

Frederick Douglass Quotes

*Men, Freedom, Justice, People, Slavery, War, Patriotic, Country, Tyrants,
Rights, Slave, Thinking, Struggle, Hands, Liberty, Government, Mean, Black
History, America, Color*

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

~Frederick Douglass

You are not judged by the height you have risen, but from the depth you have climbed.

~Frederick Douglass

I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence.

~Frederick Douglass

There is no negro problem. The problem is whether the American people have loyalty enough, honor enough, patriotism enough, to live up to their own constitution

~Frederick Douglass

Education means emancipation. It means light and liberty. It means the uplifting of the soul of man into the glorious light of truth, the light by which men can only be made free.

~Frederick Douglass

Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all rights, is the dread of tyrants. It is the right which they first of all strike down.

~Frederick Douglass

Without a struggle, there can be no progress.

~Frederick Douglass

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

~Frederick Douglass

Knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave.

~Frederick Douglass

A man's rights rest in three boxes: the ballot box, the jury box, and the cartridge box.

~Frederick Douglass

A slave is someone who sits down, and waits for someone to free them.

~Frederick Douglass

The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous.

~Frederick Douglass

People might not get all they work for in this world, but they must certainly work for all they get.

~Frederick Douglass

I am a Republican, a black, dyed in the wool Republican, and I never intend to belong to any other party than the party of freedom and progress.

~Frederick Douglass

Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.

~Frederick Douglass

In life you don't get everything you pay for, but you must pay for everything you get.

~Frederick Douglass

At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed.

~Frederick Douglass

Mr. Lincoln was not only a great President, but a great man - too great to be small in anything. In his company I was never in any way reminded of my humble origin, or of my unpopular color.

~Frederick Douglass

Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, . . . neither persons nor property will be safe.

~Frederick Douglass

It is not light that we need, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder. We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.

~Frederick Douglass

Educate your sons and daughters, send them to school, and show them that beside the cartridge box, the ballot box, and the jury box, you also have the knowledge box.

~Frederick Douglass

Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground.

~Frederick Douglass

I will unite with anyone to do good, but with no one to do harm.

~Frederick Douglass

Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

~Frederick Douglass

I know of no rights of race superior to the rights of humanity...

~Frederick Douglass

The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion.

~Frederick Douglass

The white man's happiness cannot be purchased by the black man's misery.

~Frederick Douglass

When a great truth once gets abroad in the world, no power on earth can imprison it, or prescribe its limits, or suppress it. It is bound to go on till it becomes the thought of the world.

~Frederick Douglass

The soul that is within me no man can degrade.

~Frederick Douglass

Praying for freedom never did me any good til I started praying with my feet.

~Frederick Douglass

If there's no struggle, there's no progress.

~Frederick Douglass

We are Americans, speaking the same language, adopting the same customs, holding the same general opinions... and shall rise and fall with Americans.

~Frederick Douglass

Truth is proper and beautiful in all times and in all places.

~Frederick Douglass

The simplest truths often meet the sternest resistance and are slowest in getting general acceptance.

~Frederick Douglass

What is possible for me is possible for you.

~Frederick Douglass

I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong.

~Frederick Douglass

No man can put a chain about the ankle of his fellow man without at last finding the other end fastened about his own neck.

~Frederick Douglass

No people to whom liberty is given can hold it as firmly and wear it as grandly as those who wrench their liberty from the iron hand of the tyrant.

~Frederick Douglass

Man's greatness consists in his ability to do and the proper application of his powers to things needed to be done.

~Frederick Douglass

We have to do with the past only as we can make it useful to the present and the future.

~Frederick Douglass

Freedom is a road seldom traveled by the multitude.

~Frederick Douglass

Oppression makes a wise man mad.

~Frederick Douglass

He who would be free must strike the first blow.

~Frederick Douglass

Be not discouraged. There is a future for you. . . . The resistance encountered now predicates hope. . .

~Frederick Douglass

I didn't know I was a slave until I found out I couldn't do the things I wanted.

~Frederick Douglass

I prayed for twenty years but received no answer until I prayed with my legs.

~Frederick Douglass

Fortune may crowd a man's life with fortunate circumstances and happy opportunities, but they will, as we all know, avail him nothing unless he makes a wise and vigorous use of them.

~Frederick Douglass

If I have advocated the cause of the Negro, it is not because I am a Negro, but because I am a man.

~Frederick Douglass

The man who will get up will be helped up; and the man who will not get up will be allowed to stay down.

~Frederick Douglass

The opposite of compromise is character.

~Frederick Douglass

In the struggle for justice, the only reward is the opportunity to be in the struggle. You can't expect that you're going to have it tomorrow. You just have to keep working on it.

~Frederick Douglass

Neither we, nor any other people, will ever be respected till we respect ourselves and we will never respect ourselves till we have the means to live respectfully.

~Frederick Douglass

You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man.

