

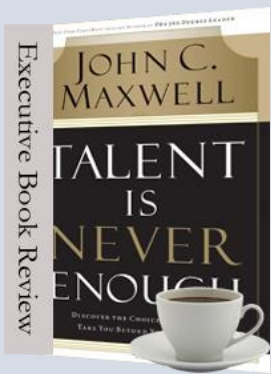


Book # 120  
Event # 225

## Talent is Never Enough

by John Maxwell

Reviewed by Robyn Tresnak



### About the Authors

Many people know John Maxwell as an author and speaker who focuses on leadership. His professional life started in ministry as a pastor and he continues to serve at Christ Fellowship. Between his work in leadership and in the church, he completes his goals for helping others find their potential. He commented that his passion is “equipping others to do remarkable things and lead significant and fulfilled lives”. Maxwell also built a company, plus a non-profit organization, that guides others to “live out leadership” within their own companies.

### About the Book

This book is just one of a hundred leadership books by Maxwell. Within these pages, he presents thirteen points that individuals can identify to strengthen in personal and professional lives, as a way to stand out in an organization. As the subtitle shares, a person can “discover the choices that will take you beyond your talent”. Success is not simply about using your personal qualities but continuing to grow and master those qualities.

### The Book's ONE THING

“If you want your life to be a magnificent story, then realize that you are its author. Every day you have the chance to write a new page in that story. I want to encourage you to fill those pages with responsibility to others and yourself. If you do, in the end you will not be disappointed.”

John Maxwell

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*Need to grow top line revenue? Improve bottom-line profits? Build accountable and trusting teams? Improve cash flow? Develop leadership team members? Blue Sky Leadership Consulting works with small and mid-market organizations to leverage Strategic Thinking and Execution Planning. We encompass many of the principles in these books into our [7 Attributes of Agile Growth](#) methodology and development of your company's [Growth Roadmap](#). Contact us for a free consultation*



### *Talent is Never Enough*

“If talent alone is enough, then why do you and I know highly talented people who are not highly successful?”

“The toughest thing about success is that you’ve got to keep on being a success. Talent is only a starting point in business. You’ve got to keep working that talent.”

John Maxwell

#### **1. *Belief Lifts Your Talent***

“Life is a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we will never use.” Charles Schulz

“Life is difficult enough as it is. We make it more difficult when we impose additional limitations on ourselves.” John Maxwell

A person can reach full potential based on personal effort and belief. This includes working through belief that improvements should, and can, occur. Each member of a team or organization should be able to recognize personal abilities that benefit everyone, plus obstacles that need to be broken down as a way to grow and maximize the talents.

#### **2. *Passion Energizes Your Talent***

“Death isn’t the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside of us while we live.”

Norman Cousins

This book defined that success is not a specific event, but rather a process. As leaders, lifelong learners, and achievers we should be prepared to work through this process together at times and individually in other moments. To make it through the process, we need to draw on our passion.





### ***3. Initiative Activates Your Talent***

“Nothing is so fatiguing as the hanging on of an uncompleted task.”  
William James

People must add initiative to their talents in order to reach their highest potential. In an organization people can take steps together to add to personal strengths, then enhance the whole.

### ***4. Focus Directs Your Talent***

“If you want to be successful, you must focus on what you CAN do, not what you can't.”  
John Maxwell



### ***5. Preparation Positions Your Talent***

“I've found that every minute spent in preparation saves ten in execution.”  
John Maxwell

“The only thing that relieves pressure is preparation.”  
Rick Bizet

This preparation for change can take time and bring about some concerns. Consider a musician who spends hours preparing for a short performance. Often the hours of work are unnoticed, they are not recorded, and typically they add up much faster than expected. Still, all the hours of searching for ways to improve the piece and practice independently or with a full symphony, lead to enjoyment and relaxation for those who hear the final performance.



### ***6. Practice Sharpens Your Talent***

“Excellence is an art won by training and habitation ... We are what we repeatedly do.”  
Aristotle

“There is no use whatever trying to help people who do not help themselves. You cannot push anyone up a ladder unless he is willing to climb himself.” Andrew Carnegie

Charles Dickens presents another example that talent might be present, but practice brings people to the top. He went through many steps in his writing before producing the literature known today.

### ***7. Perseverance Sustains Your Talent***

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Thomas Edison

As this chapter guides, we should find a purpose. This may be something personal or professional. To work toward that purpose, we have to eliminate excuses that come our way, even if they appear daily. Through it all, we can develop and maintain stamina to continue the race toward the given purpose.



### ***8. Courage Tests Your Talent***

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”  
Winston Churchill

We must persevere through changes, growth, and application of new skills. There will be times we are tested. There will be times we are tested over and over again. Even in these moments we can stay encouraged.



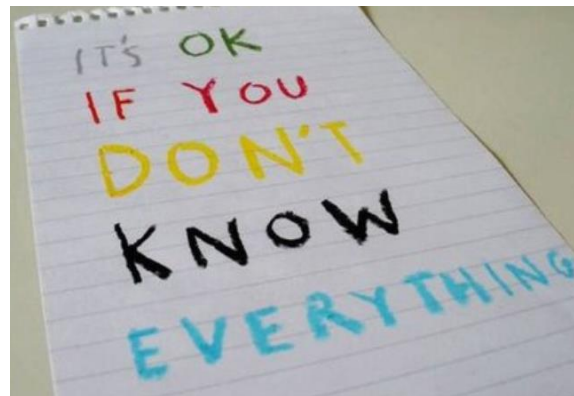
### ***9. Teachability Expands Your Talent***

“Talented people often think they know it all. And it makes it difficult for them to continually expand their talent.” John Maxwell

“Blessed are they that laugh at themselves, for they shall never cease to be entertained.” Chinese Proverb

“One of the paradoxes of life is that the things that initially make you successful are rarely the things that keep you successful.” John Maxwell

“It’s what you learn after you know it all that counts.” John Wooden



Once people believe they have all the necessary skills and know all that is needed to know, the process of growth can begin again. It is true that everyone can always continue learning.

