

# Barbara Brown Taylor

## Quotes

*People, Real, Thinking, Jesus, Christian, Self, Religious, Believe, Way, Jobs,  
Mean, Church, Community, Spiritual, Book, Missing, Ideas, Waiting, Sunday,  
Doe*

Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

The problem is, many of the people in need of saving are in churches, and at least part of what they need saving from is the idea that God sees the world the same way they do.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Whoever you are, you are human. Wherever you are, you live in the world, which is just waiting for you to notice the holiness in it.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Wisdom is not gained by knowing what is right. Wisdom is gained by practicing what is right, and noticing what happens when that practice succeeds and when it fails.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Our waiting is not nothing. It is something -- a very big something -- because people tend to be shaped by whatever it is they are waiting for.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

We are born seekers, calling strange names into the darkness from our earliest days because we know we are not meant to be alone, and because we know that we await someone whom we cannot always see.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

As a general rule, I would say that human beings never behave more badly toward one another than when they believe they are protecting God.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Kindness is not a bad religion, no matter what name you use for God.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Day by day we are given not what we want but what we need. Sometimes it is a feast and sometimes...swept crumbs, but by faith we believe it is enough.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I think we'd like life to be like a train..but it turns out to be a sailboat.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

That's enough, and I have a ministry as a neighbor as well. A ministry as a friend and a ministry as an aunt and a godmother, and family is very much in the circle of my vocation.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I've got a hold of something that won't move. It's a willingness to keep walking into the next day, open to whatever may turn out to be true that day.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Salvation happens every time someone with a key uses it to open a door he could lock instead.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Every human interaction offers you the chance to make things better or to make things worse.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

God does some of God's best work with people who are seriously lost.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Most of us spend so much time thinking about where we have been or where we are supposed to be going that we have a hard time

recognizing where we actually are.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

To be fully human is perhaps why I'm Christian, because I see in the life of Jesus a way of being fully human.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

The great wisdom traditions of the world all recognize that the main impediment to living a life of meaning is being self-absorbed.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Divine reality is not way up in the sky somewhere; it is readily available in the encounters of everyday life, which make hash of my illusions that I can control the ways God comes to me.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

In a world where faith is often construed as a way of thinking, bodily practices remind the willing that faith is a way of life

~Barbara Brown Taylor

When I say I trust Jesus, that is what I mean: I trust that the way of life leads through perishability, not around it.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

When I talk about losing myself, which I did, it's losing my idea of who I was and my idea of what I was supposed to be doing and the idea of what my value was to God. I lost all of that at least.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

The only real difference between Anxiety and Excitement was my willingness to let go of Fear.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

We're children of God through our blood kinship with Christ. We're also

sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, with a hereditary craving for forbidden fruit salad.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

When someone asks us where we want to be in our lives, the last thing that occurs to us is to look down at our feet and say, 'Here, I guess, since this is where I am.'

~Barbara Brown Taylor

The abundance of our lives is not determined by how long we live, but how well we live. Christ makes abundant life possible if we choose to live it now.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Most of us will have more than one job in our working lives, which means we will have more than one opportunity to seek meaningful work at different stages of our own deepening humanity.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Beliefs have become unimportant to me. Faith as radical trust became even more important to me.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

For a long time I listened to other people to decide whether I was still Christian or not, and I would sort of vet myself by the traditional formulae.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I can't help but note that God is being useful to a lot of people trying to do harm to one another.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I'm a follower of the Christ path, and that opens a huge discussion about what we even mean by words like "Christian."

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I became so attentive to the souls of other people that I was not as attentive as I might have been to my own.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

The poets began drifting away from churches as the jurists grew louder and more insistent.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I'm leaving out some of the hugely successful megachurches, of which I have very little experience.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Humanity can be pretty stinky.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I love being alone. I learned that from my father, I think, who loved his own company.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I'll do my best to always put God and neighbor ahead of ego, but I want to find myself, and if finding myself means losing my ego self, I'll go there.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I didn't want to be a priest. I wanted to do the work that priests do, and that required becoming a priest.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I have learned to prize holy ignorance more highly than religious certainty and to seek companions who have arrived at the same place.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

To get God on your side is a great way to feel powerful.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

It's difficult for me to ignore how many conflicts locally and worldwide have religion tagged to them.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I began to get notes from people saying they were sorry to hear I'd left ministry. And for a while, I halfway believed they were right, that I'd left.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Prayer is happening, and it is not necessarily something that I am doing. God is happening, and I am lucky enough to know that I am in The Midst.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I think my idea of God was much more directive than my idea of God now, that is, a God who had one plan in mind for me, perhaps, and my job was to find out what it was and obey.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

The boundaries became constrictive in what I was doing, and if my faith grew, it was because I pressed some of the boundaries in ways I hadn't felt comfortable or responsible doing that before.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

If God is about putting God ahead of myself then I've just quit being religious, because that's what got me into such deep trouble.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

The tradition piece is so embedded in me I don't know that I can see it any more, but the community piece is one I've been in danger of losing.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Church can be extremely boring. It can be very meaningful, it can be character forming, but can be have very little fizz in it.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

To be in the mainline is to have a history and not simply to be an amalgam, a community church of who knows what that came from who knows where.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I don't miss the ministry, because I'm completely engaged in it. In terms of parish ministry, I miss the intimacy with a group of people.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

You only need to lose track of who you are, or who you thought you were supposed to be, so that you end up lying flat on the dirt floor basement of your heart. Do this, Jesus says, and you will live.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

The real problem has far less to do with what is really out there than it does with our resistance to finding out what is really out there.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I think a toxic message in a lot of Christianity has been that the self has to be annihilated in order for God to be found. I think that has been a toxic message.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I decided I got to say whether I was Christian or not, and so I've relaxed enormously since then. I'm the one who gets to say that, and not someone else.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

Science is not metaphorical. Science is scientific.

~Barbara Brown Taylor



I am always surprised by people who speak of faith as if it happens in the air somewhere. Our bodies are God's best way of getting to us. Revelation begins in the flesh.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I don't have time for a job that doesn't leave me time to be quiet or still or to pray.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

You can create an intimate community of about 20 or 25 people, and beyond that you're into a different kind of relationship.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

There was no time anymore to be quiet or still or pray. So, in many ways, that's what led to my downward spin.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

I miss the hot spots. I miss the hospital calls. I miss the nursing homes. I miss the really intimate human contact with other people, which I did nothing to earn.

~Barbara Brown Taylor

### **Related Links:**

- People Quotes
- Real Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Jesus Quotes
- Christian Quotes
- Self Quotes
- Religious Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Jobs Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Church Quotes
- Community Quotes
- Spiritual Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Missing Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Waiting Quotes
- Sunday Quotes
- Doe Quotes