



# Characteristics & Qualities of a Great Leader

a quote book filled with truth and wisdom

Dan Black

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# Introduction

I want to thank you for taking the time to download and read this eBook. When I have featured a blog post with only quotes on [danblackonleadership.com](http://danblackonleadership.com) that pertained to different leadership topics, those posts had some of the highest viewings. After seeing the positive impact these quotes have made in both my life and others, I wanted to share a collection of quotes that will greatly impact your life of leadership as they have done for me.

My desire is for each of you to excel in your personal life and as a leader by reading these truths and gaining the wisdom these quotes provide. I believe as you read them they will inspire, motivate, and energize you to grow in your potential and reach your dreams.

I encourage you to read, memorize, file, and keep these quotes close by.

Reflecting on them will:

- » Motivate you to keep moving forward
- » Lift you up when you're feeling down
- » Spark creativity to provoke new ideas
- » Bring about positive change in your life
- » Help inspire and add value to others
- » Be a resource to enhance your leadership skills, writing, or public speaking

The words of Benjamin Disraeli paint accurately the importance of quotes, “The wisdom of the wise and experience of ages may be preserved by quotations.”

I hope you enjoy these quotes as much as I do and glean all the wisdom and truth they offer.

Thanks,

Dan

# Self Leadership

“Leaders who can stay optimistic and upbeat, even under intense pressure, radiate the positive feelings that create resonance. By staying in control of their feelings and impulses, they craft an environment of trust, comforts and fairness. And that self-management has a trickle-down effect from the leader.”

~Daniel Goleman

“Mastering others is strength. Mastering yourself is true power.”

~Kao Tzu

“Nothing so conclusively proves a man’s ability to lead others as what he does from day to day to lead himself.” ~Thomas Watson, Sr.

“Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you. Never excuse yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself-and be lenient to everybody else.”

~Henry Ward Beecher

“The first and best victory is to conquer self.”

~Plato

“Before you can become a great leader to others, you first must understand yourself.”

~Vince Poscente

“The individual who wants to reach the top in business must appreciate the might and force of habit. He must be quick to break those habits that can break him—and hasten to adopt those practices that will become the habits that help him achieve the success he desires.”

~Paul Getty

“Rule your mind or it will rule you.”

~Horace

“Whatever you are, be a good one.”

~Abraham Lincoln

“You can never conquer the mountain. You can only conquer yourself.”

~Jim Whitaker

“It takes 20 years to build a reputation and 5 minutes to ruin it. If you think about that you will do things differently.”

~Warren Buffet

“The true measure of a career is to be able to be content, even proud, that you succeeded through your own endeavors without leaving a trail of casualties in your wake.”

~Alan Greenspan

“It’s hard to beat a person who never gives up.”

~Babe Ruth

“Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else.”

~Judy Garland

“The way you think, the way you behave, the way you eat, can influence your life by 30 to 50 years.”

~Deepak Chopra

# Character

“A man without decision of character can never be said to belong to himself... He belongs to whatever can make captive of him.”

~John Foster

“The respect that leadership must have requires that one’s ethics be without question. A leader not only stays above the line between right and wrong, he stays well clear of the gray areas.”

~Alan Bernard

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

~Abraham Lincoln

“You can not dream yourself into a character; you must hammer and forge yourself one.”

~James Froude

“Character is made in the small moments of our lives.”

~Philip Brooks



“Character is the firm foundation stone upon which one must build to win respect. Just as no worthy building can be erected on a weak foundation, so no lasting reputation worthy of respect can be built on a weak character.”

~R. C. Samsel

“Character is the indelible mark that determines the only true value of all people and all their work.”

~Orison Marden

“Character is power; it makes friends, draws patronage and support and opens the way to wealth, honor and happiness.”

~David Howe

“Character is destiny.”

~Heraclitus

“Successful leadership is not about being tough or soft, sensitive or assertive, but about a set of attributes. First and foremost is character.”

~Warren Bennis

“No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character.”

~John Morley

“Character is not built in men by hiding them from temptation, it is by teaching them to scorn it.”

~Emmett LeCompte

“Good character is more to be praised than outstanding talent. Most talents are to some extent a gift. Good character, by contrast, is not given to us. We have to build it piece by piece—by thought, choice, courage and determination.”