~Frederick Douglass

To make a contented slave it is necessary to make a thoughtless one. It is necessary to darken the moral and mental vision and, as far as possible, to annihilate the power of reason.

~Frederick Douglass

The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.

~Frederick Douglass

To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker.

~Frederick Douglass

Let us render the tyrant no aid; let us not hold the light by which he can trace the footprints of our flying brother.

~Frederick Douglass

You have to take power. No one gives it.

~Frederick Douglass

When men sow the wind it is rational to expect that they will reap the whirlwind.

~Frederick Douglass

Slaves sing most when they are most unhappy. The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of his heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears.

~Frederick Douglass

Interpreted as it ought to be interpreted, the constitution is a Glorious Liberty Document!

~Frederick Douglass

The silver trumpet of freedom roused in my soul eternal wakefulness.

~Frederick Douglass

The Constitution is a GLORIOUS LIBERTY DOCUMENT. Read its preamble, consider its purposes. Is slavery among them? Is it at the gateway? or is it in the temple? it is neither.

~Frederick Douglass

A great man, tender of heart, strong of nerve, boundless patience and broadest sympathy, with no motive apart from his country.

~Frederick Douglass

A battle lost or won is easily described, understood, and appreciated, but the moral growth of a great nation requires reflection, as well as observation, to appreciate it.

~Frederick Douglass

Some know the value of education by having it. I know its value by not having it.

~Frederick Douglass

A man's character always takes its hue, more or less, from the form and color of things about him.

~Frederick Douglass

Opportunity is important but exertion is indispensable.

~Frederick Douglass

It is better to be part of a great whole than to be the whole of a small part.

~Frederick Douglass

The relation between the white and colored people of this country is the great, paramount, imperative, and all-commanding question for this age and nation to solve.

~Frederick Douglass

In a composite nation like ours, as before the law, there should be no rich, no poor, no high, no low, no white, no black, but common country, common citizenship, equal rights and a common destiny.

~Frederick Douglass

I do not think much of the good luck theory of self-made men. It is worth but little attention and has no practical value.

~Frederick Douglass

Every one of us should be ashamed to be free while his brother is a slave.

~Frederick Douglass

I hear the mournful wail of millions!

~Frederick Douglass

Instead of the bright, blue sky of America, I am covered with the soft, grey fog of the Emerald Isle. I breathe, and lo! the chattel becomes a man.

~Frederick Douglass

We may explain success mainly by one word and that word is **WORK!**
WORK!! WORK!!! WORK!!!!

~Frederick Douglass

I expose slavery in this country, because to expose it is to kill it. Slavery is one of those monsters of darkness to whom the light of truth is death.

~Frederick Douglass

A man, at times, gets something for nothing, but it will, in his hands, amount to nothing.

~Frederick Douglass

The destiny of the colored American ... is the destiny of America.

~Frederick Douglass

It's a poor rule that won't work both ways.

~Frederick Douglass

I recognize the Republican Party as the sheet anchor of the colored man's political hopes and the ark of his safety.

~Frederick Douglass

Let us render the tyrant no aid.

~Frederick Douglass

A government, founded on impartial liberty, where all have a voice and a vote, irrespective of color or of sex--what is there to hinder such a government from standing firm.

~Frederick Douglass

America is false to the past, false to the present, and solemnly binds herself to be false to the future.

~Frederick Douglass

I ask you...to adopt the principles proclaimed by yourselves, by your revolutionary fathers, and by the old bell in Independence Hall.

~Frederick Douglass

A little learning, indeed, may be a dangerous thing, but the want of learning is a calamity to any people.

~Frederick Douglass

Yet people in general will say they like colored men as well as any other, but in their proper place.

~Frederick Douglass

A gentleman will not insult me, and no man not a gentleman can insult me.

~Frederick Douglass

Our destiny is largely in our hands.

~Frederick Douglass

The man who is right is a majority. He who has God and conscience on his side, has a majority against the universe.

~Frederick Douglass

We succeed, not alone by the laborious exertions of our faculties, be they small or great, but by the regular, thoughtful and systematic exercise of them.

~Frederick Douglass

The more men you make free, the more freedom is strengthened, and the more men you give an interest in the welfare and safety of the State, the greater is the security of the State.

~Frederick Douglass

Right is of no Sex-Truth is of no Color-God is the Father of us all, and we are all Brethren.

~Frederick Douglass

The mind does not take its complexion from the skin.

~Frederick Douglass

Intelligence is a great leveler here as elsewhere

~Frederick Douglass

One and God make a majority.

~Frederick Douglass

The law on the side of freedom is of great advantage only when there is power to make that law respected.

~Frederick Douglass

Poverty, ignorance and degradation are the combined evils, these constitute the social disease of the free colored people of the US.

~Frederick Douglass

As those who believe in the visibility of ghosts can easily see them, so it is always easy to see repulsive qualities in those we despise and hate.

~Frederick Douglass

I love the religion of Christianity - which cometh from above - which is a pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of good fruits, and without hypocrisy.

~Frederick Douglass

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