

Various Quotations

Christians must have the courage to ask God for help and encouragement when their faith is troubled or shaken by uncertainty. It is often difficult to understand what God is teaching or asking of his children, but, people must find the courage to say, "I don't understand you, Lord. Listen to me. Help me understand." Christians have the right, so to speak, to ask Jesus for an explanation, and asking for further clarification is the true way to pray and speak with Jesus.

Pope Benedict XVI

We are sometimes so occupied with being good angels that we neglect to be good men and women.

St. Francis de Sales

Were I worthy of such a favor from my God, I would ask that he would grant to me this one miracle, that by his grace he would make of me a good man.

St. Ansgar

I don't think of death, or of my sins, or of paradise, or of hell, but only of doing little things for the love of God, since I am not capable of doing great things. Other than that, whatever happens to me is God's will.

Brother Lawrence

Must you continue to be your own cross? No matter which way God leads you, you change everything into bitterness by constantly brooding over everything. For the love of God, replace all this self-scrutiny with a pure and simple glance at God's goodness.

St. Jane de Chantal

Faith is not being sure. It is not being sure, but betting with your last cent.

Mary Jean Irion

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is.

Albert Einstein

I know this from experience: when I feel nothing, when I am unable to pray or practice virtue, that is the time to look for little opportunities, for trifling ways of giving pleasure. A smile, for instance, or a kindly word, when I would rather say nothing or look cross. Does God really ask no more than these unimportant little sacrifices, these desires to do something better? Is Our Lord really content with me as I am? Yes, God is content, well content.

St. Therese of Lisieux

Out of gratitude and love for God, we should desire to be reckoned fools. Laugh and grow strong.

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Joy is very infectious. We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do. Be faithful in little things. Smile at one another. We must live beautifully.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta

The greatest worship you can give is to live joyfully because of the knowledge of God's love.

Julian of Norwich

I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

Helen Keller

It took me a hundred years to figure out I can't change the world. I can only change Bessie. And, honey, that ain't easy, either.

Elizabeth "Bessie" Delany 102

There is nothing Christian in gloom. And any repentance without love is phony, any penance unsweetened by faith and cheerfulness is unacceptable. We must live in sunshine even when we are sorrowful. We must live in God's presence. We must not shut ourselves up in our own hearts, even when we are feeling sorry about our past sins.

Cardinal John Henry Newman

Genuine Christian joy is not a perpetual state of ecstatic hilarity. By no means! True joy is that interior peace and happiness which comes from our awareness that God loves us just as we are. It comes also from the knowledge that we are striving in our own human way to respond to his infinite love.

Fr. David E. Rosage

Every believer in this world must become a spark of light.

Pope John XXIII

Preach the Good News wherever you go, and if you must, even use words.

St. Francis of Assisi

God is glorified, not by anything the human voice may say, but by what we are.

St. Ambrose

Sing with your voices, sing with your hearts, sing with your lips, sing with your lives. The singer is the praise contained in the song. Do you want to speak the praise of God? Be what you speak. If you live good lives, you are God's praise.

St. Augustine

Praise God! For I assure you that our God is more compassionate than words can express. Be filled then with rejoicing; not because of our ills, which are in themselves bad and must be cured, but because of the tenderness of God, who understands all your difficulties. Keep your inward peace, however disturbed and distracted you may feel. Try to be indulgent toward the poverty and faultiness of your soul as God is.

Abbe de Tourville

Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being.

St. Francis de Sales

Consult not your fears, but your dreams. Be concerned not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.

Pope John XXIII

I put up with myself as I am, with all my countless faults. But I will look for some means of going to heaven by a little way which is very short and very straight, a little way that is quite new. We live in an age of inventions. We need no longer climb laboriously up flights of stairs; in well-to-do houses there are elevators. And I was determined to find an elevator to carry me to Jesus, for I was far too small to climb the steep stairs of perfection. It is your arms, Jesus, which are the elevator to carry me to heaven.

