

# George MacDonald Quotes

*Men, Thinking, Heart, God, Father, Believe, Giving, Children, Christian, Lying,  
People, Faith, Jesus, Eye, Life, Mind, Soul, Light, Home, Prayer*

A man's real belief is that which he lives by. What a man believes is the thing he does, not the thing he thinks.

~George MacDonald

Never tell a child 'you have a soul.' Teach him, you are a soul; you have a body.

~George MacDonald

It is not in the nature of politics that the best men should be elected. The best men do not want to govern their fellowmen.

~George MacDonald

Forgiveness unleashes joy. It brings peace. It washes the slate clean. It sets all the highest values of love in motion.

~George MacDonald

If instead of a gem, or even a flower, we should cast the gift of a loving thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels give.

~George MacDonald

Any faith in Him, however small, is better than any belief about Him, however great.

~George MacDonald

No man ever sank under the burden of the day. It is when tomorrow's burden is added to the burden of today that the weight is more than a man can bear.

~George MacDonald

To be trusted is a greater compliment than being loved.

~George MacDonald

It is by loving and not by being loved that one can come nearest to the

soul of another.

~George MacDonald

How strange this fear of death is! We are never frightened at a sunset.

~George MacDonald

Man finds it hard to get what he wants, because he does not want the best; God finds it hard to give, because He would give the best, and man will not take it.

~George MacDonald

God left the world unfinished for man to work his skill upon. He left the electricity still in the cloud, the oil still in the earth.

~George MacDonald

We die daily. Happy those who daily come to life as well.

~George MacDonald

If we do not die to ourselves, we cannot live to God, and he that does not live to God, is dead.

~George MacDonald

In whatever man does without God, he must fail miserably, or succeed more miserably.

~George MacDonald

Work is not always required. There is such a thing as sacred idleness.

~George MacDonald

Love makes everything lovely; hate concentrates itself on the one thing hated.

~George MacDonald

The love of our neighbor is the only door out of the dungeon of self.

~George MacDonald

Few delights can equal the presence of one whom we trust utterly.

~George MacDonald

Free will is not the liberty to do whatever one likes, but the power of doing whatever one sees ought to be done, even in the very face of otherwise overwhelming impulse. There lies freedom, indeed.

~George MacDonald

A beast does not know that he is a beast, and the nearer a man gets to being a beast, the less he knows it.

~George MacDonald

He who seeks the Father more than anything He can give, is likely to have what he asks, for he is not likely to ask amiss.

~George MacDonald

This is and has been the Father's work from the beginning-to bring us into the home of His heart.

~George MacDonald

To give truth to him who loves it not is but to give him more plentiful material for misinterpretation.

~George MacDonald

The purposes of God point to one simple end-that we should be as he is, think the same thoughts, mean the same things, possess the same blessedness.

~George MacDonald

Do not measure God's mind by your own.

~George MacDonald

The mind of the many is not the mind of God.

~George MacDonald

The first thing a kindness deserves is acceptance, the second, transmission.

~George MacDonald

You can't live on amusement. It is the froth on water - an inch deep and then the mud.

~George MacDonald

The principle part of faith is patience.

~George MacDonald

I find the doing of the will of God leaves me no time for disputing about his plans - I do not say for thinking about them.

~George MacDonald

Above all things, I delight in listening to stories, and sometimes in telling them.

~George MacDonald

Forgiveness is the giving, and so the receiving, of life.

~George MacDonald

To be kind neither hurts nor compromises.

~George MacDonald

I write, not for children, but for the child-like, whether they be of five, or fifty, or seventy-five.

~George MacDonald

If God were not only to hear our prayers, as he does ever and always, but to answer them as we want them answered, he would not be God

our Saviour but the ministering genius of our destruction.

~George MacDonald

Trust to God to weave your thread into the great web, though the pattern shows it not yet.

~George MacDonald

Many a thief is a better man than many a clergyman, and miles nearer to the gate of the kingdom.

~George MacDonald

Not only then has each man his individual relation to God, but each man has his peculiar relation to God.

~George MacDonald

All things are possible with God, but all things are not easy.

~George MacDonald

Beauty and sadness always go together.

~George MacDonald

I am perplexed at the stupidity of the ordinary religious being. In the most practical of all matters he will talk and speculate and try to feel, but he will not set himself to do.

~George MacDonald

To judge religion we must have it--not stare at it from the bottom of a seemingly interminable ladder.

~George MacDonald

You must learn to be strong in the dark as well as in the day, else you will always be only half brave.

~George MacDonald

It may be an infinitely less evil to murder a man than to refuse to forgive him. The former may be the act of a moment of passion: the latter is the heart's choice.

~George MacDonald

My prayers, my God, flow from what I am not; I think thy answers make me what I am.

~George MacDonald

Past tears are present strength.

~George MacDonald

It is our best work that God wants, not the dregs of our exhaustion. I think he must prefer quality to quantity.

~George MacDonald

We are not made for law, we are made for love.

