

# Galileo Galilei

## Quotes

*Science, Men, Believe, Moving, Mean, Book, Moon, Numbers, Philosophy,  
Thinking, Math, Eye, Language, Stars, Doe, Heaven, Education, Wise, Religion,  
Errors*

All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.

~Galileo Galilei

I have never met a man so ignorant that I couldn't learn something from him.

~Galileo Galilei

The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do.

~Galileo Galilei

I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with senses, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use.

~Galileo Galilei

The laws of nature are written by the hand of God in the language of mathematics.

~Galileo Galilei

Knowing thyself, that is the greatest wisdom.

~Galileo Galilei

To understand the Universe, you must understand the language in which it's written, the language of Mathematics.

~Galileo Galilei

In the sciences, the authority of thousands of opinions is not worth as much as one tiny spark of reason in an individual man.

~Galileo Galilei

To be humane, we must ever be ready to pronounce that wise, ingenious and modest statement 'I do not know'.

~Galileo Galilei

Mathematics is the language with which God has written the universe.

~Galileo Galilei

You can't teach anybody anything, only make them realize the answers are already inside them.

~Galileo Galilei

There are those who reason well, but they are greatly outnumbered by those who reason badly.

~Galileo Galilei

Two truths cannot contradict one another.

~Galileo Galilei

Nonetheless, it moves.

~Galileo Galilei

The Bible shows the way to go to heaven, not the way the heavens go.

~Galileo Galilei

Where the senses fail us, reason must step in.

~Galileo Galilei

You may force me to say what you wish; you may revile me for saying what I do. But it moves.

~Galileo Galilei

Nothing occurs contrary to nature except the impossible, and that never occurs.

~Galileo Galilei

You cannot teach a person something he does not already know, you

can only bring what he does know to his awareness.

~Galileo Galilei

God is known by nature in his works, and by doctrine in his revealed word.

~Galileo Galilei

Who would dare assert that we know all there is to be known?

~Galileo Galilei

The greatest wisdom is to get to know oneself.

~Galileo Galilei

In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual.

~Galileo Galilei

Measure what can be measured, and make measurable what cannot be measured.

~Galileo Galilei

Measure what is measurable, and make measurable what is not so.

~Galileo Galilei

With regard to matters requiring thought: the less people know and understand about them, the more positively they attempt to argue concerning them.

~Galileo Galilei

Mathematics is the key and door to the sciences.

~Galileo Galilei

The book of nature is written in the language of mathematics.

~Galileo Galilei

Holy Scripture could never lie or err...its decrees are of absolute and inviolable truth.

~Galileo Galilei

It is surely harmful to souls to make it a heresy to believe what is proved.

~Galileo Galilei

If you could see the earth illuminated when you were in a place as dark as night, it would look to you more splendid than the moon.

~Galileo Galilei

Wine is sunlight, held together by water.

~Galileo Galilei

I think that in the discussion of natural problems we ought to begin not with the Scriptures, but with experiments, and demonstrations.

~Galileo Galilei

The Milky Way is nothing else but a mass of innumerable stars planted together in clusters.

~Galileo Galilei

Nature is relentless and unchangeable, and it is indifferent as to whether its hidden reasons and actions are understandable to man or not.

~Galileo Galilei

Science proceeds more by what it has learned to ignore than what it takes into account.

~Galileo Galilei

It is a beautiful and delightful sight to behold the body of the Moon.

~Galileo Galilei

Scripture is a book about going to Heaven. It's not a book about how the heavens go.

~Galileo Galilei

See now the power of truth.

~Galileo Galilei

The laws of Nature are written in the language of mathematics...the symbols are triangles, circles and other geometrical figures, without whose help it is impossible to comprehend a single word.

~Galileo Galilei

See now the power of truth; the same experiment which at first glance seemed to show one thing, when more carefully examined, assures us of the contrary.

~Galileo Galilei

By denying scientific principles, one may maintain any paradox.

~Galileo Galilei

Philosophy itself cannot but benefit from our disputes, for if our conceptions prove true, new achievements will be made; if false, their refutation will further confirm the original doctrines.

