

Quotes From a Servants Heart  
Quotes and Stories on Serving Others  
(and other thoughts on faith – expanded edition)  
by Daniel Roth

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Chapter 1 - Quotes on Serving Others

I am often asked to speak or write on my experiences. I started "collecting" quotes to use in those speaking engagements and writings and thought it would be great to share those with others. If you have any favorite quotes on serving (or have any corrections to the ones below) please e-mail to me at rothdanielf@gmail.com and I will include in a later edition.

## **Abigail Van Buren**

alias for Pauline Esther Phillips (1918 – 2013), was an American advice columnist and radio show host who began the “Dear Abby” column in 1956.

- The best index to a person’s character is how he treats people who can’t do him any good, and how he treats people who can’t fight back.

## **Abraham Lincoln**

(1809 – 1865) was the 16th President of the United States serving from March 1861 until his assassination in April 1865.

- To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own.
- The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just.
- You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.
- I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have.

## **African Proverb**

- Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped.

## **Al Anon Daily Devotional**

a worldwide fellowship that offers a program of recovery for the families and friends of alcoholics.

- There is nothing so frustrating as expecting something from someone who has nothing to give.

## **Albert Einstein**

(1879 – 1955) was a German-born theoretical physicist who developed the general theory of relativity.

- Setting an example is not the main means of influencing others; it is the only means.
- The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.
- The value of a man resides in what he gives and not in what he is capable of receiving

- There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a mirade. The other is as though everything is a mirade.
- Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.
- When the solution is simple, God is answering.
- Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value.
- Great spirits have always found violent opposition from mediocrities. The latter cannot understand it when a man does not thoughtlessly submit to hereditary prejudices but honestly and courageously uses his intelligence.
- The search for truth is more precious than its possession.
- Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.
- The ideals that have lighted my way and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been Kindness, Beauty and Truth.
- Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.
- Few are those who see with their own eyes and feel with their own hearts.
- Few people are capable of expressing with equanimity opinions which differ from the prejudices of their social environment. Most people are even incapable of forming such opinions.
- Everybody is a genius but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

## **Albert Schweitzer**

(1875 – 1965) German—and later French—theologian, organist, philosopher, physician, and medical missionary in Africa, also known for his interpretive life of Jesus.

- I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will really be happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.

Alexandra Stoddard – Contemporary Philosopher, Author, Interior Designer and Speaker.

- What we do today, right now, will have an accumulated effect on all our tomorrows.

## **Alice Duer Miller**

(1874 – 1942) was an American writer and poet.

- If it's very painful for you to criticize your friends – you're safe doing it. But if you take the slightest pleasure in it, that's the time to hold your tongue.

## **Alice M. Swaim**

(1911- 1996) American poet, born in Scotland.

- Courage is not the towering oak that sees storms come and go; it is the fragile blossom that opens in the snow.

## **Alice Walker**

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and poet.

- The most important question in the world is "Why is the child crying?"

## **Andrew Jackson**

(1767 – 1845) Seventh President of the United States.

- One man with courage makes a majority.

## **Anne Frank**

(1929 – 1945) Jewish victim of the holocaust. Her wartime diary "The Diary of a Young Girl" is one of the most read books ever.

- How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
- Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!

## **Annette Funicello**

(1942-2013) American actress and singer. One of the original Mousketeers. Died from complications of multiple sclerosis.

- Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful.

## **Anonymous**

if you know the source please e-mail me at [rothdanielf@gmail.com](mailto:rothdanielf@gmail.com).

- We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors but they all have to learn to live in the same box.

- Our kids are worth whatever it takes.
- Sometimes I want to ask God why he allows injustice in the world when He could do something about it. But I'm afraid He might just ask me the same question.
- The kids who need the most love will ask for it in the most unloving of ways.
- Your life is your message to the world. Make sure it's inspiring.
- Children are wired for hands-on, full-contact, self-selected interaction with the world --- we call this PLAY.
- Your job is not to judge. Your job is not to figure out if someone deserves something. Your job is to lift the fallen, to restore the broken, and to heal the hurting.
- Live your life in such a way that the Westboro Baptist Church will want to picket your funeral.
- You are confined only by the walls you build yourself.
- Today is full of possible.
- Speak in such a way that others love to listen to you. Listen in such a way that others love to speak to you.
- Be the reason someone smiles today.
- I am so lucky to work with children. No matter how bad I look or feel, whenever I walk into work my kids shower me with hugs, tell me I look pretty, and say "I love you!" The best part: they really mean it.
- We talk so much about wanting to leave a better planet to our kids, that we forget about leaving better kids to this planet. Educate your children! Say NO to them every once in a while.
- If we are going to err, let's err on the side of unconditional love and grace.
- The world doesn't want to be saved. It wants to be loved. (That's how you save it.)
- Compassion is not compassion without action – it's just feeling sorry for someone.
- Every child you encounter is a divine appointment.
- Each week, millions and millions of upper middle class American citizens put on expensive dress clothes, and load themselves into SUV's and drive past homeless shelters, orphanages, prisons, missions, and halfway houses on their way to a very expensive and nice church, where somebody tell them to how to be more like Jesus.
- The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.
- Your smile may be the only one a child sees today. Smile a lot.

