
MY DREAM MAP



An Interactive Companion to
Put Your Dream to the Test

JOHN C.
MAXWELL

NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR



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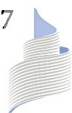
*This book is dedicated to Margaret Maxwell,
the girl of my dreams. On June 14, 1969, we were married.
Since that day, we have been living the dream together.
I cannot imagine my life without her. Margaret, happy 60/40!*





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Thank you to Charlie Wetzel, my writer, my writer for his assistance with this book in developing a process that will help others create a map for their dreams.





CREATING A MAP FOR YOUR DREAM

I've been writing books and teaching at conferences for more than thirty years, and one of the things I've discovered is that many people can have a difficult time taking general concepts and applying them to their specific lives. It's not because of lack of intelligence or desire. It's just that examining themselves and putting principles into practice can be daunting. That's one reason I've included application exercises in most of my books.

At the same time, I don't want to bog down people in numerous activities that take too much time. My advice to people who read my books is generally to use the application exercises if they help, but to skip them if they can easily figure out how to apply the concepts to their lives on their own.

But what if you really *want* to dig in and do substantial work to apply what you're learning from a book? How do you take the learning process to the next level? What if you would like to delve deeper into the process of discovering your dream while reading *Put Your Dream to the Test*?

My Dream Map is my answer to that question.

A dream is an especially difficult thing to describe. Dreams aren't concrete until they come to pass. Before then, they are like clouds. When both of us look at a cloud, you may see one thing while I see another. And the picture you see in one moment may quickly change when the first wind comes along. As time goes by—a day, a week, or a year—you may not even remember what you once saw. That's why I offer this book as a way to make your dream more concrete. Let's face it: when it comes to giving voice and life to their dreams, most people need some help.

When I got the idea for writing *Put Your Dream to the Test*, I almost

didn't move forward with it because of the nebulous quality of dreams. I had seen too many speakers and authors talk about dreams using what I considered to be smoke and mirrors, making claims such as, "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." Not true! I've dreamed about winning an NBA championship, but I guarantee it's never going to happen!

This book is designed to help you discover and define your dream. My desire is to help you draw a map that you can then use to achieve what you were created to do. If you want to really dig down—or if you want to help someone else do it—then this book will help. To create your dream map, you will need to answer some questions. You will have to spend time thinking and journaling. You will need to talk to people. If you're a person of faith, you should devote time to prayer.

Start by taking the Dream Test that begins on page 1. Read *Put Your Dream to the Test* (either straight through or a chapter at a time). Then work your way through this book. There are ten sections, one for each of the ten questions found in *Put Your Dream to the Test*. The bottom line is that you will have to engage in a process.

How long will that take? That depends on you. The amount of time will be affected by how self-aware you are, how honest you are about your strengths and weaknesses, your history, and how much time and energy you've already given to the subject in the past. But isn't your dream worth it? Trust me, the time you spend will be an investment in yourself. Taking several weeks or months to greatly increase the odds of your success will be well worth the effort. Nobody wanders his or her way to a dream, and nobody achieves a dream by accident. Don't shortcut the process and risk cheating yourself out of your dream!

So, are you ready to give it your best shot? Are you willing to do the hard, lonely, inglorious work that's necessary for achieving a dream? Remember, all's well that begins well. You can discover your dream. And you can actually live it.

THE DREAM TEST

The first step in creating a useful map is knowing your starting point. Take the following test to help you make that assessment. Think of it as a way of writing “You Are Here” on your dream map.

For each statement below, please respond by writing the number that best represents your current life (not where others think you should be, where you wish you were, or where you hope to be someday):

0—No

1—Somewhat

2—Yes

1. The Ownership Question: Is my dream really my dream?

- A. I would be the person in the world most pleased if I accomplished my dream.
- B. I have publicly shared my dream with other people, including those I love.
- C. My dream has been challenged by others, and I still embrace it.
- D. As I've gotten older, I have become more certain that my dream is really mine.
- E. I believe that my dream is in alignment with the purpose of my life.

Score for This Section _____

2. The Clarity Question: Do I clearly see my dream?

- A. I can explain the main gist of my dream in a single sentence.
- B. I have spent many hours defining my dream in great detail.
- C. I have written a clear description of my dream that includes its main features or objectives.
- D. I could answer nearly any question about the *what* (if not the *how*) of my dream.
- E. I have revised and written my dream more than once.

Score for This Section _____

3. The Reality Question: Am I depending on factors within my control to achieve my dream?

- A. I know what my greatest strengths and talents are, and my dream relies heavily on them.
- B. My current habits and daily practices strongly contribute to the potential success of my dream.
- C. I expect the realization of my dream to be one of the most difficult things I'll ever do.
- D. My dream is likely to come true even if I am unlucky, if important people ignore or oppose me, or if I encounter serious obstacles.
- E. I am willing to pay any and every price needed to achieve my dream as long as it doesn't violate my personal values.

Score for This Section _____

4. The Passion Question: Does my dream compel me to follow it?

- A. I can think of nothing I would rather do more than see my dream fulfilled.
- B. I think about my dream every day and often wake up or fall asleep thinking about it.

