

HOW DO YOU PULL YOURSELF UP BY YOUR BOOTSTRAPS

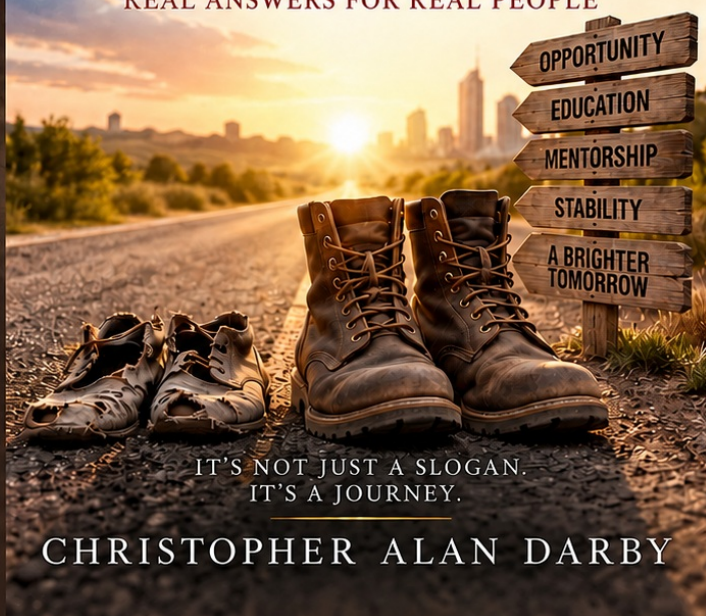
CHRISTOPHER ALAN DARBY

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HOW DO YOU PULL YOURSELF UP BY YOUR BOOTSTRAPS

WHEN YOU DO NOT HAVE BOOTS?

REAL ANSWERS FOR REAL PEOPLE



IT'S NOT JUST A SLOGAN.
IT'S A JOURNEY.

CHRISTOPHER ALAN DARBY

FREE CHAPTER ONE SAMPLE

Christopher Alan Darby

A FREE READER PREVIEW

HOW DO YOU PULL UP YOUR BOOTSTRAPS

When You Don't Have Boots?

A hopeful and honest challenge to look beyond easy slogans, recognize unequal starting lines, and help people gain the tools needed to move forward.

Inside this complimentary sample, you will receive the complete first chapter exactly as presented in the book.



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Published by Christopher Darby Ministries

FREE SAMPLE

CHAPTER ONE - WHAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE BOOTS?

Before you criticize somebody for not climbing, find out whether they were ever given a ladder.

THE QUESTION WE DON'T ASK

Before judging a person's progress, ask what that person actually has to work with. A better job twenty miles away means something different when there is no dependable car or public transportation. Extra work hours mean something different to a single parent who must pay for childcare.

What looks like laziness from a distance may actually be mathematics. There is a difference between refusing to move and being unable to see a workable path.

TWO CHILDREN, TWO STARTING LINES

Imagine two children with equal intelligence and ambition. One grows up in a stable household where adults understand college applications, credit, careers, and savings. The other grows up in a household where survival consumes nearly every conversation. By eighteen, both may be expected to run the same race, but the race actually started years earlier.

Equality says both are free to run. Wisdom asks what happened before the starting gun.

JESUS SAW WHAT OTHERS OVERLOOKED

In Matthew 14, the disciples wanted to send the hungry crowd away. Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat." He did not pretend the need was imaginary. He brought compassion and responsibility into the same moment.

The five loaves and two fish were not enough by ordinary calculation, but they were available. God often begins with what is available.

POVERTY IS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN PEOPLE REALIZE

A small car repair can become a breakdown, a missed shift, a smaller paycheck, a late fee, and then another bill. When there is no margin, one problem recruits another.

There is a difference between mismanaging abundance and trying to distribute insufficiency. You cannot budget your way out of every problem.

AN EXCUSE IS NOT THE SAME AS AN OBSTACLE

An excuse says, "I could, but I will not." An obstacle says, "I want to, but something real is standing in the way." Mature compassion learns the difference.

Accountability should address choices. Compassion should address barriers. We need both.

SOMEBODY HELPED YOU

Very few people built every door they walked through. Teachers, parents, pastors, supervisors, friends, spouses, mentors, and strangers often become bridges. We may have worked hard after the door opened, but we did not build every door.

DON'T JUST GIVE BOOTS - TEACH BOOTMAKING

If someone is hungry tonight, feed them. Then ask what could make tomorrow different. Mercy for today. Strategy for tomorrow.

Good help preserves dignity and moves toward capacity: knowledge, skill, transportation, savings, employment, healthier relationships, and wise habits.

WHAT IS IN YOUR HAND?

God asked Moses in Exodus 4:2, “What is that in your hand?” The ordinary rod became part of an extraordinary assignment.

Your first resources may be a skill, a relationship, a license, a certification, a library, a computer, a mentor, or simply the willingness to learn. Do not despise small beginnings.

BOOTSTRAP REALITY CHECK

- What is my real starting point?
- What is an obstacle, and what is an excuse?
- What do I already have in my hand?
- What legitimate help is available?
- What is my next responsible step?

PASTOR DARBY’S PRINCIPLE

Never judge a person’s progress without understanding their starting point.

PRAYER

Father, give us eyes to see people clearly and hearts that refuse both cruelty and excuses. Show us what is in our hands, send the right help, and give us courage to take the next faithful step. Amen.

CHAPTER TAKEAWAY

You may not have boots today. But your story does not have to end barefoot. Start with what is in your hand. Accept

legitimate help without shame. Learn everything you can. Take the next step. And when God helps you stand-reach back.

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

Read the Complete Book

Chapter One is only the beginning. Visit Christopher Darby Ministries to explore this title and the complete book collection.



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