

# Florence Nightingale Quotes

*Nursing, Nurse, Science, Sick, Men, Law, Light, Art, Health, Passion, World,  
Want, Opportunity, Women, Inspirational, Heaven, Moral, Giving, Motivational,  
Thinking*

Let us never consider ourselves finished nurses....we must be learning all of our lives.

~Florence Nightingale

Nursing is a progressive art such that to stand still is to go backwards.

~Florence Nightingale

The most important practical lesson than can be given to nurses is to teach them what to observe.

~Florence Nightingale

Nature alone cures. ... what nursing has to do ... is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him.

~Florence Nightingale

I attribute my success to this - I never gave or took any excuse.

~Florence Nightingale

Live life when you have it. Life is a splendid gift-there is nothing small about it.

~Florence Nightingale

The very first requirement in a hospital is that it should do the sick no harm.

~Florence Nightingale

I never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small, for it is wonderful how often in such matters the mustard-seed germinates and roots itself.

~Florence Nightingale

I think one's feelings waste themselves in words; they ought all to be distilled into actions which bring results.

~Florence Nightingale

The world is put back by the death of every one who has to sacrifice the development of his or her peculiar gifts to conventionality.

~Florence Nightingale

How very little can be done under the spirit of fear.

~Florence Nightingale

Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation as any painter's or sculptor's work.

~Florence Nightingale

Were there none who were discontented with what they have, the world would never reach anything better.

~Florence Nightingale

Women have no sympathy and my experience of women is almost as large as Europe.

~Florence Nightingale

Let whoever is in charge keep this simple question in her head (not, how can I always do this right thing myself, but) how can I provide for this right thing to be always done?

~Florence Nightingale

The only English patients I have ever known refuse tea, have been typhus cases; and the first sign of their getting better was their craving again for tea.

~Florence Nightingale

Rather, ten times, die in the surf, heralding the way to a new world, than stand idly on the shore.

~Florence Nightingale

Apprehension, uncertainty, waiting, expectation, fear of surprise, do a

patient more harm than any exertion.

~Florence Nightingale

If a patient is cold, if a patient is feverish, if a patient is faint, if he is sick after taking food, if he has a bed-sore, it is generally the fault not of the disease, but of the nursing.

~Florence Nightingale

I am of certain convinced that the greatest heroes are those who do their duty in the daily grind of domestic affairs whilst the world whirls as a maddening dreidel.

~Florence Nightingale

It may seem a strange principle to enunciate as the very first requirement in a Hospital that it should do the sick no harm. It is quite necessary nevertheless to lay down such a principle.

~Florence Nightingale

For the sick it is important to have the best.

~Florence Nightingale

The 'kingdom of heaven is within,' indeed, but we must also create one without, because we are intended to act upon our circumstances.

~Florence Nightingale

By mortifying vanity we do ourselves no good. It is the want of interest in our life which produces it; by filling up that want of interest in our life we can alone remedy it.

~Florence Nightingale

A human being does not cease to exist at death. It is change, not destruction, which takes place.

~Florence Nightingale

Our first journey is to find that special place for us.

~Florence Nightingale

Never give nor take an excuse.

~Florence Nightingale

To understand God's thoughts, one must study statistics, for these are the measure of His purpose.

~Florence Nightingale

Jesus Christ raised women above the condition of mere slaves, mere ministers to the passions of the man, raised them by His sympathy, to be Ministers of God.

~Florence Nightingale

Volumes are now written and spoken upon the effect of the mind upon the body. Much of it is true. But I wish a little more was thought of the effect of the body on the mind.

~Florence Nightingale

The first possibility of rural cleanliness lies in water supply.

~Florence Nightingale

Unnecessary noise is the most cruel abuse of care which can be inflicted on either the sick or the well.

~Florence Nightingale

I am not yet worthy; and I will live to deserve to be called a Trained Nurse.

~Florence Nightingale

Remember my name-- you'll be screaming it later.

~Florence Nightingale

Nursing is one of the Fine Arts: I had almost said, the finest of Fine Arts.

~Florence Nightingale

That Religion is not devotion, but work and suffering for the love of God; this is the true doctrine of Mystics.

~Florence Nightingale

The martyr sacrifices themselves entirely in vain. Or rather not in vain; for they make the selfish more selfish, the lazy more lazy, the narrow narrower.

~Florence Nightingale

The amount of relief and comfort experienced by the sick after the skin has been carefully washed and dried, is one of the commonest observations made at a sick bed.

~Florence Nightingale

You must go to Mahometanism, to Buddhism, to the East, to the Sufis Fakirs, to Pantheism, for the right growth of mysticism.

~Florence Nightingale

Moral activity? There is scarcely such a thing possible! Everything is sketchy. The world does nothing but sketch.

~Florence Nightingale

I stand at the altar of murdered men, and, while I live, I fight their cause.

