

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A retentive memory may be a good thing, but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness. Successful people forget. They know the past is irrevocable.

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A frustrating thing about preparation is that it usually takes much more time than the actual event one prepares for...Discipline is required to keep preparing long hours for something that will be over quickly.

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My productivity comes more from my preparation than anything else...if the daily learning and preparation ever stop, so will my productivity.

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When I evaluate people's potential, I ask two questions:
(1) Can they? and (2) will they?

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Anybody who succeeds at anything does so with the help of others.

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Walt Disney's request for a loan was rejected by 301 banks before he finally got a yes.

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Only when you become tired do you need
perseverance.

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John Maxwell

“Vacillating people seldom succeed.” (quoting L.G. Elliott)
If you desire to be successful and to maximize your talent,
you need to be consistent and persistent.

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Purpose gives passion, and passion feeds perseverance.

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John Maxwell

Our situation doesn't make us; we make our situation...at any given time, we must be willing to give up all we have in order to become all we can be.

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Anytime you are willing to stand up for something, someone else will be willing to take a shot at you. People who express their convictions and attempt to live them out will experience conflict from others with opposing views...whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you are wrong.

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Success is the accomplishment of that which people think can't be done.

(quoting C.V. White)

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Adversity is always the partner of progress. Anytime we want to move forward, obstacles, difficulties, problems, and predicaments are going to get in the way.

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The old saying goes, “If we could kick the person responsible for most of our troubles, we wouldn’t be able to sit down for a week.”

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The position doesn't make the leader; the leader makes the position.

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Absence of strong character eventually topples talent.

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You have God-given talent; develop it. You have opportunity before you; pursue it. You have a future that is bright; look forward to it. But above all else, you have the potential to become a person of character; follow through with it.

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People can trace the successes and failures in their lives to their most significant relationships...Almost all our sorrows can be traced to relationships with the wrong people and our joys to relationships with the right people.

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A few relationships have such a tremendous impact that they change the course of our lives. They are pivotal to who we are and what we do.

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If you desire success, make responsibility your choice.

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A person may try to compartmentalize his life – taking responsibility in one area and shirking it in another— but in the long run it doesn't work.

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John Maxwell

“Don’t do what you wouldn’t feel comfortable reading about in the newspaper the next day.”

(quoting John Weston)

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John Maxwell

The singular act of catapulting a jet off the end of one of these carriers is the result of the complex orchestration of scores of individuals, each with a mastery of his or her own specific task. It is the efforts and coordination of these individuals, most of whom are just barely high school graduates, which serve as a truly inspiring example of teamwork.

(quoting Lt. Commander Ryan Smith)

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If you believe one person is a work of God (which I do), then a group of talented people committed to working together is a work of art. Whatever your vision or desire, teamwork makes the dream work.

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The true measure of a leader is getting people to work hard together.

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