

Quotable Quotes

These quotes capture a variety of creative and inspiring thoughts on generosity.

The congregations who do the best in church finances
have a rich, full, abiding compassion for mission.
They are motivated by a theology of service,
not a theology of survival. Their compelling,
driving spirit is one of striving, serving, loving mission.

Kennon L. Callahan
Author and teacher, Congregational Development

Living is giving. We live life best as we give our
strengths, gifts, and competencies in the service of
God's mission. We are called to serve, not survive.
Our giving makes a difference in our families,
our work, our community, our world, and our church.

Kennon L. Callahan
Author and teacher, Congregational Development

Money follows mission, not the reverse. This is a shorthand way of saying that
the stronger the congregation's relational characteristics, the easier it is to raise money.
The stronger the congregation's mission, visitation, groupings, leadership, and decision
making,
the stronger the giving.

Kennon L. Callahan
Author and teacher, Congregational Development

Remember that when you leave this earth,
you can take with you nothing that you have received—
only what you have given: a full heart enriched by honest
service, love, sacrifice and courage.

St. Francis of Assisi

Through these gifts we go where we cannot travel;
witness where our voices cannot be heard;
speak languages never learned
and love those whom we have never seen.

C. William Nicholson

The call to stewardship and the call to mission are part of one pilgrimage.

Anon.

When we can share—that is poetry in the prose of life.

Sigmund Freud

Who is narrow of vision cannot be big of heart.
Chinese proverb

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.
Chinese proverb

Stewardship is living into a vision of mission in a concrete way.
Anon.

A gift, like a home, should be designed for the individual.
Anon.

Of great riches there is no real use, except it be in the distribution; the rest is but conceit.
Francis Bacon

The one who fails to prepare is preparing to fail.
Benjamin Franklin

Bounty always receives part of its value from the manner in which it is bestowed.
Samuel Johnson

We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us.
Winston Churchill

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.
Sallust

If you build it, they will come.
W.P. Kinsella

Each morning sees some task begin, each evening sees it close.
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

To give away money is an easy matter and in any [one's] power. But to decide to whom to give it and how large and when and for what purpose and how is neither in every [one's] power nor an easy matter. Hence it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy, and noble.
Aristotle

Retain your economic freedom at all costs.
Anon.

It is strange but true that most people will spend forty years accumulating property, ten years conserving it, but won't take two hours to plan for its careful distribution.
Anon.

Riches do not consist in the possession of treasures but in the use made of them.
Napoleon I

Giving calls for genius.
Ovid

Stewardship is what we do after we say, "We believe."
Anon.

Think globally, act locally.
Archbishop Arthur Peters, October 1997

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.
Attributed to Sir Winston Churchill

Planning is always paid for, whether you do it or not.
Anon.

True giving knows no season.
Florence E. King

He is rich who hath enough to be charitable.
Sir Thomas Browne

Goodness is easier to recognize than define.
W.H. Auden

It is not enough to do good; one must do it in the right way.
John Morley

Let's do it right. This is for the ages.
I.M. Pei

When we build, let us think that we build forever.
John Ruskin

Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It's the only thing.
Albert Schweitzer

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure. Former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe. Anatole France

Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.

Henry Van Dyke

Don't tell me where your priorities are. Show me where you spend your money and I'll tell you what they are.

James W. Frick

Worse than being blind is to see and have no vision.

Helen Keller

We can't cross a bridge until we come to it, but I always like to lay down a pontoon ahead of time.

Bernard M. Baruch

The method of the enterprising is to plan with audacity and execute with vigour.

Christian Bovée

The man who is prepared has his battle half fought.

Miguel de Cervantes

Make your plans as fantastic as you like, because 25 years from now, they will seem mediocre. Make your plans ten times as great as you first planned, and 25 years from now you will wonder why you did not make them 50 times as great.

Henry Curtis

Plan ahead: It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

+ Richard Cardinal Cushing

If you don't have a plan of life, you'll never have order.