~Galileo Galilei

Being infinitely amazed, so do I give thanks to God, Who has been pleased to make me the first observer of marvelous things, unrevealed to bygone ages.

~Galileo Galilei

Nature . . . is inexorable and immutable; she never transgresses the laws imposed upon her, nor cares a whit whether her abstruse reasons and methods of operations are understandable to men.

~Galileo Galilei

But some, besides allegiance to their original error, possess I know not what fanciful interest in remaining hostile not so much toward the things in question as toward their discoverer.

~Galileo Galilei

It vexes me when they would constrain science by the authority of the Scriptures, and yet do not consider themselves bound to answer reason and experiment.

~Galileo Galilei

Nature is written in mathematical language.

~Galileo Galilei

Nature...does not act by means of many things when it can do so by means of a few.

~Galileo Galilei

Nature's great book is written in mathematics.

~Galileo Galilei

I would say here something that was heard from an ecclesiastic of the most eminent degree: The intention of the Holy Spirit is to teach us how one goes to heaven, not how the heavens go.

~Galileo Galilei

I, Galileo, son of the late Vincenzo Galilei, swear that I never said that the prime numbers are useless. What I said was that you cannot count lunar craters by counting 2, 3, 5, 7.

~Galileo Galilei

E pur si muove. "Albeit It does move". (That's what Galileo purportedly muttered after torturers forced him to recant his theory that the earth orbits the sun.)

~Galileo Galilei

They who depend upon manifest observations will philosophize better than those who persist in opinions repugnant to the senses.

~Galileo Galilei

I would beg the wise and learned fathers [of the church] to consider with all diligence the difference which exists between matters of mere opinion and matters of demonstration.

~Galileo Galilei

To command their professors of astronomy to refute their own observations is to command them not to see what they do see and not to understand what they do understand.

~Galileo Galilei

I do not know what to say in a case so surprising, so unlooked for and so novel.

~Galileo Galilei

I abjure with a sincere heart and unfeigned faith, I curse and detest the said errors and heresies, and generally all and every error and sect contrary to the Holy Catholic Church.

~Galileo Galilei

Facts which at first seem improbable will, even on scant explanation, drop the cloak which has hidden them and stand forth in naked and simple beauty.

~Galileo Galilei

Some, merely to contradict what I had said, did not scruple to cast doubt upon things they had seen with their own eyes again and again.

~Galileo Galilei

We must say that there are as many squares as there are numbers.

~Galileo Galilei



The earth, in fair and grateful exchange, pays back to the moon an illumination similar to that which it receives from her throughout nearly all the darkest gloom of the night.

~Galileo Galilei

Holy Writ was intended to teach men how to go to Heaven not how the heavens go.

~Galileo Galilei

What has philosophy got to do with measuring anything? It's the mathematicians you have to trust, and they measure the skies like we measure a field.

~Galileo Galilei

[Copernicus] did not ignore the Bible, but he knew very well that if his doctrine were proved, then it could not contradict the Scriptures when they were rightly understood.

~Galileo Galilei

Nothing can be taught to a man, only it's possibly to help him to discover it inside.

~Galileo Galilei

Well, since paradoxes are at hand, let us see how it might be demonstrated that in a finite continuous extension it is not impossible for infinitely many voids to be found.

~Galileo Galilei

For my part I consider the earth very noble and admirable precisely because of the diverse alterations, changes, generations, etc. that occur in it incessantly.

~Galileo Galilei

One can understand nature only when one has learned the language

and the signs in which it speaks to us; but this language is mathematics and these signs are mathematical figures.

~Galileo Galilei

Names and attributes must be accommodated to the essence of things, and not the essence to the names, since things come first and names afterwards.

~Galileo Galilei

They seemed to forget that the increase of known truths stimulates the investigation, establishment and growth of the arts; not their diminution or destruction.

~Galileo Galilei

Spots are on the surface of the solar body where they are produced and also dissolved, some in shorter and others in longer periods. They are carried around the Sun; an important occurrence in itself.

~Galileo Galilei

It was granted to me alone to discover all the new phenomena in the sky and nothing to anybody else. This is the truth which neither envy nor malice can suppress.

~Galileo Galilei

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