

# Gordon Parks Quotes

*Thinking, Cameras, People, Photography, Years, Important, Racism, Powerful,  
Evil, Weapons, Misery, Gun, African American, Fighting, Enthusiasm, Dream,  
Beautiful, Might, Children, Choices*

I saw that the camera could be a weapon against poverty, against racism, against all sorts of social wrongs. I knew at that point I had to have a camera.

~Gordon Parks

The guy who takes a chance, who walks the line between the known and unknown, who is unafraid of failure, will succeed.

~Gordon Parks

I feel it is the heart, not the eye, that should determine the content of the photograph. What the eye sees is its own. What the heart can perceive is a very different matter.

~Gordon Parks

Enthusiasm is the electricity of life. How do you get it? You act enthusiastic until you make it a habit.

~Gordon Parks

At first I wasn't sure that I had the talent, but I did know I had a fear of failure, and that fear compelled me to fight off anything that might abet it.

~Gordon Parks

Nothing came easy. I was just born with a need to explore every part of my mind. And with long searching and hard work, I became devoted to my restlessness.

~Gordon Parks

You have a 45mm automatic pistol on your lap, and I have a 35mm camera on my lap, and my weapon is just as powerful as yours. (To Black Panther militant Eldridge Cleaver)

~Gordon Parks

I picked up a camera because it was my choice of weapons against

what I hated most about the universe: racism, intolerance, poverty.

~Gordon Parks

If you don't have anything to say, your photographs aren't going to say much.

~Gordon Parks

The subject matter is so much more important than the photographer.

~Gordon Parks

The camera could be a very powerful instrument against discrimination, against poverty, against racism.

~Gordon Parks

Think in terms of images and words. They can be mighty powerful when they are fitted together properly.

~Gordon Parks

You know, the camera is not meant just to show misery. You can show things that you like about the universe, things that you hate about the universe. It's capable of doing both.

~Gordon Parks

I suffered first as a child from discrimination, poverty ... So I think it was a natural follow from that that I should use my camera to speak for people who are unable to speak for themselves.

~Gordon Parks

I have never known anyone important enough to consume me in anger beyond a few hours. Better to depart their existence before they poison your own.

~Gordon Parks

If a man can reach the latter days of his life with his soul intact, he has

mastered life.

~Gordon Parks

I suffered evils, but without allowing them to rob me of the freedom to expand.

~Gordon Parks

I have been born again and again and each time, I have found something to love.

~Gordon Parks

Photography was my choice of weapons.

~Gordon Parks

I think most people can do a whole lot more if they just try.

~Gordon Parks

Many times I wondered whether my achievement was worth the loneliness I experienced, but now I realize the price was small.

~Gordon Parks

Enthusiasm is the electricity of life

~Gordon Parks

I do find a certain fascination with the unpredictable. The transitory years we wade through are what they are- what we make of them.

~Gordon Parks

I have always felt as though I needed a weapon against evil.

~Gordon Parks

I bought my first camera in Seattle, Washington. Only paid about seven dollars and fifty cents for it.

~Gordon Parks

But I do feel a little teeny right now that I'm just about ready to start, and winter is entering. Half past autumn has arrived.

~Gordon Parks

You know, the camera is not meant just to show misery.

~Gordon Parks

So I went to Chicago in 1940, I think, '41, and the photographs that I made there, aside from fashion, were things that I was trying to express in a social conscious way.

~Gordon Parks

And I think that after nearly 85 years upon this planet that I have a right after working so hard at showing the desolation and the poverty, to show something beautiful for somebody as well.

~Gordon Parks

I've been with Life now for seventeen years and I have written several articles for them and will be doing more writing and do at least two assignments a year besides my writing.

~Gordon Parks

I think maybe the rural influence in my life helped me in a sense, of knowing how to get close to people and talk to them and get my work done.

~Gordon Parks

Use anger to emotionalize whatever thing you intend to do in life - being a painter, a poet or a photographer

~Gordon Parks

I had known poverty firsthand, but there I learned how to fight its evil - along with the evil of racism - with a camera.

~Gordon Parks

And now, I feel at 85, I really feel that I'm just ready to start.

~Gordon Parks

Success can be wracking and reproachful, to you and those close to you. It can entangle you with legends that are consuming and all but impossible to live up to.

~Gordon Parks

Washington, D.C. in 1942 was not the easiest place in the world for a Negro to get along.

~Gordon Parks

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