Josemaria Escriva

The best preparation for tomorrow is to do today's work superbly well.

Sir William Osler

In this world it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.

Henry Ward Beecher

If you want to know how rich you really are, find out what would be left of you tomorrow if you should lose every dollar you own tonight.

William J.H. Boetcker

The more you learn to do with yourself, and the more you do for others, the more you will learn to enjoy the abundant life.

William J.H. Boetcker

If we command our wealth, we shall be rich and free; if our wealth commands us, we are poor indeed.

Edmund Burke

To acquire wealth is difficult, to preserve it is more difficult, but to spend it wisely, most difficult of all.

Edward Day

A man's true wealth is the good he does in this world.

Muhammad

The surplus wealth we have gained to some extent at least belongs to our fellow beings; we are only the temporary custodians of our fortunes, and let us be careful that no just complaint can be made against our stewardship.

Jacob H. Schiff

Of all the varieties of virtue, liberality is the most beloved.

Aristotle

A man there was, and they called him mad; the more he gave, the more he had.

John Bunyan

No person was ever honoured for what he received. Honour has been the reward for what he gave.

Calvin Coolidge

They who give have all things; they who withhold have nothing.

Hindu proverb

Let him who exhorts others to give, give himself.

Latin proverb

Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

You must give some time to your fellow man. Even if it's a little thing, do something for those who have need of help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. For remember, you don't live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here, too.

Albert Schweitzer

A benefit consists not in that which is done or given, but in the intention of the giver or doer.

Seneca

If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he does, it must be by what he gives.

Robert South

We are rich only through what we give: and poor only through what we refuse and keep.
Anne Swetchine

The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.
Martin Luther

“I can’t do it” never yet accomplished anything; “I will try” has performed wonders.
George P. Burnham

If a man can...make a better mousetrap than his neighbour, the world will make a beaten path to his door.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do.
Andrew Carnegie

It takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place.
Lewis Carroll, Through the Looking-Glass

Nothing will come of nothing.
William Shakespeare, King Lear

I wouldn’t have seen it if I hadn’t believed it.
Marshall McLuhan

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.
Aristotle

He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money.
Benjamin Franklin

Where your talents and the world’s needs cross, there lies your vocation.
Aristotle

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.
We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?
Actually, who are you not to be?
Nelson Mandela, 1994 Inaugural Address

The only things worth counting on are people you can count on.
Dwight D. Eisenhower

I can live for two months on a good compliment.
Mark Twain

When someone does something good, applaud!
You will make two people happy.
Samuel Goldwyn

Dig your well before you're thirsty.
Harvey Mackay

Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid of standing still.
Chinese proverb

Ask a lot, but take what is offered.
Russian proverb

Everything that can be invented has been invented.
Director of the U.S. Patent Office, 1899

Great works are performed not by strength, but by perseverance.
Samuel Johnson

If there is no wind, row.
Latin proverb

Never, never, never, never give up.
Winston Churchill

Dost thou love life?
Then do not squander time, for that's the stuff life is made of.
Benjamin Franklin

The only reason for time
is so that everything doesn't happen at once.
Albert Einstein

There is nothing in a caterpillar
that tells you it's going to be a butterfly.
Buckminster Fuller

Leadership is like beauty—
it's hard to define but you know it when you see it.
Warren Bennis

The greatest discovery of this generation:
Human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes.
William James

Genius is one percent inspiration, and ninety-nine percent perspiration.
Thomas Edison

There are three things extremely hard: steel, a diamond, and to know one's own self.
Benjamin Franklin

When one door of happiness closes, another opens;
but often we look so long at the closed door that
we do not see the one which has opened for us.
Helen Keller

The lowest ebb is the turn of the tide.
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We are such stuff as dreams are made of.
Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Make your living doing what you love; ethically, passionately, and never give up.
Jerry Goodis, Canadian Marketing Guru

The vision always precedes reality.
Tom Leon, President, Leon's Furniture

Most people know what to do, but they don't do what they know—
because they haven't found their inner drive. Their passion.
Tony Robbins

It's not the size of the army but the power within the army.
Napoleon Bonaparte

This "telephone" has too many shortcomings to be
seriously considered as a means of communication.
The device is inherently of no value to us.
Western Union Internal Memo, 1876

We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.
Decca Recording Co., *Rejecting the Beatles*, 1962.