- When we do things out of great love, rather than great expectation, more comes back to us that we could have ever imagined.
  - Don't refuse to go on an occasional wild goose chase. That's what wild geese are for.
  - It takes a big heart to help shape little minds.
  - I will let them be little, fill their hearts with laughter, help them grow wings, nurture their sense of wonder, inspire them to believe and love them like there is no tomorrow.
  - I'm going to succeed because I'm crazy enough to think I can.
  - The life you lead is the lesson you teach.
  - My friend, If I could give you one thing, I would wish for you the ability to see yourself as others see you. They you would realize what a truly special person you are.
  - A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
  - Do you really want Jesus to say: For I was jobless and you told me to "get a job"; I was homeless, and you called me a dirty hippie; I was destitute and you said unto me, "Helping you would only encourage a big government nanny state. Be patient for surely my riches will trickle down to you.'?
  - Your beliefs don't make you a better person, your behavior does.
  - Speak the truth even if your voice shakes.
  - Courage does not always roar. Sometimes it's the quiet voice at the end of the day saying. I will try again tomorrow.
  - Let your smile change the world but don't let the world change your smile.
  - Sometimes it is better to be kind than to be right. We do not need an intelligent mind that speaks, but a patient heart that listens.
  - If your theology doesn't lead you to love people more, you should question your theology.
  - Sometimes people don't want to hear the truth because they don't want their illusions destroyed.
  - I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that, then I realized I am somebody.
- A.A. Milne (1882-1956) English author best known for his books about Winnie-the-Pooh.
- You can't stay in your corner of the forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.

**Alvin Price**

Contemporary author specializing in child development.

- Parents need to fill a child's bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes to drain it dry.

## **Antonio Smith**

Pastor, Church Planter, Published Author & Poet, Award Winning Songwriter, Leader Grower, and Motivational Speaker.

- Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.

## **Aristotle**

(384 – 322 BC) Greek Philosopher.

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

## **Audre Lorde**

(1934 – 1992) Caribbean-American writer, feminist and civil rights activist.

- When I dare to be powerful - to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.

## **Balthasar Gracian**

(1601 – 1658) Spanish Jesuit and prose writer and philosopher.

- Be content to act, and leave the talking to others.

## **Barbara Colorose**

Author of the international best seller "Kids Are Worth It!".

- If kids come to us from strong, healthy functioning families, it makes our job easier. If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important.

## **Ben Sweetland**

Author of "Grow Rich While You Sleep".

- We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own.

## **Benjamin Disraeli**

(1804 – 1881) British Conservative politician, writer and aristocrat who was twice elected Prime Minister.

- Action may not always bring happiness; but there is not happiness without action.

## **Benjamin Franklin**

(1706 – 1790) One of the founding fathers of the United States. Leading author, printer, political theorist, politician, postmaster, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman and diplomat.

- Well done is better than well said.

## **Bill Cosby**

(1937 - ) American comedian, actor, author and activist.

- I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.

## **Billy Graham**

(1918 - ) American evangelical Christian evangelist.

- Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened.

## **Bob Marley**

(1945 – 1981) Jamaican reggae singer-songwriter.

- Some people feel the rain. Other just get wet.

## **Bob Talbert**

(1936 – 1999) American Newspaper Columnist.

- Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best.

## **Booker T. Washington**

(1856 -1915) African-American educator, author, orator and presidential advisor. Born into slavery.

- You can't hold a man down without staying down with him.

## **Brian Koslow**

Author and Inspirational Speaker.



- To increase your effectiveness, make your emotions subordinate to your commitments.

## **C.S. Lewis**

(1898 – 1963) novelist, poet, academic, lay theologian and Christian apologist.

- If you do one good deed your reward usually is to be set to do another and harder and better one.

## **Carl Jung**

(1875 – 1961) Swiss psychiatrist and psychotherapist.

- One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.

