

A smiling woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a red one-shoulder top, is lying on a pink and white striped beach towel on a sandy beach. She is holding an open book with a light blue cover. The background shows a green field and a blue sky. The title 'Top 100 Great Quotes on Life' is overlaid on the image. 'Top 100' is in a dark grey sans-serif font. 'Great Quotes' is in a large, bold, yellow sans-serif font. 'on' is in a smaller yellow sans-serif font. 'Life' is in a large, elegant, dark grey script font. There are decorative yellow swirls and a large yellow quotation mark in the background.

# Top 100 Great Quotes on Life

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# Introduction

Welcome to the Top 100 Great Quotes on Life!

It's not an easy task choosing just 100 quotes and it's even more difficult to put them in order from 1 to 100!

However, in bringing this selection together I have tried to do four things:

1. First of all I've delivered many training sessions over the years and used quotes to inspire and illustrate key points – so I've chosen the best of these.
2. Secondly, I've already had great feedback from visitors to the website Great Quotes on Life – so I've taken their recommendations on board.
3. Thirdly, I aimed to ensure some balance between topics such as happiness, joy, gratitude, etc. I wanted to ensure there is something for everyone and indeed for most of the situations that we face.
4. Finally, I've tried to include words from the very famous and those not so famous, older quotes and more recent contributions, and a selection across traditions and cultures – in order to reflect the diverse experience of humanity.

Please read these through the quotes and let me know what you think of my choice. If there are any other quotes that you think are worthy of inclusion in this list or should be added to the Great Quotes On Life website please let me know and I'll include them where possible.



# Why quotes are a key element in your Personal Development plans

Quotes are one of the most powerful personal development resources available because:

1. They are easy to access – anywhere and anytime.
2. They help us to instantly shift our mindset from what we are doing to thinking about a completely different situation.
3. They give someone else's perspective – someone that we are never likely to meet.
4. They bring a level of wisdom or experience which we can often use in our own life or situation.

## How to get the most from these Top 100 Great Quotes On Life

1. Choose one Great Quote On Life every day (in any subject or topic of interest) and make it your own personal Great Quote on Life for that day.
2. Set aside a quiet moment to read and think about the quote.
3. Read the quote and then (after your initial reaction) read it again, more slowly. Ask yourself 'What are two key messages, questions or advice in this quote for me?'
4. If you can't immediately see at least two messages then re-read the quote, think about the author, reflect upon how they came to write these words – and ask 'what is the relevance for me?'
5. Write down the quote and any thoughts or ideas in a quote personal development journal. Keep it with you and add a new quote each day. This will grow to be a great personal development resource, a record of your progress and a list of action points and reminders for you.
6. Remember that just one quote can be the start of a new thought process, opportunity or indeed a phase of your life. They are there to be enjoyed and savoured.
7. Finally, always take the opportunity to share any quote with your family or friends. Pass on these wise words or inspiration to others.

- 1 Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.  
**Sean O'Casey**
- 2 There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfilment. The essence of these needs is captured in the phrase 'to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy'.  
**Stephen R. Covey**
- 3 You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.  
**C S Lewis**
- 4 The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.  
**Nelson Henderson**
- 5 You will never win if you never begin.  
**Robert Schuller**
- 6 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, 'With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible'.  
**Matthew 19:26**
- 7 Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.  
**Mark Twain**
- 8 You can if you think you can.  
**George Reeves**
- 9 Your work is to discover your work and then with all your heart to give yourself to it.  
**Buddha**
- 10 For our own success to be real, it must contribute to the success of others.  
**Eleanor Roosevelt**

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- 11** None of us is as smart as all of us.  
**Japanese Proverb**
- 12** What is once well done is done forever.  
**Henry David Thoreau**
- 13** To go forward is to move toward perfection. March on, and fear not the thorns, or the sharp stones on life's path.  
**Kahlil Gibran**
- 14** This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good.  
**Anon**
- 15** The place to be happy is here, the time to be happy is now.  
**Robert Ingersoll**
- 16** Let me tell you the secret that has led me to my goal. My strength lies solely in my tenacity.  
**Louis Pasteur**
- 17** Be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love, to work, to play, and to look up at the stars.  
**Henry Van Dyke**
- 18** We need men who can dream of things that never were.  
**John F Kennedy**
- 19** Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.  
**Henry Ford**
- 20** The worst thing one can do is not to try, to be aware of what one wants and not give in to it, to spend years in silent hurt wondering if something could have materialized - never knowing.  
**Jim Rohn**

