

# Eugene H. Peterson

## Quotes

*People, Jesus, Christian, Thinking, Religious, God, Spiritual, Mean, Stories,  
Use, Prayer, Grace, Way, Problem, Pain, Art, Tasks, Opportunity, Faith,  
Imagination*

When we sin and mess up our lives, we find that God doesn't go off and leave us- he enters into our trouble and saves us.

~Eugene H. Peterson

All the persons of faith I know are sinners, doubters, uneven performers. We are secure not because we are sure of ourselves but because we trust that God is sure of us.

~Eugene H. Peterson

One way to define spiritual life is getting so tired and fed up with yourself you go on to something better, which is following Jesus.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Wisdom is the art of living skillfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Worship is an act that develops feelings for God, not a feeling for God that is expressed in an act of worship.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Prayer is the disciplined refusal to act before God acts.

~Eugene H. Peterson

No life of faith can be lived privately. There must be overflow into the lives of others.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Worship does not satisfy our hunger for God; it whets our appetite.

~Eugene H. Peterson

I will not try to run my own life or the lives of others; that is God's business.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Waiting means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusions.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The Bible makes it clear that every time that there is a story of faith, it is completely original. God's creative genius is endless.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The life of faith is a daily exploration of the constant and countless ways in which God's grace and love are experienced

~Eugene H. Peterson

My job is not to solve people's problems or make them happy, but to help them see the grace operating in their lives.

~Eugene H. Peterson

There are no experts in the company of Jesus. We are all beginners, necessarily followers, because we don't know where we are going.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Stories are verbal acts of hospitality.

~Eugene H. Peterson

It is easier to find guides, someone to tell you what to do, than someone to be with you in a discerning, prayerful companionship as you work it out yourself. This is what spiritual direction is.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The vocation of pastor has been replaced by the strategies of religious

entrepreneurs with business plans.

~Eugene H. Peterson

It's essential for us to develop an imagination that is participatory. Art is the primary way in which this happens. It's the primary way in which we become what we see or hear.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Prayer gets us in on what God is doing.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Sabbath is that uncluttered time and space in which we can distance ourselves from our own activities enough to see what God is doing.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Real faith is refined in the fires and storms of pain.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Jesus almost never talked in terms of explaining. He was always using enigmatic stories and difficult metaphors. He was always pulling people into some kind of participation.

~Eugene H. Peterson

God is the larger context and plot in which our stories find themselves.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The Bible is not a script for a funeral service, but it is the record of God always bringing life where we expected to find death. Everywhere it is the story of resurrection.

~Eugene H. Peterson

A person has to get fed up with the ways of the world before he, before she acquires an appetite for the world of grace.

~Eugene H. Peterson

People are not problems to be solved. They are mysteries to be explored.

~Eugene H. Peterson

There's nobody who doesn't have problems with the church, because there's sin in the church. But there's no other place to be a Christian except the church.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The silence that makes it possible to hear God speak also makes it possible for us to hear the world's words for what they really are - tinny and unconvincing lies.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Like the sacramental use of water and bread and wine, friendship takes what's common in human experience and turns it into something holy.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The life of faith isn't meant for tourists. It's meant for pilgrims.

~Eugene H. Peterson

You're here to be LIGHT... Shine! Be generous with your lives.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Pity can be nearsighted and condescending; shared suffering can be dignifying and life-changing.

~Eugene H. Peterson

I believe God takes the things in our lives - family, background, education - and uses them as part of his calling. It might not be to become a pastor. But I don't think God wastes anything.

~Eugene H. Peterson

If we get our information from the biblical material there is no doubt that

the Christian life is a dancing, leaping, daring life.

~Eugene H. Peterson

If you keep the Sabbath, you start to see creation not as somewhere to get away from your ordinary life, but a place to frame an attentiveness to your life.

~Eugene H. Peterson

That's the whole spiritual life. It's learning how to die. And as you learn how to die, you start losing all your illusions, and you start being capable now of true intimacy and love.

~Eugene H. Peterson

When you are part of a megachurch you have no responsibility to anybody else.

~Eugene H. Peterson

We cannot be too careful about the words we use; we start out using them and they end up using us.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Suffering attracts fixers the way road-kills attract vultures.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The task of the prophet is not to smooth things over but to make things right.

~Eugene H. Peterson

I didn't write because I had anything to say, but in order to find out what there was to say.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Isn't it interesting that all of the biblical prophets and psalmists were poets?

~Eugene H. Peterson

People learn to shop for churches; there is no loyalty to the church. They're consumers being attracted to one product or another. I think it's sacrilege, to tell you the truth, it really is.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Pastors are highly susceptible to the sin of sloth.

~Eugene H. Peterson

You don't make your words true by embellishing them with religious lace. In making your speech sound more religious, it becomes less true.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The poor are not a problem to be solved but a people to join.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Pastors need to know what's going on in the world and what has been going on for 4,000 years. We need a way to read Scripture which is imaginative, interpretive.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Religion is a very scary thing, because a pastor is in a position of power. And if you use that power badly, you ruin people's lives, and you ruin your own life.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The role of the pastor is to embody the gospel. And of course to get it embodied, which you can only do with individuals, not in the abstract.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The moment the organic unity of belief and behaviour is damaged in any way, we are incapable of living out the full humanity for which we

were created.

~Eugene H. Peterson

I think pastors are the worst listeners. We're so used to speaking, teaching, giving answers. We must learn to be quiet, quit being so verbal, learn to pay attention to what's going on, and listen.

~Eugene H. Peterson

One of the reasons that Christians read Scripture repeatedly and carefully is to find out just how God works in Jesus Christ so that we can work in the name of Jesus Christ.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Neither the adventure of goodness nor the pursuit of righteousness gets headlines.

~Eugene H. Peterson

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be - you get a fresh start, your slate's wiped clean. Count yourself lucky - God holds nothing against you and you're holding nothing back from Him.

~Eugene H. Peterson

The Spirit works through community. Somebody will have a stupid, screwy idea. That's okay. The point of having creeds and confessions and traditions is to keep us in touch with the obvious errors.

~Eugene H. Peterson

I cannot fail to call the congregation to worship God, to listen to his Word, to offer themselves to God.

~Eugene H. Peterson



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