# Booker T. Washington Quotes

Men, Race, Success, Inspirational, Thinking, Hate, Life, Hands, People, Character, Heart, Progress, Law, Done, Positive, Helping, World, Ignorance, Attention, Self I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed.

~Booker T. Washington

There are two ways of exerting one's strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up.

~Booker T. Washington

Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others. ~Booker T. Washington

Success waits patiently for anyone who has the determination and strength to seize it.

~Booker T. Washington

I would permit no man, no matter what his colour might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him.

~Booker T. Washington

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

~Booker T. Washington

The happiest people are those who do the most for others. The most miserable are those who do the least.

~Booker T. Washington

Success is not measured by where you are in life, but the obstacles you've over come

~Booker T. Washington

Political activity alone cannot make a man free. Back of the ballot, he must have property, industry, skill, economy, intelligence, and character.

~Booker T. Washington

We all should rise, above the clouds of ignorance, narrowness, and selfishness.

~Booker T. Washington

I have begun everything with the idea that I could succeed, and I never had much patience with the multitudes of people who are always ready to explain why one cannot succeed.

~Booker T. Washington

Decide to be your best. In the long run the world is going to want and have the best and that might as well be you.

~Booker T. Washington

The highest test of the civilization of any race is in its willingness to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate.

~Booker T. Washington

Start where you are with what you have, knowing that what you have is plenty enough.

~Booker T. Washington

Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust him.

~Booker T. Washington

The older I grow, the more I am convinced that there is no education which one can get from books and costly apparatus that is equal to that which can be gotten from contact with great men and women.

~Booker T. Washington

Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.

~Booker T. Washington

We don't just borrow words; on occasion, English has pursued other languages down alleyways to beat them unconscious and rifle their pockets for new vocabulary.

~Booker T. Washington

Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way.

~Booker T. Washington

Character, not circumstances, makes the man. ~Booker T. Washington

Great men cultivate love...only little men cherish a spirit of hatred ~Booker T. Washington

At the bottom of education, at the bottom of politics, even at the bottom of religion, there must be for our race economic independence. ~Booker T. Washington

Educated men and women, especially those who are in college, very often get the idea that religion is fit only for the common people. No young man or woman can make a greater error than this.

~Booker T. Washington

An inch of progress is worth more than a yard of complaint.

~Booker T. Washington

Holding a grudge does not hurt the person against whom the grudge is held, it hurts the one who holds it.

~Booker T. Washington

Never let your work drive you. Master it and keep it in complete control. ~Booker T. Washington Those who have accomplished the greatest results are those...who never grow excited or lose self-control, but are always calm, self-possessed, patient and polite.

~Booker T. Washington

There is no defense or security for any of us except in the highest intelligence and development of all.

~Booker T. Washington

There is no power on earth that can neutralize the influence of a high, simple and useful life.

~Booker T. Washington

No race can prosper till it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.

~Booker T. Washington

It often requires more courage to suffer in silence than to rebel, more courage not to strike back than to retaliate, more courage to be silent than to speak.

~Booker T. Washington

Ignorance is more costly to any State than education.

~Booker T. Washington

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

~Booker T. Washington

Remember that everyone's life is measured by the power that individual has to make the world better-this is all life is.

~Booker T. Washington

## Success always leaves footprints.

The world cares very little about what a man or woman knows; it is what the man or woman is able to do that counts.

~Booker T. Washington

The thing to do when one feels sure that he has said or done the right thing and is condemned, is to stand still and keep quiet. If he is right, time will show it.

~Booker T. Washington

No one can degrade us except ourselves.

~Booker T. Washington

Lay hold of something that will help you, and then use it to help somebody else.

~Booker T. Washington

You measure the size of the accomplishment by the obstacles you have to overcome to reach your goals.

~Booker T. Washington

I think I have learned that the best way to lift one's self up is to help someone else.

~Booker T. Washington

I shall never permit myself to stoop so low as to hate any man.

~Booker T. Washington

Character is power. ~Booker T. Washington

You go to school, you study about the Germans and the French, but not about your own race. I hope the time will come when you study black history too.

We must not only become reliable, progressive, skillful and intelligent, but we must keep the idea constantly before our youths that all forms of labor, whether with the hand or head, are honorable.

~Booker T. Washington

The individual who can do something that the world wants done will, in the end, make his way regardless of his race.