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- 21 One hundred years from now it will not matter what kind of car you drove, what kind of house you lived in, how much you had in your bank account, or what your clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because you were important in the life of a child.  
**Margaret Powers**
- 22 Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.  
**Winston Churchill**
- 23 Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.  
**Theodore Roosevelt**
- 24 The secret of life is to have a task, something you devote your entire life to, something you bring everything to, every minute of the day for the rest of your life. And the most important thing is, it must be something you cannot possibly do.  
**Henry Moore**
- 25 Teach this triple truth to all. A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity.  
**Buddha**
- 26 A happy life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy dare live.  
**Bertrand Russell**
- 27 The world is here to be invented. It's there to be done.  
**Patch Adams**
- 28 Begin somewhere. You cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do.  
**Liz Smith**
- 29 You must be the change you wish to see in the world.  
**Mahatma Gandhi**
- 30 What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.  
**Pericles**

- 31 Only the development of compassion and understanding for others can bring us the tranquillity and happiness we all seek.  
**Dalai Lama**
- 32 In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on.  
**Robert Frost**
- 33 There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things, because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new.  
**Machiavelli**
- 34 To attain excellence, you must care more than others think wise, risk more than others think is safe, and dream more than others think is practical!  
**Unknown**
- 35 May all who work for a world of peace and reason be granted the gifts of strength and courage. May the good that dwells within every human heart be magnified. May the blessings of truth and understanding always be ours - and as we grow and build for tomorrow, may we live in empathy with all others.  
**A Prayer for the New Millennium**
- 36 To become what we are capable of becoming is the only end in life.  
**Robert Louis Stevenson**
- 37 I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge, myth is more potent than history, dreams are more powerful than facts, hope always triumphs over experience, laughter is the cure for grief and love is stronger than death.  
**Robert Fulghum**
- 38 I claim to be an average man of less than average ability. I have not the shadow of a doubt that any man or woman can achieve what I have, if he or she would make the same effort and cultivate the same hope and faith.  
**Mahatma Gandhi**
- 39 All who have accomplished great things have had a great aim, have fixed their gaze on a goal which was high, one which sometimes seemed impossible.  
**Orison Swett Marden**
- 40 Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

- 41 So many fail because they don't get started; they don't go.  
**W Clement Stone**
- 42 You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins.  
**Jim Stovall**
- 43 I'd have a stable full of Arabian steeds, rooms piled with books, and I'd write out of a magic inkstand, so that my works should be as famous as Laurie's music. I want to do something splendid before I go into my castle—something heroic, or wonderful—that won't be forgotten after I'm dead. I don't know what, but I'm on the watch for it, and mean to astonish you all, some day. I think I shall write books, and get rich and famous; that would suit me, so that is my favourite dream.  
**Louisa May Alcott**
- 44 The only thing you take with you when you're gone is what you leave behind.  
**John Allston**
- 45 You will get all you want in life if you help enough other people get what they want.  
**Zig Ziglar**
- 46 We are not sent into this world to do anything in which we cannot put our hearts.  
**John Ruskin**
- 47 Do not wait for leaders. Do it alone. Person to person.  
**Mother Teresa**
- 48 I beseech you to treasure up in your hearts these, my parting word. Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.  
**Horace Mann**
- 49 It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life that no man can sincerely help another without helping himself.  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**
- 50 Everyone has his own specific vocation or mission in life; everyone must carry out a concrete assignment that demands fulfilment. Therein he cannot be replaced, nor can his life be repeated, thus, everyone's task is as unique as his specific opportunity to implement it.  
**Viktor Frankl**



- 51** Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one.  
**John Lennon**
- 52** Chose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.  
**Confucius**
- 53** At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by 'I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.' Hungry not only for bread but hungry for love. Naked not only for clothing but naked of human dignity and respect. Homeless not only for want of a home of bricks but homeless because of rejection.  
**Mother Theresa**
- 54** We are what we repeatedly do.  
**Aristotle**
- 55** Never mistake motion for action.  
**Ernest Hemingway**
- 56** The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.  
**Walt Disney**
- 57** Integrate what you believe in every single area of your life. Take your heart to work and ask the most and best of everybody else, too.  
**Meryl Streep**
- 48** The happy life is thought to be one of excellence. Now an excellent life requires exertion and does not consist in amusement.  
**Aristotle**
- 59** A happy person is not a person with a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.  
**Hugh Downs**
- 60** Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get.  
**Dale Carnegie**