~George MacDonald

In low theologies, hell is invariably the deepest truth, and the love of God is not so deep as hell.

~George MacDonald

There is this difference between the growth of some human beings and that of others: in the one case it is a continuous dying, in the other a continuous resurrection.

~George MacDonald

To have what we want is riches; but to be able to do without is power.

~George MacDonald

Fear is faithlessness.

~George MacDonald

The miracles of Jesus were the ordinary works of his Father, wrought small and swift that we might take them in.

~George MacDonald

If you care to see God, be pure. If you will not be pure, you will grow more and more impure.

~George MacDonald

You doubt because you love truth.

~George MacDonald

Annihilation itself is no death to evil. Only good where evil was, is evil dead. An evil thing must live with its evil until it chooses to be good. That alone is the slaying of evil.

~George MacDonald

The Root of All Rebellion: It is because we are not near enough to Thee to partake of thy liberty that we want a liberty of our own different from thine.

~George MacDonald

Obedience is the key to every door.

~George MacDonald

No man has the mind of Christ, except him who makes it his business to obey him.

~George MacDonald

there is no harm in being afraid. The only harm is in doing what Fear tells you. Fear is not your master! Laugh in his face and he will run away.

~George MacDonald

Light-leaved acacias, by the door, Stood up in balmy air, Clusters of



blossomed moonlight bore, And breathed a perfume rare.

~George MacDonald

The holy spirit of the Spring Is working silently.

~George MacDonald

There are women who fly their falcons at any game, little birds and all.

~George MacDonald

Afflictions are but the shadows of God's wings.

~George MacDonald

By all means rid yourself of an impoverished faith.

~George MacDonald

It is simply absurd to say you believe, or even want to believe, in Him, if you do not do anything He tells you.

~George MacDonald

Endurance must conquer, where force could not reach.

~George MacDonald

Anything big enough to occupy our minds is big enough to hang a prayer on.

~George MacDonald

The first thing in all progress is to leave something behind.

~George MacDonald

It may be infinitely worse to refuse to forgive than to murder, because

~George MacDonald

The best preparation for the future is the present well seen to, and the last duty done.

~George MacDonald

To love righteousness is to make it grow, not to avenge it. Throughout his life on earth, Jesus resisted every impulse to work more rapidly for a lower good.

~George MacDonald

All those evil doctrines about God that work misery and madness have their origin in the brains of the wise and prudent, not in the hearts of children.

~George MacDonald

Half of the misery in the world comes from trying to look, instead of trying to be, what one is not.

~George MacDonald

Attitudes are more important than facts.

~George MacDonald

When we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over

~George MacDonald

I am so tried by the things said about God. I understand God's patience with the wicked, but I do wonder how he can be so patient with the pious!

~George MacDonald

God is nearer to you than any thought or feeling of yours... Do not be afraid.

~George MacDonald

Faith is obedience, not compliance.

~George MacDonald

As to the pure all things are pure, so the common mind sees far more vulgarity in others than the mind developed in genuine refinement.

~George MacDonald

Primarily, God is not bound to punish sin; he is bound to destroy sin. The only vengeance worth having on sin is to make the sinner himself its executioner.

~George MacDonald

God's finger can touch nothing but to mold it into loveliness.

~George MacDonald

Come, come to Him who made thy heart; Come weary and oppressed; To come to Jesus is thy part; His part, to give thee rest.

~George MacDonald

Age is not all decay; it is the ripening, the swelling, of the fresh life within, that withers and bursts the husk.

~George MacDonald

I came from God, and I'm going back to God, and I won't have any gaps of death in the middle of my life.

~George MacDonald

The whole trouble is that we won't let God help us.

~George MacDonald

I say again, if I cannot draw a horse, I will not write THIS IS A HORSE under what I foolishly meant for one.

~George MacDonald

Beauty and sadness always go together. Nature thought beauty too rich to go forth Upon the earth without a meet alloy.

~George MacDonald

What does God want me to do?â€•, not â€œWhat will God do if I do so and so?

~George MacDonald

We can walk without fear, full of hope and courage and strength to do His will, waiting for the endless good which He is always giving as fast as He can get us able to take it in.

~George MacDonald

Oh the folly of any mind that would explain God before obeying Him! That would map out the character of God instead of crying, Lord, what wouldst thou have me to do?

~George MacDonald

God will not take shelter behind a jugglery of logic or metaphysics. He is neither a schoolman nor theologian, but our Father in Heaven.

~George MacDonald

Real good-breeding is independent of the forms and refinements of what has assumed to itself the name of society.

~George MacDonald

Moderation is the basis of justice.

~George MacDonald

Religion is life essential.

~George MacDonald

Man's rank is his power to uplift.

~George MacDonald

Where did you come from, baby dear? Out of the everywhere and into here.

~George MacDonald

Never be discouraged because good things get on so slowly here; and never fail daily to do that good which lies next to your hand.

~George MacDonald

It is a happy thing for us that this is really all we have to concern ourselves about--what to do next. No man can do the second thing. He can do the first.

~George MacDonald

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