~John Luther

“Dreams are the touchstones of our character.”

~Henry David Thoreau

“The force of character is cumulative.”

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

“If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of itself.”

~ D.L. Moody

# Integrity

“Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody’s going to know whether you did it or not.”

~Oprah Winfrey

“The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.”

~Dwight D. Eisenhower

“It takes less time to do a thing right than to explain why you did it wrong.”

~Henry Wadsworth

“Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you.”

~Jackson Brown, Jr.

“If you tell the truth you don’t have to remember anything.”

~ Mark Twain

“Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth. Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys to living your life with integrity.”

~Clement Stone

“A life lived with integrity - even if it lacks the trappings of fame and fortune is a shining star in whose light others may follow in the years to come.”

~Denis Waitley

“Calamity is the test of integrity.”

~Samuel Richardson

“Your reputation and integrity are everything. Follow through on what you say you’re going to do. Your credibility can only be built over time, and it is built from the history of your words and actions.”

~Maria Razumich-Zec

“Integrity is the essence of everything successful.”

~Buckminster Fuller

“Perhaps the surest test of an individual’s integrity is his refusal to do or say anything that would damage his self-respect.”

~Thomas Monson

“The high road is always respected. Honesty and integrity are always rewarded.”

~Scott Hamilton

“Live with integrity, respect the rights of other people, and follow your own bliss.”

~Nathaniel Branden

“It’s easy to maintain your integrity when no one is offering to buy it out.”

~Marc Maron

“You are in integrity when the life you are living on the outside matches who you are on the inside.”

~Alan Cohen

# Influence

“The true measure of leadership is influence-nothing more, nothing less.”

~John Maxwell

“The very essence of all power to influence lies in getting the other person to participate.”

~Harry Overstreet

“The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority.”

~Kenneth Blanchard

“Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing.”

~Albert Schweitzer

“The influential man is the successful man, whether he be rich or poor.”

~Orison Marden

“Leaders don’t force people to follow -- they invite them on a journey.”

~Charles Lauer

“You can have no influence over those for whom you have underlying contempt.”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Attempt to perceive the power of influence , the small and subtle may have on the great, directly or indirectly in turning disadvantage into an advantage.”

~ Unknown

“It would be difficult to exaggerate the degree to which we are influenced by those we influence.”

~Eric Hoffer

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.”

~John Adams

“The only inheritance that a man will leave that has eternal value is his influence.”

~Larry Dobbs

“Influence doesn’t come to us instantaneously. It grows by stages.”

~John Maxwell

“You don’t have to be a “person of influence” to be influential. In fact, the most influential people in my life are probably not even aware of the things they’ve taught me.”

~Scott Adams

“Once you’ve found your own voice, the choice to expand your influence, to increase your contribution”

~Stephen Covey

“Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.”

~Albert Einstein

“Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another.”

~George Eliot

“You can exert no influence if you are not susceptible to influence.”

~Carl Jung



# Personal Growth

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.”

~Henry Ford

“Growth today is an investment for tomorrow.”

~John Maxwell

“Most of us must learn a great deal every day in order to keep ahead of what we forget.”

~Frank Clark

“If a person will spend one hour a day on the same subject for five years, that person will be an expert on that subject.”

~Earl Nightingale

“You’ve got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather is.”

~Irish Proverb

“It is the capacity to develop and improve their skills that distinguishes leaders from followers.”

~Warren Bennis

“By improving yourself, the world is made better. Be not afraid of growing too slowly. Be afraid only of standing still.”

~Ben Franklin

“When the pupil is ready, the teacher will appear.”

~Plato

“In order to do more. I’ve got to be more.”

~Jim Rohn

“There are no great limits to personal growth because there are no limits of human intelligence, imagination, and wonder.”

~Ronald Reagan

“You’ve got to continue to grow, or you’re just like last night’s cornbread-stale and dry.”

~Loretta Lynn

“Most of us plateau when we lose the tension between where we are and where we ought to be.”

~John Gardiner

“I don't think much of a man who is not wiser than he was yesterday.”

~Abraham Lincoln

“Life is growth. If we stop growing, technically and spiritually, we are as good as dead.”

~Morihei Ueshiba

“Strength and personal growth come only through continuous effort and struggle.”

