

A Gift of Faith Book

12

Quotes
on
Qualities

Part 3

Quotes on Qualities

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Topics

- **Honest**
- **Communicate**
- **Patient**
- **Tolerant**
- **Encouraging Others**
- **Show Concern**
- **Be Understanding**
- **Put others first**
- **Giving**
- **Positive Thoughts and Words**
- **Thankful at All Times**
- **Prayerful**
- **Tidy**
- **Finishing Tasks**
- **Respect and Obey the Lord**
- **Self-control and Moderation**
- **Confident in God's Help and Strength**

- **Time with Jesus**
- **Gentle and Caring**
- **Calm, Easy-going and Nice to be Around**
- **Remember the Good—Forget the Rest**
- **Vision-Initiative-Courage-Faith**
- **Facing Challenges**
- **Mistakes and Buoyancy**
- **Change and Moving On**
- **Borrowing and Lending**
- **Exploring and Discovering**
- **Polite, Courteous, and Well-Mannered**
- **Mindful and Thoughtful**
- **A Time for Everything**
- **Brave and Patient**
- **Forgiving**
- **Take Care of Yourself**
- **Respect Life**
- **Environmental Care**
- **Thoughtful of Other's Needs and Time**



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Polite, Courteous, and Well-Mannered

When people are being interviewed to see if they will be good for a certain job, there are things that they need to be able to do, and skills they need to have. Some jobs require good speaking skills—like jobs that involve a lot of talking to others, or plenty of speaking on the phone, for example a receptionist or customer care service person. They need to know how to treat people well through the kind and respectful way they talk.

Some jobs require knowledge in certain things—like a nurse who needs to know about proper care of illnesses and how to help people rest and recover. Those working at a shop need to be good at math and be able to calculate prices, as well as how to smile and be pleasant and relaxed. They need to listen and be ready to help people find what they need.

But did you know what the most important skill of all is, that many people require in someone they are recruiting for a job?



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

It is how well people can get along with other people, and how they act with others. “People-handling skills” are real important to have.

When you are polite, speak kindly and treat others with respect, it helps others to get along with you well. People in charge of giving jobs will want you on the team if they see that you can communicate in pleasant ways, and you show consideration through your manners and actions.

Mindful and Thoughtful

Different pieces of a puzzle fit into different parts of the picture. It would look out of place if you tried to fit the wrong piece into an area that it doesn't belong. Even if you pushed and squeezed and tried to make it fit, in the end when you looked at the picture you would be able to tell that the colour, pattern or design didn't fit where it was placed.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

When you visit other countries, or even other people's houses, or if you are travelling on a bus, or any time you are around people, it's like you are fitting into a place on the puzzle. If you are mindful of the customs and manners of the country or people that you are around, and you try to be polite, it will be like a piece that fits in nicely on a puzzle.

But if you just choose to do whatever you feel like doing, and acting in whatever way you usually act, you might look rather out of place. And why is that not the best? Because acting in ways that are enjoyable and pleasant to those around you makes them feel respected.

It's easier to tell someone that Jesus loves them and understands them when they see that you are trying to show kindness through the way you behave. To some people it's real important how you greet them—using the particular way of greeting that is common in that country.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Also keeping clean, and being mindful not to cough or sneeze on others, shows thoughtfulness. It shows consideration to give others the best place to sit, or to let them walk through a doorway first.

How you act makes a difference to people, and will affect how readily they will listen to what you want to tell them. We can't always do everything just the same as those around us, as we need to be ready to do whatever Jesus needs us to do. However, if we are mindful of the effect that our habits, speech, and manners may have on others, then we can show kindness—and that shows Jesus' love.

A Time for Everything

Have you ever seen a sunflower? They are rather big compared to most flowers. The thing sunflowers like the best is... Can you guess? The sunshine! When it's not time for the sun to be shining, the sunflowers use that time to turn in the direction



Photo by Mina

where the sun will be rising the next morning, so they can be ready at the right time and in the right place to receive the sun's rays, and get as much light as they possibly can. Then they grow and grow and get real big, as that's the way they are made.

There's a time for sunlight and a time for night. There's a time for it to grow and a time to prepare for growth. In our lives there are also times for different things. There's a time to laugh and play, and other times to be quiet and to respect the needs of others.

One way we can show love is by being aware of and sensitive to the moods and needs of others, and to know when it's the right time to do what. Sometimes it's the time to tell jokes, other times we need to prepare for what we are going to do next by praying and being more serious and careful.

