

WALKING TROPHIES

Unlocking The Power of Your Story

Marquez Hughley

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Walking Trophies

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crownlifeseminars.com

contact@crownlifeseminars.com

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Dedication page

*This book is dedicated to the late Pastor Ralieggh Jones,
former senior pastor of Greenhill Church and Christian Outreach
Ministries in Clarksville, TN. I don't know where I would be
today if I had not encountered his heart for
personal evangelism and soul-winning.*

Acknowledgments

I want to, first of all, thank God the Father, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit for everything they have done and are doing in my life. It is a true honor to be in the Kingdom of God; I am forever grateful and at your service.

I want to thank my amazing wife, Erica, who is a tremendous part of the joy that is shown in my smile. I am honored to be your husband. I look forward to all that God has for us as we purpose our lives to serve Him with all of our hearts together. I love you!

I want to thank my family and friends who have continuously supported me over the years. You all mean so much to me. I pray that my life is as much of a value to your lives as you are to mine.

I want to thank all of my professors at **Oral Roberts University** during my journey to earn my Master's degree in Christian Ministry. I truly feel empowered and equipped to be a Kingdom agent of change in the world. Keep building *whole leaders for the whole world* for the generations to come!

Lastly, for every reader, may this book stir your heart in such a way that both inspires and transforms you forever. Be blessed!

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Introduction

I have to assume that if you're reading this book on the subject of *Personal Evangelism*, you more than likely are a born-again believer. In addition, depending upon how long you've been saved, you possibly may have had some time to observe a few things within the Body of Christ. If both of those are indeed the case, I have an initial question to ask you: Have you noticed lately that a lot of Christians are not as intentional about sharing the gospel or "witnessing" as much as in previous years? I have to be honest; I've really noticed the decline.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that Christians aren't inviting people to come out to their local church services; nor am I saying that people aren't getting saved. *Let's make that clear.* What I'm really saying is that a lot of believers are not taking personal ownership in leading people to the Lord themselves; rather, they are mainly hoping that their invited guests who attend will hear something during the worship service that draws them into a desire for salvation.

Furthermore, there's nothing wrong with the desire and efforts of bringing people into the atmosphere where the Spirit of God can convict their hearts. I support, commend, and encourage you to keep up this practice! It's also important for me to clearly

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emphasize that it's **not** us who draw people to Christ, anyway; because Jesus said in the gospel of John, "*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him*" (John 6:44). It is the Spirit of God who ultimately brings them to salvation.

The underlying issue here is that we shouldn't exclusively have to "bring people to church" in order for them to **experience God**; because WE are the church, NOT the building we collectively worship in. People should encounter the Kingdom of God wherever we are. Jesus said in the gospel of according to Luke, "*The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you*" (Luke 17:20-21). If the Kingdom is within us, we can introduce people to the Kingdom through Christ whenever and wherever we get the opportunity.

Spreading The Gospel

Personal evangelism is such a foundational pillar of the Christian faith. We are expected to share our unique testimonies as they ultimately become the undeniable empirical evidence that verifies the Lord's transformational work in our own lives. According to *Holman Bible Dictionary*, the word *evangelism* is derived from the Greek word **euangelion**, meaning "gospel" or "good news". Spreading the gospel (*or good news*) of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom is not a task assigned only to those

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called to the five-fold ministry (*Apostles / Prophets / Evangelists / Pastors / Teachers*).

You don't have to be a pastor or an ordained minister to spread the "good news" regarding the birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and future return of Jesus Christ. We each become **ambassadors for Christ** the moment we give our lives to Him. The Apostle Paul clarified this when he wrote, "*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God*" (2 Corinthians 5:20).

When you think of the Great Commission, the Lord Jesus Himself commanded us to evangelize the entire world. He said, "*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*" (Matthew 28:18-20).

This wasn't a solemn charge given only to the early church; it is an enduring call to action for every person that receives Christ as Savior and Lord. It has been well over 2,000 years since that commission was first given on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Nevertheless, the instant a person gains a true understanding of the gravity and efficacy of this assignment, they will also be empowered as catalysts in the world.

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The Hidden Power

The subtitle of this book reads, “**Unlocking the Power of Your Story.**” I specifically chose the word “unlocking” because it implies that something has been locked up, hidden, or kept back from exposure. If you think of this in regard to our ability to effectively witness, it should then reflect that the noticeable decline in Christians personally sharing the gospel is more of a self-imposed constraint than it is anything else. The goal of this book is to help you either *discover* or *remember* the hidden power of your personal testimony. You and I can rise up to become the mighty witnesses of the power of Christ that He (Jesus) intended for us to be.

However, I do recognize that in order for genuine change to occur in any person, there also has to be a mindset shift. We can no longer think as we have in the past; nor can we tolerate empty excuses from ourselves on why *we haven't tried* to lead anyone to the Lord recently. Could the honest reason why we have not readily shared the gospel with others be because we failed to realize the simplicity, power, and credibility of our own story of deliverance?

It is my prayer that in the following pages, you will be both enlightened and encouraged by the truth of God's Word, by my personal journey shared, and by the simplified “how to” process of sharing Jesus with others. As you walk through each chapter,

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reflect on your own journey; see if you can relate to what's being shared in some aspect. Although you and I may reside in different parts of the world, you will likely see a common trend. I sincerely believe that you will find out that you not only can relate but also will agree that the answer to the problem is not so far away from reach. Thank you in advance for allowing me this moment in your life to explain why I'm so convinced that all of us who are born-again believers are truly the Lord's...**walking trophies!**

CHAPTER 1

Telling Everyone I Know



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