~Napoleon Hill

# Serving

“Servant-leadership is all about making the goals clear and then rolling your sleeves up and doing whatever it takes to help people win. In that situation, they don’t work for you, you work for them.”

~Ken Blanchard

“Good leaders must first become good servants.”

~Robert Greenleaf

“Servant-leadership is more than a concept, it is a fact. Any great leader, by which I also mean an ethical leader of any group, will see herself or himself as a servant of that group and will act accordingly.”

~Scott Peck

“If leadership serves only the leader, it will fail. Ego satisfaction, financial gain, and status can all be valuable tools for a leader, but if they become the only motivations, they will eventually destroy a leader. Only when service for a common good is the primary purpose are you truly leading.”

~Sheila Bethel

“We are here to add what we can to, not get what we can from life.”

~William Osler

“Wealth, like happiness, is never attained when sought after directly. It comes as a by-product of providing a useful service.”

~Henry Ford

“The purpose of life is not to win. The purpose of life is to grow and to share. When you come to look back on all that you have done in life, you will get more satisfaction from the pleasure you have brought into other people’s lives than you will from the times that you outdid and defeated them.”

~Harold Kushner

“A person who is worthy of being a leader wants power not for himself, but in order to be of service.”

~ Sam Ervin, Jr.

“Service is the rent we pay to be living. It is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time.”

~Marian Wright Edelman

“Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

~Martin Luther King Jr.

“A good objective of leadership is to help those who are doing poorly to do well and to help those who are doing well to do even better.”

~Jim Rohn

“Blessed is the leader who seeks the best for those he serves.”

~Unknown

“You can get everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want.”

~Zig Ziglar

# Communication

“If you have nothing to say, say nothing.”

~ Mark Twain

“You can have brilliant ideas, but if you can’t get them across, your ideas won’t get you anywhere.”

~Lee Iacocca

“Developing excellent communication skills is absolutely essential to effective leadership. The leader must be able to share knowledge and ideas to transmit a sense of urgency and enthusiasm to others. If a leader can’t get a message across clearly and motivate others to act on it, then having a message doesn’t even matter.”

~Gilbert Amelio

“Communication is the real work of leadership.”

~Nitin Nohria

“Good communication does not mean that you have to speak in perfectly formed sentences and paragraphs. It isn’t about slickness. Simple and clear go a long way.”

~John Kotter

“If you just communicate you can get by. But if you skillfully communicate, you can work miracles.”

~Jim Rohn

“Be sincere; be brief; be seated.”

~Franklin D. Roosevelt

“I wasn’t a great communicator, but I communicated great things.”

~Ronald Reagan

“The basic building block of good communications is the feeling that every human being is unique and of value.”

~Unknown

“Communication works for those who work at it.”

~John Powell

“The art of communication is the language of leadership.”

~James Humes



“The less people know, the more they yell.”

~Seth Godin

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”

~George Bernard Shaw

“To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.”

~Anthony Robbins

“Good communication does not mean that you have to speak in perfectly formed sentences and paragraphs. It isn't about slickness. Simple and clear go a long way.”

~John Kotter

# Thinking

“The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”

~Albert Einstein

“Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think.”

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Good thoughts and actions can never produce bad results; bad thoughts and actions can never produce good results.”

~James Allen

“You can’t stop people from thinking-but you can start them.”

~Frank A. Dusch

“For the Flower to blossom, you need the right soil as well as the right seed. The same is true to cultivate good thinking.”

~William Bernbach

“Good thinkers are always in demand.”

~John Maxwell

“A conclusion is the place where you get tired of thinking.”

~Edward DeBono

“Until thought is linked with purpose there is no intelligent accomplishment.”

~James Allen

“Strategic thinking is like showering, you have to keep doing it.”

~Olan Hendrix

“Big thinkers are specialists in creating positive forward-looking, optimistic pictures in their own minds and in the minds of others.”

~David Schwartz

“The problem with popular thinking is that it doesn’t require you to think at all.”

~Kevin Myers

“More gold has been mined from the thoughts of man than has ever been taken from the earth.”

~Napoleon Hill

“Where success is concerned, people are not measured in inches, or pounds, or college degrees, or family back-ground; they are measured by the size of their thinking.”