- C. Even if I believed I could not completely fulfill my dream, I would still be excited about the pursuit of it.
- D. This dream has been consistently important to me for at least a year.
- E. When it comes to my dream, I display more initiative than I do in any other part of my life.

Score for This Section _____

5. The Pathway Question: Do I have a strategy to reach my dream?

- A. I have written a strategic plan for how I intend to accomplish my dream.
- B. I have made a realistic assessment of where I'm starting from and how far I must go to achieve my dream.
- C. I have identified all the resources available to me and have incorporated them as part of my strategy.
- D. I have set concrete monthly and yearly goals as part of my plan.
- E. I have shared my plan with three people I respect to get their feedback.

Score for This Section _____

6. The People Question: Have I included the people I need to realize my dream?

- A. I frequently spend time with people who inspire me.
- B. I have surrounded myself with people who are honest with me about my strengths and weaknesses.
- C. I have recruited people with complementary skills to help me accomplish my dream.
- D. I have found a way to express my dream to others in a way that connects logically, emotionally, and visually.

- E. I work at transferring the vision by frequently casting it with my people clearly and creatively.

Score for This Section _____

7. The Cost Question: Am I willing to pay the price for my dream?

- A. I can recount specific costs I have already paid toward achieving my dream.
- B. I have already considered what I am willing to trade next to achieve my dream.
- C. I am willing to face fierce criticism from others as I pursue my dream because I know it's right for me.
- D. My mind-set is that I will *never* arrive at a time or place where I will no longer have to keep paying for my dream.
- E. No matter what, I will not compromise my values, ruin my health, or damage my family to pursue my dream.

Score for This Section _____

8. The Tenacity Question: Am I moving closer to my dream?

- A. I can identify obstacles I have already overcome in the pursuit of my dream.
- B. I possess an attitude of initiative related to my dream, and I am unafraid of taking bold steps to take me closer to my dream.
- C. I do something every day—even if it's very small—to move closer to my dream.
- D. I expect to do extraordinarily difficult things to grow and change so that I can accomplish my dream, and I have prepared myself mentally to do them.
- E. I refuse to take no for an answer when it comes to my dream.

Score for This Section _____

9. The Fulfillment Question: Does working toward my dream bring satisfaction?

- A. I am willing to give up my idealism in order to make my dream become reality.
- B. I understand that the pursuit of any significant dream leads one into a difficult learning curve, and I am ready to cheerfully face it.
- C. I am ready and willing to work for years or even decades to achieve my dream because it is that important to me.
- D. I have made it my goal to make discoveries about myself and the world “on the way” to my dream because I know that will help sustain me.
- E. I enjoy the pursuit of my dream so much that even if I fail, I will consider my life to have been well spent.

Score for This Section _____

10. The Significance Question: Does my dream benefit others?

- A. I can honestly say that pursuit of my dream allows me to be engaged in a cause greater than myself.
- B. I can name specific people other than myself who will benefit if my dream is realized.
- C. Even if the entire dream is not accomplished, others will be helped along the way.
- D. I am working to build a team of like-minded people to accomplish my dream.
- E. What I’m doing to achieve my dream will matter in five, twenty, or one hundred years.

Score for This Section _____

Total Score _____

Key

Add your scores for each section, and then calculate your total score.

Use the key below to see where you stand.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 91–100 | You are well on your way; the odds are very high that you will achieve your dream. |
| 81–90 | You need to do some work, but you are headed in the right direction for achieving your dream. |
| 71–80 | You need to make significant changes if you want to achieve your dream. |
| 70 or Below | You have a long way to go; achieving your dream will require significant rethinking and major changes in the way you live. |

CHAPTER 1

The Ownership Question

Is My Dream Really My Dream?

Everybody has to start somewhere. Even the greatest dreams, the most earth-shaking achievements, began as a mere concept, an idea in the mind of some individual.

What makes a dream worthy? It has to be yours. The achievability of a dream doesn't depend primarily on its size or scope, nor does it rely on the individual dreamer's talent as much as it does on that person's ownership of it. Show me a dream achieved and I'll show you a dreamer who owned it—heart and soul. You have a chance of getting where you want to go only if you truly own your dream.

CREATE THE ROADMAP FOR YOUR DREAM

IN *PUT YOUR DREAM TO THE TEST*, DR. JOHN MAXWELL ASKS YOU TEN POWERFUL QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE HOW YOUR DREAM CAN BECOME REALITY.

Now, in *My Dream Map*, he helps you create a detailed plan with interactive exercises and opportunities for personal exploration that will challenge, inspire, and direct you. This companion to *Put Your Dream to the Test* will help you uncover, perhaps for the first time, specific steps you can take to stop merely thinking about your dream and start living it.

If you want to dig in and do substantial work to make your dream happen, *My Dream Map* will jumpstart your process. Inside you will find:

- Innovative exercises and resources to help you achieve your dream
- An expanded version of the Dream Test found in *Put Your Dream to the Test*
- Questions and prompts to guide your steps toward the best path to your dream
- Reading and interview suggestions for further information and inspiration
- Journaling space to gather your thoughts and plans all in one place

Sometimes all you need to achieve a dream are the belief that you can, the resolve that you will, and the plan to make it happen. You have the dream. This volume can help you create the plan. Use it, develop it, and keep it with you as your guide as you make your dream come true.



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