

Kerry Max Cook

A story of self-empowerment, hope, faith, determination, and never giving up

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Faith / Spirituality
- Inspiration / Achievement
- Overcoming Adversity
- Personal Growth

About Kerry Max Cook

The Houston Chronicle called Kerry Cook “the most persecuted man in America.” His saga begins at 21-years old when he is sentenced to die.

His ineffable story spans four capital murder trials, three convictions, a hung jury, over two decades on death row, and a 43-year climb for justice.

The real story here isn't the misconduct that falsely put Kerry in prison, but how he reinvented who and what he was as a ninth-grade dropout, embarking on a journey of personal growth, armed with a mental toolbox of Hope, Empowerment, Assertiveness, Resiliency and Tenacity - - H.E.A.R.T. These are the steel spikes Kerry used to scale the steepest mountain imaginable, battling against the worst storms, refusing to stop until reaching the summit.

Author John Grisham said, “If it were fiction, no one would believe it.”

Kerry Cook is a Dallas Morning News best-selling author of Chasing Justice, a top-rated keynote facilitator on the importance of never giving up.

Select Keynotes

- **Overcoming Fear**

Fear is blinding and cripples our natural ability to think. Disarming fear curtails tunnel vision. In this story, Kerry speaks about how he saw through the fog that was obscuring his proverbial mountaintop once fear was no longer in control.

- **Positive Visualization**

Kerry did not see himself walking into the execution chamber and being put to death. He saw himself walking out of death row innocent. Visualization kept him strong and determined.

- **Positive Thought**

Kerry's body was made up of things he ate, but his mind suffered from the negative things he let in and allowed himself to feel - things like, “I'll never be able to do this alone,” or “I'm not strong enough.” We aren't just what we eat, but also what we allow the mind to consume.

- **Adapt to Stressful Situations**

All around Kerry were agents of negativity: the inmates posed a constant threat; the prison guards hated the inmates, and the inmates hated the guards. Lawyers didn't communicate because Kerry was was indigent. He refused to accept helplessness and hopelessness. He regained his sense of worth by taking control of his life instead of relying on others to do it for him.

- **Cultivate a Spirit of Tolerance**

Bitterness and regret only hurt the person they are in. Trauma and hardship will touch all of us at one time or another. The scars of our past can show where we've been, but they don't have to dictate where we're going.

- **Overcoming Ourselves**



In school, Kerry was the “class clown” and an unmotivated ninth grade dropout. He was lazy and depended on his parents to do everything. His biggest enemy was himself. This story is about what Kerry could achieve by getting out of his own way and taking charge.

- **Leadership & Self-Motivation**

Kerry's three wrongful convictions, and over two decades on death row innocent, is a paradigm for leadership because it's about self-empowerment, optimizing.

- **Hope**

Without hope there is no drive, no goal, there is a wasteland of emptiness inside. Kerry held on to hope and it got him through the darkest of times.

- **H.E.A.R.T.**

Hope, Empowerment, Assertiveness, Resiliency, and Tenacity are the tools Kerry developed to reach the top of the mountain and walk himself out of Texas death row. After a second 21 year fight on the outside, **H.E.A.R.T** is what got him to the mountaintop of exoneration.

Select Book Titles

- **2008:** Chasing Justice: My Story of Freeing Myself After Two Decades on Death Row for a Crime I Didn't Commit
- **2007:** Chasing Justice: Twenty Two Years on Death Row for a Crime I Didn't Commit

Select Testimonials

Kerry is powerful, persuasive on a multitude of different levels. Overcoming adversity permeates his very being.

– *Actress Brooke Shields*

Kerry Max Cook tells his harrowing and inspiring story of unflagging determination against astonishing odds, beautifully, honestly and devoid of sentimentality. You won't be able to take your eyes off him.

– *Bob Balaban, Producer, Director, Actor*

“I've heard Kerry Cook speak many times. There are educators and speakers, and then there's Kerry. I had the opportunity to reprise Kerry's role in the off-Broadway play, “The Exonerated.” His soulful message of hope and never giving up is awe-inspiring, entertaining, and impossible to forget.”

– *Fisher Stevens, Actor, Director, Producer*

I've been doing this for over 15 years, and I have NEVER heard a speaker like Kerry Max Cook. Take home value is a perfect 10.

– *Marcela Salazar, YPO-WPO*

The most inspiring human being you will ever sit and listen to.

– *Richard Dreyfuss, Actor*

For 18 years, Kerry Cook has been our highest rated speaker, the one the kids listened to the most.

– *Roger Rater, Alpine YPO*

I've been involved in a lot of events and programs. This guy is a 10 in every category.

– *Rollie Sturm, Chair, Las Vegas YPO-WPO*

...brilliant. When you can get a standing ovation from Wall Street, you know your message is second to none.

– Tom Dorsey, President, Wright & Associates, an investment advisory firm