St. Therese of Lisieux

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 that has been opened for us.

Helen Keller

To the right and to the left, I throw to my little birds the good grain that God places in my hands. And then I let things take their course. I busy myself with it no more. God tells me, "Give, give always, without being concerned about the results."

St. Therese of Lisieux

Two works of mercy set a person free: Forgive and you will be forgiven; give and you will receive.

St. Augustine

The rabbi of Sasov once gave the last money he had in his pocket to a person of ill repute. His disciples chided him. "Shall I be more finicky than God," he answered, "who gave it to me?"

Tales of the Hasidim

We find rest in those we love, and we provide a resting place in ourselves for those who love us.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Holiness consists of doing the will of God with a smile.

Mother Theresa

Turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion...

Joel 2:13b

Don't walk in front of me – I may not follow.
Don't walk behind me – I may not lead.
Walk beside me – and just be my friend.

Camus

It's not what you do, it's how much love you put into the doing.

Mother Theresa

The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother.

St. Therese of Liseiux

From silly devotions and sad-faced saints, O Lord, deliver me!

St. Terese of Avila

Every child who is born brings us God's smile, and invites us to recognize that life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love, and preserved with care, always and at every moment.

Pope Benedict XVI

The saints are what they are, not because their sanctity makes them admirable to others, but because the gift of sainthood makes it possible for them to admire everybody else. It gives them a clarity of compassion that can find good in the most terrible of criminals. It delivers them from the burden of judging others, condemning others. It teaches them to bring the good out of others by compassion, mercy and pardon. We become saints not by the conviction that we are better than sinners, but by the realization that we are one of them, and that, all together, we need the mercy of God.

Thomas Merton

Love, and do what you will. If you are silent, be silent out of love. If you speak, speak out of love. If you censure, censure out of love. If you forbear, forbear out of love. Put love in your heart. Nothing but good can spring from that source.

St. Augustine

God is loving toward human beings, quick to pardon but slow to punish. Therefore, no persons should ever despair of their own salvation..

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Each and every one of us is an object of God's undying love. We know that God's eyes are always upon us, even when things seem very bleak. God is, indeed, our Father. Even more, God is our Mother — not wanting to hurt us, but only to do good for us, all of us. If children are ill, they have additional claim to their mother's love. And we too, if by chance we as a society are sick or are on the wrong track, have yet another claim to God's love.

Pope John Paul I

One Christmas, when Christmas Day fell on a Friday, the brothers were discussing whether or not they were obliged to abstain from meat since it was a Friday. Francis responded to Brother Morico: “On a day like this I want even the walls to eat meat, and if they can’t, at least let their surfaces be smeared with it!”

St. Francis of Assisi

I knew Mother Cabrini, and didn’t know she was a saint. She didn’t know either.

Adela Rogers St. John

Pope John XXIII, whose original name was Giuseppe (Joseph) Roncalli, visited a prison in the first few days of his pontificate and introduced himself by saying: “I am Joseph, your brother.”

Your God is ever beside you — indeed, He is even within you.

St. Alphonsus Liguori

The phrase “fear of the Lord” should be understood in terms of awe, rather than dread. In contemplation of the Almighty, the Christian does not experience servile fear, but a sincere and serious respect that prompts genuine and active adherence.

Pope Benedict XVI

There is a love in this world that is stronger than death, stronger than our weaknesses and sins. The power of love is stronger than the evil which threatens us.

Pope Benedict XVI

The thought of hell and even less the improper use of biblical images must not create anxiety or despair.... The concept of hellfire, the fiery furnace and the unquenchable fire of Gehenna need to be interpreted as symbolic language.... The risen Jesus has conquered Satan, giving us the Spirit of God who makes us cry, “Abba, Father!” (Rm 8:15; Gal 5:6)

Pope John Paul II

Clare Boothe Luce hesitated at becoming a Catholic because she doubted the compatibility of eternal punishment with God’s infinite, merciful love. But Bishop Fulton Sheen persuaded her that there very well might be no one in hell, and he received her into the church.