~David Schwartz

“Clear thinking requires courage rather than intelligence.”

~Thomas Szasz

“Ninety-nine point nine percent of all employees are in the pile because they don't think.”

~Jack Welch

“You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.”

~Allen, James

“Life consists of what a man is thinking about all day.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Vision

“People are more inclined to be drawn in if their leader has a compelling vision. Great leaders help people get in touch with their own aspirations and then will help them forge those aspirations into a personal vision.”

~John Kotter

“Vision without execution is hallucination.”

~Thomas Edison

“The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. It’s got to be a vision you articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You can’t blow an uncertain trumpet.”

~Father Theodore Hesburgh

“Vision is not enough. It must be combined with venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps, we must step up the stairs.”

~Vaclav Havel

“Where there is no vision the people perish.”

~Proverbs 29:18

“Determine that the thing can and shall be done and then we shall find the way.”

~Abraham Lincoln

“The future belongs to people who see possibilities before they become obvious.”

~Ted Levitt

“To be a successful entrepreneur one needs a vision of greatness for one’s work. If we dream extravagantly we will be inspired to forge a reality beyond the straight jacket of practicalities. There is a profound connection between art and enterprise which allows businesses to overcome the limitations of their existing visions.”

~Ernest Hall

“We can chart our future clearly and wisely only when we know the path which has led to the present.”

~Adlai Stevenson

“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”

~Warren Bennis

“Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done.”

~Harriet Beecher Stowe

“When you have vision it affects your attitude. Your attitude is optimistic rather than pessimistic.”

~Charles Swindoll

“To grasp and hold a vision, that is the very essence of successful leadership—not only on the movie set where I learned it, but everywhere.”

~Ronald Reagan

“Nothing stops an organization faster than people who believe that the way you worked yesterday is the best way to work tomorrow.”

~Jon Madonna

“Vision without action is daydream. Action without vision is nightmare.”

~Japanese Proverb

# Balanced Life

“It’s all about quality of life and finding a happy balance between work and friends and family.”

~Philip Green

“I believe that being successful means having a balance of success stories across the many areas of your life. You can’t truly be considered successful in your business life if your home life is in shambles.”

~Zig Ziglar

“I’ve learned that you can’t have everything and do everything at the same time.”

~Oprah Winfrey

“The Gift of Balance in Your Life – May you find the balance of life, time for work but also time for play. Too much of one thing ends up creating stress that no one needs in their life.”

~Catherine Pulsifer

“You will never find time for anything. If you want time you must make it.”

~Charles Buxton



“Balance is not better time management, but better boundary management. Balance means making choices and enjoying those choices.”

~Betsy Jacobson

“Work, love and play are the great balance wheels of man’s being.”

~Orison Marden

“Happiness is not a matter of intensity but of balance and order and rhythm and harmony.”

~Thomas Merton

“The best and safest thing is to keep a balance in your life, acknowledge the great powers around us and in us. If you can do that, and live that way, you are really a wise man.”

~ Euripides

“Next to love, balance is the most important thing.”

~John Wooden

“I think at the end of the day you have to find a balance with what’s really important.”

~Julianne Hough

“I’ve always been very aware of balance and, even before I had a child, my life always takes priority to my work.”

~Charlize Theron

“It’s important to have balance in your life between work and play.”

~Bobby Flay

“The trick to balance is to not make sacrificing important things become the norm.”

~Simon Sinek

“My theory is that balance is key - nothing in excess.”

~L’Wren Scott

# Attitude

“Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”

~Thomas Jefferson

“A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.”

~David Brinkley

“The winner’s edge is not in a gifted birth, a high IQ, or in talent. The winner’s edge is all in the attitude, not aptitude. Attitude is the criterion for success.”

~Dennis Waitley

“A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.”

~Herm Albright

“Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.”

~Albert Einstein

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”

~Winston Churchill

“If you don’t like something, change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude.”

~Maya Angelou

“Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”

~Thomas Jefferson

“Choosing to be positive and having a grateful attitude is going to determine how you’re going to live your life.”

~Joel Osteen

“The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude.”

~Oprah Winfrey

“Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude.”

~Zig Ziglar

“Our attitude toward life determines life’s attitude towards us.”