## **Carl W. Buechner**

(1926 - ) Presbyterian minister.

- They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

## **Charles Darwin.**

- If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.

## **Charles Dickens**

(1812 – 1870) was an English writer and social critic.

- No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

## **Chinese Proverb**

- Be not afraid of growing slowly. Be afraid only of standing still.
- The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.

## **Cory Booker**

(1971- ) Mayor of Newark, NJ.

- Before you speak to me about your religion, first show it to me in how you treat other people; Before you tell me how much you love your God, show me how much you love all his children; Before you preach to me of your passion for your faith, teach me about it through your compassion for your

neighbors. In the end, I'm not as interested in what you have to tell or sell as in how you chose to live and give.

## **Chuck Brodsky**

(1960 - ) American musician and singer-songwriter.

- We are each other's angels, we meet when it is time.

## **Confucius**

(551 – 479 BC) Chinese teacher, editor, politician and philosopher.

- Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.
- To know what is right and not do it is the worst cowardice.

## **Dag Hjalmar Agné Carl Hammarskjöld**

Swedish diplomat economist and author. The second Secretary-General of the United Nations.

- It was when Lucifer first congratulated himself upon his angelic behavior that he became the tool of evil.

## **Daniel J. Boorstin**

(1914 – 2004) American historian, professor, attorney and writer.

- The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance - it is the illusion of knowledge.

## **Daniel Roth**

(1964 - )

- You are perfectly made and perfectly prepared for whatever God has planned for you.
- It's easy to be nice to the popular, beautiful people. Everyone wants to wear a rose in their lapel. Everyone wants to be part of the "in" crowd. But Jesus didn't hang out with the roses and carnations; he hung out with the dandelions.
- The child who never cries is more troubling than the one that always does. At least the one crying has some expectation of their needs being met.
- We aren't perfect but we are present. Sometimes showing up is enough.
- It's hard to hate up close.

## **Doc Childre**

American human development specialist.

- An aware person loves all children he or she meets and interacts with for you are a caretaker for those moments in time.

## **Don Francisco**

(1946 - ) American Christian singer, songwriter and musician.

- In the hand that is moved by the spirit is the proof of a God who is there.

## **Dr. Suess**

(1904 – 1991) Theodor Seuss Geisel was an American writer, poet, and cartoonist most widely known for his rhyming children's books.

- Until someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.
- I meant what I said and I said what I meant an elephants loyal 100%.
- Today you are you that is truer than true. There is no one alive youer than you.
- Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.
- A person's a person, no matter how small.
- It's a troublesome world. All the people who're in it are troubled with troubles almost every minute. You ought to be thankful. A whole heaping lot. For the places and people you're lucky you're not.
- Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one.
- Kid, you'll move mountains! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So..... get on your way!
- Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

## **E. H. Chapin**

(1814 – 1880) American preacher and editor of the Christian Leader.

- Never does the human soul appear so strong as when it foregoes revenge, and dares forgive an injury.
- Every action of our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.

## **Ellen DeGeneres**

Comedian, actor, talk show host.

- I stand for honesty, equality, kindness, compassion, treating people the way you want to be treated, and helping those in need. To me, those are traditional values.

## **Edmund Burke**

(1729 – 1777) Irish statesman, author, orator, political theorist and philosopher.

- Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.
- The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

## **Elbert Hubbard**

(1856 – 1915) American writer, publisher, artist and philosopher.

- God will not look you over for medal, degrees or diplomas, but for scars .
- One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.
- Many a man's reputation would not know his character if they met on the street.

## **Eleanor Powell**

(1912 – 1982) American film actress and dancer of the 1930s and 1940s.

- What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.

## **Eleanor Roosevelt**

(1884 – 1962) First Lady and human rights activist.

- The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

## **Elie Wiesel**

(1928- ) Romanian born Jewish-American and political activist and holocaust survivor.

- Take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.

## **Elizabeth Kenny**

(1880 – 1952) Australian nurse who promoted new methods of rehabilitation that later became the foundation of physical therapy.

- He who angers you, conquers you.

## **Epictetus**

(55 -135) Great sage and Stoic philosopher.

- Difficulties are things that show what men are.

## **Erica Jong**

(1942- ) American author and teacher.

- Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow that talent to the dark place where it leads.

## **Ernest Fitzgerald**

(1925 – 2001) American Methodist Bishop.

- Happiness is a deep sense of inner peace that comes when they believe their lives have meaning and that they are making a difference for good in the world.

## **Ernest Hemingway**

(1899 – 1961) American author and journalist.

- Never mistake motion for action.