Sometimes a smile and a lively game is just what someone needs; other times letting them have some peaceful time alone without being disturbed with noise or talking, is what they would most

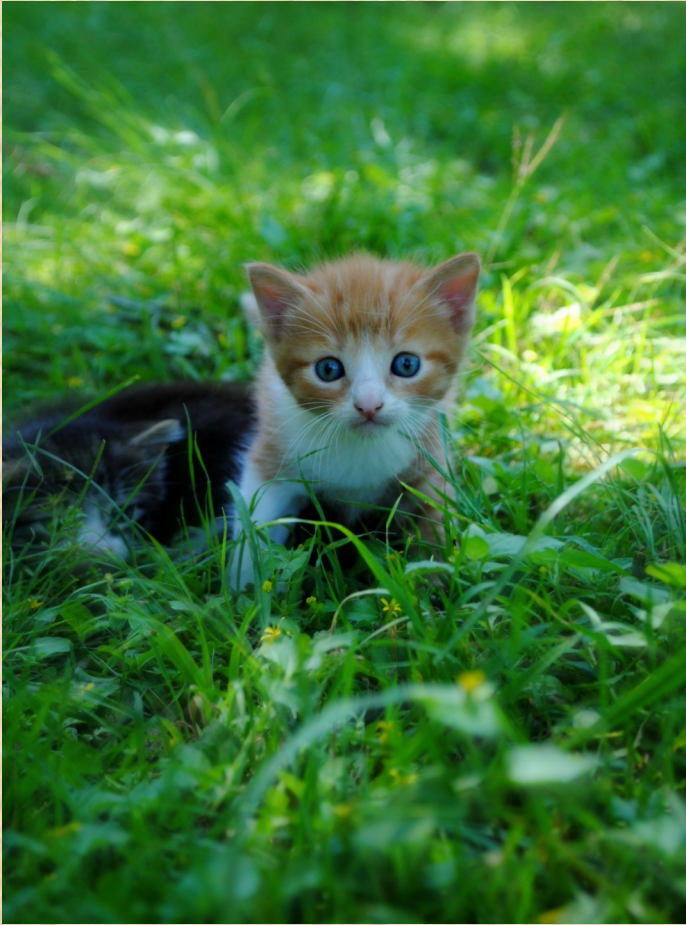


Photo by Mina

appreciate. We can be like cheery sunflowers, bringing a smile to those that are around us. And we can also realise that there's a time to be serious, to listen to others, to learn something, or to pray for others.

There's a time for activity, and a time to rest, or to prepare, or to be quiet and to do other things. Jesus and those caring for you can help you to know what would be best to do at the time.

Brave and Patient

It can be so difficult when you don't feel well, or there is something wrong with your body, or you've had an accident. The hurting feeling is a good warning signal. It helps to keep you safe, as it makes you want to do things that keep your body in good working order, so that you don't have to feel that discomfort and pain.



Photo by Mina

It also helps us to know just where in our body something isn't right so we can pray for it and get help to get it fixed up, if that's what we need.

Did you know that in Heaven there won't be any more pain or tears or sickness? Won't that be wonderful? You'll feel great all the time. But when we are on Earth and things aren't easy, and we aren't feeling well, one thing we can do that always helps is to pray!

We know that Jesus knows right where we are, and He knows just how to fix the problem or lead us to get the help needed.

Jesus knows what pain feels like, and what it feels like to be sick, and just like He healed so many people while on Earth, He can and will help and heal you. But while you are waiting to be made all well again, you can pray to be patient.

Being patient and brave when you are hurting is hard to do, but there's something special that you



Photo by Mina

are given in times of sickness and pain; something no one can give you, and you can't get in any shop on Earth. What is it?

You gain special understanding and the ability to help and encourage others later on, when you talk with them and find out that they are experiencing just the same thing that you already felt. You can be a wonderful help to them, because you know what it feels like.

When you see that they are feeling much better because of your encouragement, or they have faith to be patient through it because of what you can tell them to cheer them, it makes you feel very glad in your heart that you could be such a help to someone. And it was all because you experienced it too. One day you will understand the whole reason for having those hard times, and it will make you glad.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Forgiving

Our bodies are amazing! No machine on Earth has the ability to heal and repair a scratch on its own. But our bodies can! If we get a scratch or bump, in time it heals and new skin grows where it's needed.