- 61 The purpose of our lives is to be happy.  
**Dalai Lama**
- 62 Happiness does not consist in having what you want, but in wanting what you have.  
**Confucius**
- 63 I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of sky and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes.  
**E. E. Cummings**
- 64 Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.  
**Unknown**
- 65 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven  
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.  
**Ecclesiastes 31-8**
- 66 The obstacle is the path  
**Zen proverb**
- 67 God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with.  
**Billy Graham**
- 68 Christianity is not a theory or speculation, but a life; not a philosophy of life, but a living presence.  
**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**
- 69 To have joy one must share it. Happiness was born a twin.  
**Lord Byron**
- 70 It's always darkest before the dawn.  
**Proverb**

- 71 A thing of beauty is a joy for ever: Its loveliness increases; It will never pass into nothingness.  
**John Keats**
- 72 When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family.  
Now, as an old man, I realise the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realise that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.  
**Unknown**
- 73 Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better to take things as they come along with patience and equanimity.  
**Carl Gustav Jung**
- 74 You must have long term goals to keep you from being frustrated by short term failures.  
**Charles C. Noble**
- 75 Enough shovels of earth -- a mountain. Enough pails of water -- a river.  
**Chinese Proverb**
- 76 Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence.  
**Aristotle**
- 77 Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.  
**Martin Luther King Jr.**
- 78 We must never cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we began and to know the place for the first time.  
**T.S. Eliot**
- 79 Take heed you do not find what you do not seek.  
**English Proverb**
- 80 Daring ideas are like chessmen moved forward; they may be beaten, but they may start a winning game.  
**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

- 81 Vision is the art of seeing things invisible.  
**Jonathan Swift**
- 82 If we all did the things we are capable of, we would astound ourselves.  
**Thomas Edison**
- 83 Realize that true happiness lies within you. Waste no time and effort searching for peace and contentment and joy in the world outside. Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Reach out. Share. Smile. Hug. Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.  
**Og Mandino**
- 84 Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy.  
**Dale Carnegie**
- 85 I am here for a purpose and that purpose is to grow into a mountain, not to shrink to a grain of sand. Henceforth will I apply ALL my efforts to become the highest mountain of all and I will strain my potential until it cries for mercy.  
**Og Mandino**
- 86 I desire to leave to the men that come after me a remembrance of me in good works.  
**Alfred the Great**
- 87 Success is a state of mind. If you want success, start thinking of yourself as a success.  
**Dr. Joyce Brothers**
- 88 It's the action, not the fruit of the action that's important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there'll be any fruit. But that doesn't mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your actions. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.  
**Gandhi**
- 89 Keep asking yourself 'What's really important?'  
**Anon**
- 90 Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.  
**Mark Twain**



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- 91 Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.  
**Ralph Waldo Emerson**
- 92 Never look back unless you are planning to go that way.  
**Henry David Thoreau**
- 93 Let noble thoughts come to us from everywhere.  
**The Vedas (Hinduism)**
- 94 Wheresoever you go, go with all your heart.  
**Confucius**
- 95 Some men see things as they are and ask why. Others dream things that never were and ask why not.  
**George Bernard Shaw**
- 96 It's hard to beat a person who never gives up.  
**Babe Ruth**
- 97 Live your dream. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.  
**Eleanor Roosevelt**
- 98 Eighty percent of success is showing up.  
**Woody Allen**
- 99 My hope still is to leave the world a bit better than when I got here.  
**Jim Henson**
- 100 Live today as if it were your last. It might be.  
**Anon**

# Thank You

I hope you have enjoyed this wonderful selection. Please send me any additional quotes that you think are worthy of a place in the Top 100 Great Quotes on Life or that you would like us to add to our website.

If you would like to explore more about how to use Quotes as a personal development resource then please check-out my ebook 'How to use Great Quotes On Life for Personal Development'

There is a wide range of personal development resources available at [www.Great-Quotes-On-Life.com](http://www.Great-Quotes-On-Life.com)

Best wishes

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