~John N. Mitchell

“You cannot control what happens to you, but you can control your attitude toward what happens to you, and in that, you will be mastering change rather than allowing it to master you.”

~Brian Tracy

“Attitude is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than what people do or say. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill.”

~W. C. Fields

“Great effort springs naturally from great attitude.”

~Pat Riley

“Attitudes are nothing more than habits of thoughts, and habits can be acquired. An action repeated becomes an attitude realized.”

~Paul Myer

# Belief

“If you think you can do a thing or think you can’t do a thing, you’re right.”

~Henry ford

“Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact.”

~William James

“Belief in oneself is one of the most important bricks in building any successful venture.”

~Lydia Child

“Be not afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.”

~Henry James

“Just as no one can be forced into belief, so no one can be forced into unbelief.”

~Sigmund Freud

“No man is great enough or wise enough for any of us to surrender our destiny to. The only way in which anyone can lead us is to restore to us the belief in our own guidance.”

~Henry Miller

“If you don’t have solid beliefs you cannot build a stable life. Beliefs are like the foundation of a building, and they are the foundation to build your life upon.”

~Alfred Montapert

“In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can.”

~Michael Korda

“Some things have to be believed to be seen.”

~ Ralph Hodgson

“Don’t limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.”

~Mary Kay Ash

“It is easier to believe than to doubt.”

~Everett D. Martin

“You can have anything you want if you will give up the belief that you can't have it.”

~Robert Anthony

“Belief creates the actual fact.”

~William James

“What we can or cannot do, what we consider possible or impossible, is rarely a function of our true capability. It is more likely a function of our beliefs about who we are.”

~Tony Robbins

“Men often become what they believe themselves to be. If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it. But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it even if I didn't have it in the beginning.”

~Mahatma Gandhi



# Talents

“Talents are your naturally recurring patterns of thought, feeling, or behavior.”

~Donald Clifton

“Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work.”

~Stephen King

“When we’re able to put most of our energy into developing our natural talents, extraordinary room for growth exists. So, a revision to the “You-can-be-anything-you-want-to-be” maxim might be more accurate: You cannot be anything you want to be—but you can be a lot more of who you already are.”

~Tom Rath

“The person born with a talent they are meant to use will find their greatest happiness in using it.”

~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Artistic talent is a gift from God and whoever discovers it in himself has a certain obligation: to know that he cannot waste this talent, but must develop it.”

~Pope John Paul

“Our talents are the gift that God gives to us... What we make of our talents is our gift back to God.”

~Leo Buscaglia

“It takes people a long time to learn the difference between talent and genius, especially ambitious young men and women.”

~Louisa May

“But talent—if you don’t encourage it, if you don’t train it, it dies. It might run wild for a little while, but it will never mean anything. Like a wild horse. If you don’t tame it and teach it to run on track, to pace itself and bear a rider, it doesn’t matter how fast it is. It’s useless.”

~Elizabeth Hand

“Everybody is talented because everybody who is human has something to express.”

~Brenda Ueland

“Talent is the multiplier. The more energy and attention you invest in it, the greater the yield. The time you spend with your best is, quite simply, your most productive time.”

~Marcus Buckingham

“The saddest thing in life is wasted talent and the choices you make will shape your life forever.”

~Chazz Palminteri

“Each person’s talents are enduring and unique.”

~Donald O. Clifton

# Purpose

“If you would find happiness and joy, lose your life in some noble cause. A worthy purpose must be at the center of every worthy life.”

~Jack Goaslind

“The greatest tragedy is not death, but life without purpose.”

~Rick Warren

“Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.”

~John F. Kennedy

“Having a purpose is the difference between making a living and making a life.”

~Tom Thiss

“Every well built house started in the form of a definite purpose plus a definite plan in the nature of a set of blueprints.”

~Napoleon Hill

“The secret of success is constancy to purpose.”

~Benjamin Disraeli

“We seek purpose when we are not in touch with who we really are. When an apple tree discovers who it is, the question ‘what must I do?’ disappears. When you discover who you are (at the deepest place of your being) you will find your purpose.”

~Colleen-Joy Page

“Here is a test to find whether your mission in life is finished: if you are alive, it isn’t.”

~Richard Bach

“Make your work to be in keeping with your purpose.”