## **Fr. Jerome Cummings**

- Love is shown in your deeds, not in your words.

## **Frank A. Clark**

(1860 – 1936) American lawyer and politician.

- There's nothing that can help you understand your beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child.

## **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

(1882 – 1945) 32nd President of the United States.

- The test of our progress is not whether we add more to those who have much; it is whether we provide for those who have too little.

## **Fred "Mr" Rogers**

(1928 – 2003) American educator, minister, songwriter, author and television host; most famous for creating and hosting Mister Rogers Neighborhood.

- We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.

## **Fred Reed**

(1945 - ) Writer for The Washington Times, The American Conservative and LewRockwell.com.

- If you want to respect yourself, do something you will respect yourself for doing.

## **Frederick Collins**

(1869 – 1952) Early experimenter in wireless telephony.

- There are two types of people - those who come into a room and say, "Well, here I am," and those who come into a room and say, "Ah, there you are."

## **G. K. Chesterton**

(1874 – 1936) English writer, lay theologian, poet and dramatist.

- Love means to love that which is unlovable; or it is no virtue at all.

## **Garrison Keillor**

(1942 - ) American author, humorist and storyteller.

- Nothing you do for children is ever wasted. They seem not to notice us, hovering, averting our eyes, and they seldom offer thanks, but what we do for them is never wasted.

## **General Norman Schwarzkopf Jr**

(1934 – 2012) United States Army General who led the coalition forces in the Persian Gulf War.

- The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do; the hard part is doing it

## **George Bernard Shaw**

(1856 – 1960) Irish Playwright.

- The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity.

## **George Carlin**

(1937 – 2008) American comedian, writer and social critic.

- Those who dance are considered insane by those who can't hear the music.

## **George Washington Carver**

(1864 – 1963) American scientist, educator and inventor who was born into slavery.

- How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in like you will have been all of these

## **Gordon Neufeld**

developmental psychologist and author.

- Children learn best when they like their teacher and they think their teacher likes them.

## **Harper Lee**

(1926 - ) American novelist best known for "To Kill a Mockingbird".

- People generally see what they look for, and hear what they listen for.

## **Harry Chapin**

(1942 – 1981) American Folk Singer-Songwriter and Humanitarian.

- I know when a child is hurting that silence can be wrong, I know that when old folks are helpless I can't just pass along and I know when someone's hurting I can't just sing this song and when I hear someone crying I can't just wonder who that it could be.
- I am a greedy, selfish bastard. I want the fact that I existed to mean something.
- When in doubt, do something
- Good dreams don't come cheap, you've got to pay for them and if you just dream when your asleep there is no way for them to come alive... to survive.
- He sang from his heart and he sang from his soul. He did not know how well he sang it just made him whole.

## **Harry S Truman**

(1884 – 1972) 33rd President of the United States of America

- I studied the lives of great men and famous women, and I found that the men and the women who got to the top were those who did the jobs they had in hand, with everything they had of energy and enthusiasm and hard work.

## **Harvey Mackay**

(1932 - ) American businessman and columnist.

- Failure is an attitude, not an outcome.

## **Helen Keller**

(1880 – 1968) American author, activist and lecturer. She was the first deaf blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

- I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.
- No pessimist ever discovered the secret of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit.
- The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, nor touched but are felt in the heart.
- True happiness...is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.
- The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight but has no vision.
- To keep our faces toward change, and behave like free spirits in the presence of fate, is strength undefeatable.
- Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows.
- Although the world is very full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.
- Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light.

## **Henry Drummond**

(1786 – 1860) English banker, politician and writer.

- You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.



## **Henry Ford**

(1863 – 1947) American Industrialist and founder of the Ford Motor Company.

- Whether you think you can, or that you can't, you're usually right.

## **Henry VanDyke**

(1852 – 1933) American author, educator and clergyman.

- There is a loftier ambition than merely to stand high in the world. It is to stoop down and lift mankind a little higher.

## **Hugh Mulligan**

Associated Press reporter.

- What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.

## **J.D. Salinger**

(1919 – 2010) American author most famous for “The Catcher in the Rye”.

- The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of the mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.

## **James Garfield**

(1831 – 1881) 20th President of the United States.

- Be fit for more than the thing you are now doing. Let everyone know that you have a reserve in yourself; that you have more power than you are now using. If you are not too large for the place you occupy, you are too small for it.

## **James Ramsey Ullman**

(1907 – 1971) American author and mountaineer.

- To know a little less and to understand a little more: that, it seems to me, is our greatest need.

## **Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

(1749 – 1832) German writer and politician.

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