### ***10. Character Protects Your Talent***

“People are like icebergs. There’s much more to them than meets the eye. When you look at an iceberg, only about 15 percent visible – that’s talent. The rest – their character – is below the surface, hidden ... the greater their talent is, the greater their need is for strong character ‘below the surface’ to sustain them.” John Maxwell

“Character shows that who you are and who you appear to be are one and the same, and that is the first key to greatness.” John Maxwell



### ***11. Relationships Influence Your Talent***

“Surround yourself with people who add value to you and encourage you, and your talent will go in a positive direction.” John Maxwell

“In prosperity our friends know us. In adversity, we know our friends.” A Folk Proverb

Johnny Cash had an amazing talent for music, but he also had moments in life that caused him to fall. Still, he had someone by his side. June Carter eventually became his wife; before that marriage began, and until her death, she added value to Cash’s life.

### ***12. Responsibility Strengthens Your Talent***

“We live in a culture that overvalues talent and undervalues responsibility.” John Maxwell



To create the full puzzle, we have to stay true to our part of the team work.

### ***13. Teamwork Multiple Your Talent***

“One is too small a number to achieve greatness.” John Maxwell

Closing

How will you go about the rest of your day to identify areas of growth in your life?

Where does your purpose lie?

Who can you call on to keep you accountable for growing your talents?



## A Retrospective of our last ten books ONE THING

Titan: The Life of John D Rockefeller	We study the lives of famous people who have impacted the world in order to better understand our own impact on the world. Every human being is a complex enigma containing both beauty and darkness.
Reading Magic	Reading with a family whether family by blood, profession, or interests, leads to delight and food for thought, which presents a lot of goodness and positive growth for the entire community. Read continually... experience books, learn from books, share books!
The Power of TED	Shift happens when we break out of the default mode of victim and adopt the creator mode of being.
The Memo	Women of color and underrepresented groups are sometimes at a disadvantage in the workplace especially when it comes to securing high level positions. Become aware of your unconscious bias.
Made To Stick	Sticky messages of all kinds, whether true or false, draw their power from the same six principles: 1. Simplicity 2. Unexpectedness 3. Concreteness 4. Credibility 5. Emotions 6. Stories. "As we pored over hundreds of sticky ideas, we saw, over and over, the same six principles at work" From Made to Stick
Occasional Magic	"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Aristotle
The Surrender Experiment	Surrender is about peaceful acceptance, listening and being open to what life is putting in front of you. Surrender is not passive.
Work is Love Made Visible	Leaders should focus on who they are, not just on what they do. Recognize your purpose in life!
Think and Grow Rich	"All achievement, all earned riches, have their beginning in an idea!" It is what you APPLY in life that will CHANGE your life.
7 Essential Traits of Coaches	Integrate more Coaching Traits and Best Practices in Developing Your Unique Leadership Coaching Style.



### Let's Pan for Some Gold

**What thought, or idea had the biggest impact on you today?**

**What is your ONE THING? What one specific action you will take TODAY from what was discussed?**



## Our Faculty, Our Sponsors, Our Cause



## Calendar of Events

San Antonio	San Antonio	Corpus	Houston	San Antonio	West Side
"1st Friday"	Wine & Cheese	2nd Tuesday	4th Thursday	"4th Friday"	3rd Wednesday
7:30AM	5:30 PM	5:30 PM	11:30AM	8:00 AM	12:00 Noon
Wittigs	Haworth   Smartworld	Wittigs   Haworth	Wittigs   Haworth	Alpha Home	American Sunrise Good Samaritan
<b>6-Mar</b>	<b>11-Mar</b>	<b>10-Mar</b>	<b>26-Mar</b>	<b>27-Mar</b>	<b>18-Mar</b>
Judy Zimmerman Work is Love Made Visible	Peter Braeuler Think & Grow Rich	Peter Braeuler Think & Grow Rich	Robyn Tresnak Talent is Never Enough	Robyn Tresnak Talent is Never Enough	Phil Bohlender 7 Essential Traits of Coaches
<b>3-Apr</b>	<b>8-Apr</b>	<b>14-Apr</b>	<b>23-Apr</b>	<b>24-Apr</b>	<b>15-Apr</b>
Marisa Ortiz Big Magic	Robert Schmidt A Republic. If You Can Keep It	Robert Schmidt A Republic. If You Can Keep It	Pat Whitty Man's Search for Meaning	Pat Whitty Man's Search for Meaning	Robert Schmidt The Alchemist
<b>1-May</b>	<b>13-May</b>	<b>12-May</b>	<b>21-May</b>	<b>22-May</b>	<b>20-May</b>
TBD	Malcolm Coon Sapiens	Malcolm Coon Sapiens	Judith Cutright The Obstacle is the Way	Judith Cutright The Obstacle is the Way	Catherine Lester Power of Moments