~Leonardo da Vinci

“Firmness of purpose is one of the best instruments of success.”

~Chesterfield Stanhope

“The purpose of life is a life of purpose.”

~Robert Byrne

“A man who becomes conscious of the responsibility he bears toward a human being who affectionately waits for him, or to an unfinished work, will never be able to throw away his life. He knows the “why” for his existence, and will be able to bear almost any “how.”

~Viktor Frankl

“The value of identity of course is that so often with it comes purpose.”

~Richard Grant

“Purpose is the place where your deep gladness meets the world’s needs.”

~Frederick Buechner

“Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence.”

~Henry David Thoreau

“First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.”

~Epictetus

# Passion

“Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion.”

~Georg Friedrich

“Rest in reason; move in passion.”

~Khalil Gibran

“If passion drives you, let reason hold the reins.”

~Benjamin Franklin

“Renew your passions daily.”

~Terri Guillemets

“The most powerful weapon on earth is the human soul on fire.”

~Ferdinand Foch

“There is no greatness without a passion to be great, whether it’s the aspiration of an athlete or an artist, a scientist, a parent, or a business-person.”

~Anthony Robbins

“Passion and purpose go hand in hand. When you discover your purpose, you will normally find it’s something you’re tremendously passionate about.”

~Steve Pavlina

“Never underestimate the power of passion.”

~Eve Sawyer

“When you set yourself on fire, people love to come and see you burn.”

~John Wesley

“One person with passion is better than forty people merely interested.”

~ E. M. Forster

“Purpose may point you in the right direction but it’s passion that propels you.”

~Travis McAshan

“A great leader’s courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position.”

~John Maxwell



“Passion is energy. Feel the power that comes from focusing on what excites you.”

~Oprah Winfrey

“We must act out passion before we can feel it.”

~ Jean-Paul Sartre

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

~Harriet Tubman

“It is obvious that we can no more explain a passion to a person who has never experienced it than we can explain light to the blind.”

~ T.S Eliot

“Our passion is our strength.”

~Billie Joe Armstrong

“You will need to find your passion. Don’t give up on finding it.”

~Randy Pausch

# Problem Solving

“The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year.”

~John Foster Dulles

“The majority see the obstacles; the few see the objectives; history records the successes of the latter, while oblivion is the reward of the former.”

~Alfred Armand Montapert

“Never try to solve all the problems at once — make them line up for you one-by-one.”

~Richard Sloma

“Some problems are so complex that you have to be highly intelligent and well-informed just to be undecided about them.”

~Laurence Peter

“Again and again, the impossible decision is solved when we see that the problem is only a tough decision waiting to be made.”

~Robert Schuller

“Problems are only opportunities in work clothes.”

~Henri Kaiser

“The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.”

~Albert Einstein

“Difficulties are opportunities to better things; they are stepping-stones to greater experience.... When one door closes, another always opens; as a natural law it has to, to balance.”

~Brian Adams

“Stop looking for solutions to problems and start looking for the right path.”

~Andy Stanley

“The problem is not that there are problems. The problem is expecting otherwise and thinking that having problems is a problem.”

~Theodore Rubin

“The best way to escape from a problem is to solve it.”

~Brendan Francis

“You don’t understand anything unless you understand there are at least 3 ways.”

~M. Minsky

“Most people spend more time and energy going around problems than in trying to solve them.”

~Henry Ford

“No problem can stand the assault of sustained thinking.” ~Voltaire

“Leaders are problem solvers by talent and temperament, and by choice.”

~Harlan Cleveland

“Again and again, the impossible problem is solved when we see that the problem is only a tough decision waiting to be made.”

~Robert Schuller

# Creativity

“Creativity, as has been said, consists largely of rearranging what we know in order to find out what we do not know. Hence, to think creatively, we must be able to look afresh at what we normally take for granted.”

~George Kneller

“It’s easy to come up with new ideas; the hard part is letting go of what worked for you two years ago, but will soon be out of date.”

~Roger von Oech

“The best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas.”

~Linus Pauling

“Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.”

~Albert von Szent-Gyorgy

“To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.”

~Albert Einstein

“To be creative you have to contribute something different from what you’ve done before. Your results need not be original to the world; few results truly meet that criterion. In fact, most results are built on the work of others.”