You cannot kindle a fire in any other heart until it is burning in your own.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Many of life's failures are [those] who did not realize how close they were to success
when they gave up.
Author Unknown

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.
Talent will not; nothing is more common
than unsuccessful men with talent.
Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.
Education alone will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.
Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

Calvin Coolidge

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.
Security is mostly a superstition.
It does not exist in nature.

Helen Keller

Only those who dare to fail greatly
can ever achieve greatly.

Robert F. Kennedy

Throughout history, outstanding leaders
have been ordinary people with extraordinary vision—
and the skills to communicate it

Peter Urs Bender

I hear—I forget.
I see—I remember.
I do—I understand.

Confucius

A good leader is best when people barely know he exists...
Of a good leader, who talks little, when his work is done, his aim
fulfilled, they will say: "We did this ourselves."

Lao Tzu (circa 600 B.C.)

I never worry about action, but only about inaction.

Winston Churchill

In the arena of human life the honours and rewards fall to those
who show their good qualities in action.

Aristotle

Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.

Benjamin Disraeli

We must not sit down and wait for miracles. Up and be going!

John Eliot

Let deeds match words.

Plautus

There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.
Winston Churchill

Charity makes no decrease in property.
Arabian proverb

The unfortunate need people who will be kind to them;
the prosperous need people to be kind to.
Aristotle

Public charities and benevolent associations for the gratuitous relief of every species of distress,
are peculiar to Christianity; no other system of civil or religious policy has originated them; they form its highest praise and characteristic feature.
Charles Caleb Colton

He who has no charity deserves no mercy.
English proverb

You have not lived a perfect day, even though you have earned your money,
unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you.
Ruth Smeltzer

Real generosity toward the future consists in giving all to what is present.
Albert Camus

He who can see three days ahead will be rich for three thousand years.
Japanese proverb

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.
Thomas Jefferson

The great French Marshal Lyautey once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow-growing and would not reach maturity for 100 years. The marshal replied, "In that case, there is no time to lose, plant it this afternoon."
John F. Kennedy

We work day after day, not to finish things; but to make the future better...because we will spend the rest of our lives there.
Charles F. Kettering

What you hide from God, don't show your neighbours.
Ignas Bernstein

Get the pattern of your life from God, then go about your work and be yourself.
Phillips Brooks

God does not want us to do extraordinary things; He wants us to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.

Bishop Charles Gore, first Bishop of Birmingham

There is no portion of our time that is our time, and the rest God's;
there is no portion of money that is our money, and the rest God's money.
It is all His; He made it all, gives it all, and He has simply trusted it to us for His service.
A servant has two purses, the master's and his own, but we have only one.

Adolphe Monod

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.

St. Ambrose

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.

Cicero

One can never pay in gratitude; one can only pay in kind somewhere else in life.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful and cheerful heart.

Plutarch

The price of greatness is responsibility.

Winston Churchill

Preach the Gospel always; and when necessary, use words.

St. Francis of Assisi

There are three conversions necessary (for the Christian life): the conversion of the heart, the mind, and the purse.

Martin Luther

One aspect of neighbourly love is that we must not merely will our neighbours good, but actually work to bring it about.

Thomas Aquinas

To pray for anything for which we will not take counsel together,
for which we will not jointly labour,
for which we will not contribute our energies and means,
is only mocking God and disappointing ourselves.

Alexander Campbell, July 1834

The secret of success is to do the common things uncommonly well.

John D. Rockefeller

Consider your possessions loaned to you by God.
St. Catherine of Siena, 1347-1380

The first great gift we can bestow on others is a good example.
Thomas Morell