~Booker T. Washington

Progress, progress is the law of nature; under God it shall be our eternal guiding star.

~Booker T. Washington

Whenever your life touches mine, you make me stronger of weaker... there is no escape... people drag others or lift others up.

~Booker T. Washington

Dignify and glorify common labor. It is at the bottom of life that we must begin, not at the top.

~Booker T. Washington

In the long run, the world is going to have the best, and any difference in race, religion, or previous history will not keep the world from what it wants.

~Booker T. Washington

In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress.

~Booker T. Washington

Living is the art of loving. Loving is the art of caring. Caring is the art of sharing. Sharing is the art of living. If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

We do not want the men of another color for our brothers-in-law, but we do want them for our brothers.

~Booker T. Washington

The circumstances that surround a man's life are not important. How that man responds to those circumstances IS IMPORTANT. His response is the ultimate determining factor between success and failure.

~Booker T. Washington

No greater injury can be done to any youth than to let him feel that because he belongs to this or that race he will be advanced in life regardless of his own merits or efforts.

~Booker T. Washington

A life is not worth much of which it cannot be said, when it comes to its close, that it was helpful to humanity.

~Booker T. Washington

Men may make laws to hinder and fetter the ballot, but men cannot make laws that will bind or retard the growth of manhood.

~Booker T. Washington

Success in life is founded upon attention to the small things rather than to the large things; to the every day things nearest to us rather than to the things that are remote and uncommon.

~Booker T. Washington

One man cannot hold another man down in the ditch without remaining down in the ditch with him.

~Booker T. Washington

If you can't read, it's going to be hard to realize dreams.

No man, who continues to add something to the material, intellectual and moral well-being of the place in which he lives, is left long without proper reward.

~Booker T. Washington

Great men cultivate love and only little men cherish a spirit of hatred; assistance given to the weak makes the one who gives it strong; oppression of the unfortunate makes one weak.

~Booker T. Washington

In proportion as one renders service he becomes great.

~Booker T. Washington

It is important and right that all privileges of the law be ours, but it is vastly more important that we be prepared for the exercise of those privileges.

~Booker T. Washington

If I have done anything in life worth attention, I feel sure that I inherited the disposition from my mother.

~Booker T. Washington

### We must reinforce argument with results.

~Booker T. Washington

The time will come when the Negro in the South will be accorded all the political rights which his ability, character, and material possessions entitle him to.

~Booker T. Washington

A sure way for one to lift himself up is by helping to lift someone else.

~Booker T. Washington

You must understand the troubles of that man farthest down before you

can help him. ~Booker T. Washington

I let no man drag me down so low as to make me hate him.

~Booker T. Washington

An ounce of application is worth a ton of abstraction.

~Booker T. Washington

If you truly want to measure the success of a man, you do not measure it by a position he has achieved, but by the obstacles he has overcome.

~Booker T. Washington

I pity from the bottom of my heart any nation or body of people that is so unfortunate as to get entangled in the net of slavery.

~Booker T. Washington

Don't ever let them pull you down so low as to hate them. (also cited as: I will permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him.)

~Booker T. Washington

The actual sight of a first-class house that a Negro has built is ten times more potent than pages of discussion about a house that he ought to build, or perhaps could build.

~Booker T. Washington

I pity from the bottom of my heart any individual who is so unfortunate as to get into the habit of holding race prejudice, for nothing else makes one so blind and narrow.

~Booker T. Washington

There is no escape - man drags man down, or man lifts man up.

~Booker T. Washington

It means a great deal, I think, to start off on a foundation which one has made for oneself.

~Booker T. Washington

Each one should remember there is a chance for him.

~Booker T. Washington

Mere connection with what is known as a superior race will not permanently carry an individual forward unless the individual has worth.

~Booker T. Washington

The negro has within him immense power for self-uplifting, but for years it will be necessary to guide and stimulate him.

~Booker T. Washington

Do not do that which others can do as well.

~Booker T. Washington

Let our opportunities overshadow our grievances.

~Booker T. Washington

No race that has anything to contribute to the markets of the world is long in any degree ostracized.

~Booker T. Washington

My whole life has largely been one of surprises.

~Booker T. Washington

A race, like an individual, lifts itself up by lifting others up.

We shall prosper as we learn to do the common things of life in an uncommon way. Let down your buckets where you are.

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