~Lynne Levesque

“Once we rid ourselves of traditional thinking we can get on with creating the future.”

~James Bertrand

“The essential part of creativity is not being afraid to fail.”

~Edwin Land

“Creative activity could be described as a type of learning process where teacher and pupil are located in the same individual.”

~Arthur Koestler

“Creativity is not the finding of a thing, but the making something out of it after it is found.”

~James Russell Lowell

“Creative thinking is not a talent, it is a skill that can be learnt. It empowers people by adding strength to their natural abilities which improves teamwork, productivity and where appropriate profits.”

~Edward de Bono

“Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things.”

~Theodore Levitt

“Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people.”

~Leo Burnett

“There’s a way to do it better—find it.”

~Thomas Edison

# Relational

“Relational skills are the most important abilities in leadership.”

~John Maxwell

“The most important single ingredient in the formula of success is knowing how to get along with people.”

~Theodore Roosevelt

“Accept the fact that we have to treat almost anybody as a volunteer...”

~Peter Drucker

“Trust men and they will be true to you: treat them greatly and they will show themselves great.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.”

~Mother Teresa

“Treat others the way they want to be treated.”

~Tony Allesandra



“The most I can do for my friend is simply be his friend.”

~Henry David Thoreau

“When dealing with people, remember you are not dealing with creatures of logic, but creatures of emotion.”

~Dale Carnegie

“Leadership is always dependent on the context, but the context is established by the relationships we value.”

~Margaret Wheatley

“The most useful person in the world today is the man or woman who knows how to get along with other people. Human relations is the most important science in living.”

~Stanley Allyn

“Friendship consists of a willing ear, an understanding heart and a helping hand.”

~Frank Tyger

“Treat a man as he appears to be and you make him worse. But treat a man as if he already were what he potentially could be, and you make him what he should be.”

~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Relationship is an art. The dream that two people create is more difficult to master than one.”

~Don Miguel Ruiz

“In a relationship each person should support the other; they should lift each other up.”

~Taylor Swift

“When you make a commitment to a relationship, you invest your attention and energy in it more profoundly because you now experience ownership of that relationship.”

~Barbara de Angelis

# Action

“Leadership is action, not position.”

~Donald H. McGannon

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

~John C. Maxwell

“Take time to deliberate; but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go in.”

~Andrew Jackson

“Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires courage.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions.”

~Harold S. Geneen

“Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.”

~Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

“I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.”

~Leonardo da Vinci

“Don’t wait. The time will never be just right.”

~Napoleon Hill

“Action conquers fear.”

~Peter Nivio Zarlenga

“The more you are willing to accept responsibility for your actions, the more credibility you will have.”

~Brian Koslow

“I never worry about action, but only about inaction.”

~Winston Churchill

“Everything you want is out there waiting for you to ask. Everything you want also wants you. But you have to take action to get it.”

~Jules Renard

“The possibilities are numerous once we decide to act and not react.”

~George Bernard Shaw

“The path to success is to take massive, determined action.”

~Anthony Robbins

“Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going.”

~Jim Rohn

# About Me

My professional experience has been working with youth. I have been a drug and alcohol rehab Case Manager and also a Behavior Specialist for foster kids. My personal experience has been working with youth and young adults as a church leader. I have an Associate's degree in Theology and a Bachelor's degree in Human Development. I write about leadership on my blog at [danblackonleadership.com](http://danblackonleadership.com) and my desire is to help you become a better person and leader. Below are some posts I have written about leadership:

- » [What is Leadership?](#)
- » [5 Essential Characteristics of Leading](#)
- » [Having a Strong Leadership Core](#)
- » [Strong Marriage Equals Strong Leader](#)
- » [Developing Emotional Intelligence to Better Lead](#)
- » [Three Essential Roles of an Extraordinary Leader](#)
- » [4 Ways Leaders Can Handle Criticism](#)
- » [Qualities Of A Leader](#)
- » [What Passion Does For Leaders](#)
- » [Lessons Leaders Can Learn From an Extreme Daredevil](#)
- » [Factors to Leading Self Successfully](#)
- » [Becoming a Servant Leader](#)
- » [Can A Person Be A ManaLeader](#)

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