Did you know our hearts can get bumps and bruises too? Just in a different way. Something may make us feel sad, or bad, or hurt inside, and our heart may not feel as joyful as it usually does. Perhaps someone said or did something that saddened us, and we needed healing inside our heart and mind.

How can we get healed from things that hurt our feelings and lessen our joy? Well, even though it's easy to get angry and to keep bad feelings in our heart towards others who hurt or bothered us, that makes our hearts get even sadder! It's like making the bonk in our heart get bigger and hurt even more every time we choose to stay upset about something.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Everyone makes mistakes, and it's easy for people to make the wrong choices and have unpleasant reactions towards others. Each one of us will do things wrong sometimes too, and we will want others to forgive us. So we should do same to others!

We'll have more friends that way! Our hearts will heal quicker, our minds will be ready to think of new and fun ideas, and we'll be healthier and happier, if we don't allow our hearts to keep bad feelings inside.

The best way to do that is to be forgiving and understanding. Jesus can help you forgive others. He's good at that, since He forgives each of us all the time—every time we make a mistake and ask for His forgiveness, He gives it, and never stays upset at us. He has so much love and understanding, and just wants to be our best friend. He can help us know and feel His love and forgiveness for others too.



Photo by Jon Berg

Take Care of Yourself

If someone just drives and drives their car, with little or no maintenance, eventually it's going to break down, or at least run out of fuel and oil and the necessary things it needs to keep it going.

Your body is like a very amazing vehicle, your machine to get you through your life on Earth. It can get you places, and it can help you to do so many things—much more than any machine on Earth can do.

But it does need care to keep it working well and to be in good condition. You need to choose safe activities so you don't have accidents easily. You need to eat the right foods—good nourishing, natural and healthful foods.

You need plenty of water—more than any other drink around. You need to get enough sleep. You need the proper amount and the right types of exercise to keep you growing and staying strong.



Photo by Jon Berg

You need to chase away worries and stress from your mind and feelings, as they bring sickness and hurts inside your body.

You need to keep clean, and especially keep your hands washed, as that will affect your health. You need to have fun and relaxing things to do, and take time to rest and not to only work.

You need good and positive work to do, things that help you to enjoy each day and know that you are doing something important to help others.

You need to take time to talk with Jesus and get His thoughts and instructions in prayer and from the Bible. This will help you to have the happiest and healthiest life you can have.

Sometimes you will get sick, or hurt, or have parts of your body that don't work well. But if you are doing your best, then that's the best you can do.



Photo by Jon Berg

You can trust that Jesus will do His part to keep you in the best working order possible—and you'll be a happy and pleasant person to be around!

Respect Life

Life is delicate and is a precious gift from the One who makes life—God. When someone gives you a very special, rare and costly gift, you want to take good care of it, so it will last you a long time, right? That's how it is with your life!

Being alive and having the chance to live on Earth happens just once. It's a rare and special opportunity—for you and for each person you see and meet.

Once that time is past and it's time for you or others to leave and return to the God who made them, that is the end of your chance to learn what

