



**Annette Estes**  
**Columnist**

## Professional Development

### Words to live by

What is your favorite quote? It may be difficult to choose just one among the many that have been spoken and written over the centuries.

Quotes can inspire, motivate, comfort, delight, amuse, and educate us. Finding quotes that resonate with you can tell a lot about your character, hopes, and dreams.

I'd like to share some of my favorite quotes with you, beginning with those in my book and on my website and office walls.

I love every quote attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson. He may be my favorite person to quote. I would like to have known him. Two from Emerson:

**"What lies before us and what lies behind us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."**

*"Our chief want in life is somebody who shall make us do what we can."* (My favorite coaching quote!)

I like this quote from Emerson's contemporary, Henry David Thoreau, *"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."*

Some of my favorite business quotes:

*"Do not wait; the time will never be 'just right.' Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along."* –Napoleon Hill

*"We see the world not as it is, but as we are."* –Steven Covey

*"People are not your most important asset. The right people are."* –Jim Collins, *Good to Great* (My favorite consulting quote!)

*"The person who knows how will always have a job. The person who knows why will always be his boss."* – Diane Ravitch

*"Money swore an oath that nobody who didn't love it should ever have it."* –Irish Proverb.

*"Knowledge is power."* –Francis Bacon

*"The great end of life is not knowledge but action."* –Thomas Huxley

*"Work hard for eight hours a day and someday you may be your own boss and work twelve hours a day."* –Mark Twain

*"Work is love made visible."* Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*

My favorite quotes tend to be about realizing and bringing out the highest and best in us. So it's logical my most favorites are spiritual or self-empowering. Here are some of them, other than quotes from the Bible which are too numerous to pick just one or two.

*"There's a spiritual solution to every problem."* –Dr. Wayne Dyer

*"Two things attract miracles into our lives: passion that knows no limits and a grateful, receptive heart. Today I expect, accept, and give thanks for miracles in my life."*  
–Shay St. John

*"We may affirm absolutely that nothing in the world has been accomplished without passion."* –Georg W. F. Hegel

*"The lust for comfort murders the passion of the soul and then walks grinning in the funeral."* –Kahlil Gibran

*"Beauty is truth, truth beauty; That is all ye know and all ye need to know."*  
–Keats

*"'Tis better to have loved than lost than never to have loved at all."* –Tennyson

*"He who knows others is wise; He who knows himself is enlightened."* –Lao-Tzu

*"A diamond is a lump of coal that didn't quit."* –Anonymous

And of course, this one from the man who's probably the most oft-quoted:

*"This above all: to thine own self be true,*

*And it must follow, as the night the day,*

*Thou canst not then be false to any man."* –William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

I especially like, appreciate, admire and try to live by the words of American patriots and our country's founders—and other's with the same passion for freedom. Here are some I like best:

*"..it does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds."* –Samuel Adams

*"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."* –Benjamin Franklin

*"Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God."* –Thomas Jefferson

*"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."* –Abraham Lincoln

**"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."**  
–**Edmund Burke**

There are many more that speak to my soul. To me, the greatest quote of all is only two words. Moses asked God what His name is. God replied simply and powerfully.

"I Am."

Annette Estes is a Certified Professional Behavioral and Values Analyst, Coach, and Consultant. She is author of the book, *Why Can't You See it My Way? Resolving Values Conflicts at Work and Home*. Visit her website at [www.CoachAnnette.com](http://www.CoachAnnette.com). Contact her at [Annette@CoachAnnette.com](mailto:Annette@CoachAnnette.com) or call The Estes Group at 864-244-1156.

© Copyright 2005. Annette Estes. All rights reserved.