Fr. Kenneth Ryan, Catholic Digest

Over the pope as the expression of the binding claim of ecclesiastical authority, there still stands one’s own conscience, which must be obeyed before all else, even against the requirement of ecclesiastical authority. This emphasis on the individual, whose conscience confronts him with a supreme and ultimate tribunal, is one which in the last resort is beyond the claim even of the official church.

Joseph Ratzinger

It is better to die excommunicated than to live and violate your conscience.

St. Thomas Aquinas

Precisely because we worship God fully and have faith in him, we have no right to claim that we must force others to believe in him and worship him.

Pope John Paul II

In the pastoral practice of infant Baptism, you have rightly insisted on the need to administer Baptism only when there is a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic faith, so that the sacrament will bear fruit.

At times, however, the Church's guidelines are interpreted more strictly than they are meant to be. As a result, parents are told without sufficient reason that their child's Baptism must be postponed, or even refused.

Prudence and pastoral charity suggest a more understanding attitude towards those who approach the church with good intentions to request Baptism for their child.

The same pastoral charity should also restrain pastors from making demands that are not required by the Church's doctrine or law...

It is important that the first sacrament of Christian initiation should be seen primarily as God the Father's gift to the child.

The free and unmerited nature of grace is never so evident as on the occasion of a child's Baptism.

In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.

Pope John Paul II

We are not baptized into the hierarchy; do not receive the Cardinals sacramentally; will not spend an eternity in the beatific vision of the pope. Christ is the point. I, myself, admire the present pope (John Paul II), but even if I criticized him as harshly as some do, even if his successor proved to be as bad as some of those who have gone before, even if I find the church, as I have to live with it, a pain in the neck, I should still say that nothing a pope (or a priest) could do or say would make me wish to leave the church, although I might well wish that they would leave.

Frank Sheed

When I was young I was rather more severe. I said: "the Sacraments are the sacraments of the faith, and when the faith isn't there, where there's not practice of the faith, the sacraments (Eucharist and Confirmation) can't be conferred..."

When I was Archbishop of Munich I always discussed this with my pastors, and there too there were many factions, one severe and one more generous.

I, too, in the course of time have realized that we have to follow instead the example of the Lord, who was very open with the people who were at the margins of Israel at that time. He was a Lord of mercy – TOO open, according to many of the official authorities – with sinners, welcoming them or allowing himself to be welcomed at their dinners, drawing them to himself in his communion.

If we can see even a tiny flame of desire for communion in the church, a desire also from these children who want to enter into communion with Jesus, it seems right to be to be rather generous.

The true sense of catechesis, in fact, should be this: to carry the flame of the love of Jesus, even if it's small, to the hearts of children, and through the children to their parents, thereby opening anew the places of the faith in our time.

Pope Benedict XVI

Nowadays, the spouse of Christ (the Church) prefers to make use of the medicine of mercy rather than of severity. She considers that she meets the needs of the present day by demonstrating the validity of her teaching rather than by condemnations.

Pope John Paul XXIII

The Church's faithful are not those who cling to accidental elements that were valid in the past but are now outdated.

Pope John Paul II

It is obvious to everyone that women are now taking part in public life. This is happening more rapidly perhaps in nations with a Christian tradition, and more slowly, but broadly among peoples who have inherited other traditions or cultures. Since women are becoming ever more conscious of their human dignity, they will not tolerate being treated as inanimate objects or mere instruments, but claim, both in domestic and in public life, the rights and duties that befit a human person.

Pope John XXIII

We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.

Pierre Teilhard deChardin

The mystery of the Eucharist is the mystery of the brother, and judgment will be on the way we link together the mystery of Christ present in the Eucharist and the sacrament present in the brothers.

St. John Chrysostom

Holiness without your brother man is not holiness, for you cannot enter the Kingdom alone.

Narsai the Syrian

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity

President Dwight D. Eisenhower