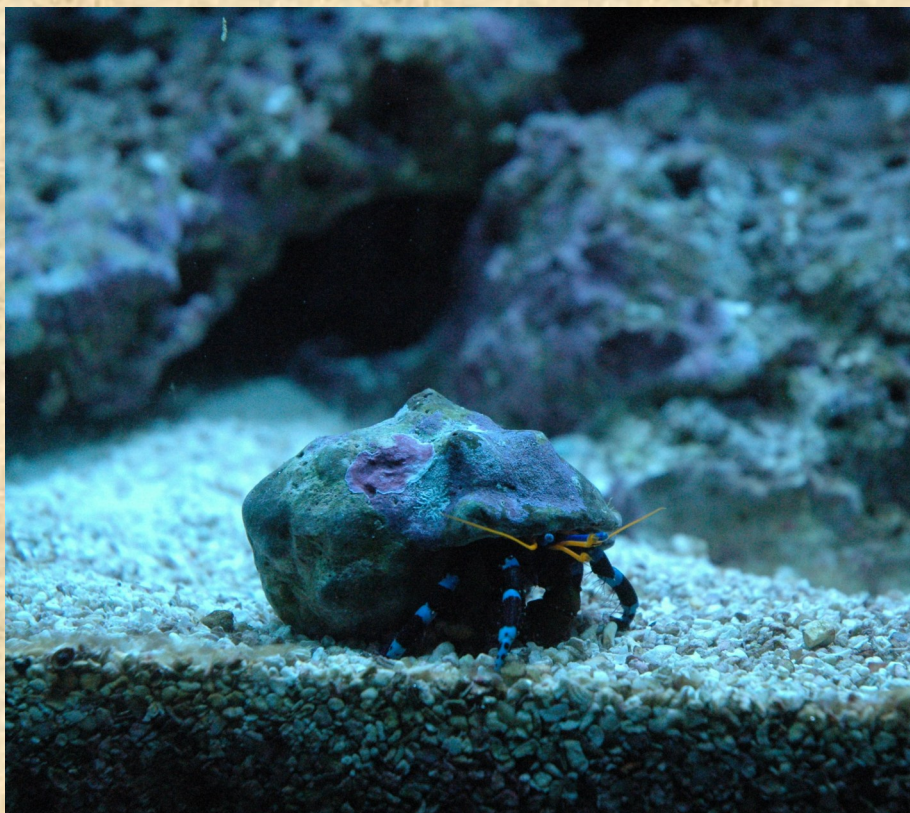


Photo by Jon Berg

you could learn on Earth and to do what you could to make it a better place, and to make Jesus happy with your wise choices.

You need to be careful in what you do, and to make sure that you take good care of yourself, and make safe choices that are good for you and others. You need to be wise and careful around others, or when you are responsible to care for others. It's their only visit to Earth, and they too will want it to be as fun and as long a visit as possible.

It's like if you got to see a unique place for an excursion—maybe the castle of a special king and queen. Pretend that visitors were only able to see it once in their life. You wouldn't want to do anything that would make you have to leave the castle early, because of your behaviour, and then be unable to explore all the fancy rooms and awesome gardens.

You'd act real respectful, careful and wise. That's a bit like how it is while on your trip to Earth.



Photo by Jon Berg

God made this place, and God made you, and you have only one visit here. Treat others, and yourself with respect and care, so you can all enjoy it for as long and as happily as possible.

Environmental Care

Everything you use around the house or find in a shop has been made using the natural resources or supplies found in nature. People have no way of just creating things from nothing—like God can!

They have to use whatever is on Earth—wood (which can be used to make paper), sand, rocks, oil (which can be used to make plastic), food, salt (which can be used to make many types of chemicals), plants (which also grow products that can be used to make cloth and baskets), metal, rubber, seeds, water, clay and dirt, animal products, and so forth.

Even something like electricity is formed by using the things of the world—like coal, water power



Photo by Jon Berg

and wind. It's good to be mindful to not be wasteful. The more products that are made, the more new ones need to be created.

Some things are being created in ways that aren't good for the environment, and they cause pollution, and put bad smells in the air and put unhealthy materials in the water and soil.

Some places in the world have so many pollutants that the people and animals living in that area are getting really sick. Some places are being used to gather too many resources from the land—like too many trees being cut down without new ones being planted, and the land isn't nice any more. Also, the animals that lived there don't have anywhere else to go.

It's sad, and one day Jesus will help to get things fixed up again. But for now, the best we can do is try to not waste and use unnecessary amounts of things, and try to not use products that are harmful for the plants and water, or for the people around.



Photo by Francesco Moldavian

We can pray and make wise decisions on what we use and how we care for the world that God made and gave people the responsibility of looking after and treating well.

Thoughtful of Other's Needs and Time

When you are looking straight into a mirror all you can see is yourself, and it's easy to think only about yourself, for the most part. You can't see what is behind the glass or much of what is surrounding you.

When you are standing in front of a clear and clean window you can see so many things. You start thinking more about what is going on outside and what other people are doing. You might think about what the weather is like, or new activities to do, or people to visit, or games to play and places to go see.

As you go throughout your day, try to be like the person that is looking out the window. Think more about the people and situations that are around you and how you can be a benefit and help.



Photo by Francesco Moldavian

Try not to be like someone who is just looking in a mirror, who, no matter what they are doing or whom they are around, they still just keep thinking about “What’s good for me?” and “I wish I had what they have!” and “I wonder if they like me?”

Instead, be more mindful of what others need, how they might be feeling. If someone is busy, try to avoid taking their time on things that can wait until later. If someone is grumpy, it might just be that they aren’t feeling well, and instead of getting bothered about it, pray for them—even just in your heart and mind.

If someone is real hungry, let them get to the food first or have the biggest piece available, if there is a choice. That is being like Jesus. You’ll surely make Him smile when He sees that you are so caring, doing just the things He wishes someone would do to be a help to someone else.

The End