~Florence Nightingale

No woman has excited "passions" among women more than I have. Yet I leave no school behind me.

~Florence Nightingale

Mysticism: to dwell on the unseen, to withdraw ourselves from the things of sense into communion with God - to endeavour to partake of the Divine nature; that is, of Holiness.

~Florence Nightingale

Religion was important to me. My family and I were very religious. I actually believe the work I did was a calling from God himself.

~Florence Nightingale

Religious men are and must be heretics now- for we must not pray, except in a "form" of words, made beforehand- or think of God but with a prearranged idea.

~Florence Nightingale

Christ, if he had been a woman, might have been nothing but a great complainer

~Florence Nightingale

She said the object and color in the materials around us actually have a physical effect on us, on how we feel.

~Florence Nightingale

I have lived and slept in the same bed with English countesses and Prussian farm women... no woman has excited passions among women more than I have.

~Florence Nightingale

Never underestimate the healing effects of beauty.

~Florence Nightingale

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit. Aristotle How very little can be done under the spirit of fear.

~Florence Nightingale

Woman has nothing but her affections,--and this makes her at once more loving and less loved.

~Florence Nightingale

A want of the habit of observing and an inveterate habit of taking averages are each of them often equally misleading.

~Florence Nightingale

Hospitals are only an intermediate stage of civilization

~Florence Nightingale

The craving for 'the return of the day', which the sick so constantly evince, is generally nothing but the desire for light.

~Florence Nightingale

For it may safely be said, not that the habit of ready and correct observation will by itself make us useful nurses, but that without it we shall be useless with all our devotion.

~Florence Nightingale

Why have women passion, intellect, moral activity these, three and a place in society where no one of the three can be exercised?

~Florence Nightingale

I cannot remember the time when I have not longed for death. ... for years and years I used to watch for death as no sick man ever watched for the morning.

~Florence Nightingale

There are no specific diseases only specific disease conditions

~Florence Nightingale

Little as we know about the way in which we are affected by form, by color, and light, we do know this, that they have an actual physical



effect.

~Florence Nightingale

diseases, as all experience shows, are adjectives, not noun substantives.

~Florence Nightingale

There is no part of my life, upon which I can look back without pain.

~Florence Nightingale

I never lose an opportunity of urging a practical beginning, however small...

~Florence Nightingale

The next Christ will perhaps be a female Christ.

~Florence Nightingale

We set the treatment of bodies so high above the treatment of souls, that the physician occupies a higher place in society than the school-master.

~Florence Nightingale

Starting a job and working hard is how to be successful.

~Florence Nightingale

Poetry and imagination begin life. A child will fall on its knees on the gravel walk at the sight of a pink hawthorn in full flower, when it is by itself, to praise God for it.

~Florence Nightingale

Never to allow a patient to be waked, intentionally or accidentally, is a sine qua non of all good nursing.

~Florence Nightingale

Averages ... seduce us away from minute observation.

~Florence Nightingale

I can stand out the war with any man.

~Florence Nightingale

... people have founded vast schemes upon a very few words.

~Florence Nightingale

In a sick-room or a bed-room there should never be shutters shut.

~Florence Nightingale

Marriage is the only chance (and it is but a chance) offered to women for escape from this death and how eagerly and how ignorantly it is embraced.

~Florence Nightingale

Variety of form and brilliancy of colour in the objects presented to patients are actual means of recovery.

~Florence Nightingale

There is a physical, not moral, impossibility of supplying the wants of the intellect in the state of civilisation at which we have arrived.

~Florence Nightingale

At present we live to impede each other's satisfactions; competition, domestic life, society, what is it all but this?

~Florence Nightingale

I use the word nursing for want of a better.

~Florence Nightingale

Bismarck was a large persian cat owned by Florence Nightingale.

~Florence Nightingale

Can the "word" be pinned down to either one period or one church? All churches are, of course, only more or less unsuccessful attempts to represent the unseen to the mind.

~Florence Nightingale

A nurse is to maintain the air within the room as fresh as the air without, without lowering the temperature.

~Florence Nightingale

It is very well to say "be prudent, be careful, try to know each other." But how are you to know each other?

~Florence Nightingale

I can expect no sympathy or help from my family.

~Florence Nightingale

The time is come when women must do something more than the "domestic hearth," which means nursing the infants, keeping a pretty house, having a good dinner and an entertaining party.

~Florence Nightingale

Heaven is neither a place nor a time.

~Florence Nightingale

do not engage in any paper wars. You will convince nobody and arrive at no satisfaction yourself.

~Florence Nightingale

[On Thomas Babington Macaulay:] He was a most disagreeable companion to my fancy ... His conversation was a procession of one.

~Florence Nightingale

The great reformers of the world turn into the great misanthropists, if circumstances or organization do not permit them to act.

~Florence Nightingale

The night is given to us to take breath, to pray, to drink deep at the fountain of power.

~Florence Nightingale

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