

Joan D. Chittister

Quotes

*Spiritual, People, Heart, Thinking, Soul, World, Compassion, Religious, Life,
Giving, Needs, Prayer, Dream, Self, Community, Real, Want, Done,
Acceptance, Responsibility*

Darkness deserves gratitude. It is the alleluia point at which we learn to understand that all growth does not take place in the sunlight.

~Joan D. Chittister

Beware the religion that turns you against another one. It's unlikely that it's really religion at all.

~Joan D. Chittister

Hope is not a matter of waiting for things outside of us to get better. It is about getting better inside about what is going on outside.

~Joan D. Chittister

We talk religion in a world that worships the bread but does not distribute it, that practices ritual rather than righteousness, that confesses but does not repent.

~Joan D. Chittister

Grief is a sign that we loved something more than ourselves. . . . Grief makes us worthy to suffer with the rest of the world.

~Joan D. Chittister

Compassion makes no distinction between friends and enemies, neighbors and outsiders, compatriots and foreigners. Compassion is the gate to human community.

~Joan D. Chittister

When souls really touch, it is forever. Then space and time disappear, and all that remains is the consciousness that we are not alone in life.

~Joan D. Chittister

Compassion is not sympathy. Compassion is mercy. It is a commitment to take responsibility for the suffering of others.

~Joan D. Chittister

Oppressors do not get to be oppressors in a single sweep. They manage it because little by little, we make them that. We overlook too much in the beginning and wonder why we lost control in the end.

~Joan D. Chittister

Compassion is the ability to understand how difficult it is for people to be the best of what they want to be at all times.

~Joan D. Chittister

An authentic spirituality does not cater to culture; it calls culture to accountability.

~Joan D. Chittister

My limitations make space for the gifts of other people. Without the grace of our limitations we would be isolated, dry, and insufferable creatures indeed.

~Joan D. Chittister

I begin to understand as never before that holiness is made of dailiness, of living life as it comes to me, not as I insist it be.

~Joan D. Chittister

Too many times we insist on loving people the way we want to love them instead of the way they need to be loved.

~Joan D. Chittister

Learning to celebrate joy is one of the great practices of the spiritual life.

~Joan D. Chittister

Beauty scatters the seeds of hope in us.

~Joan D. Chittister

faith isn't faith until it's all we have to hold on to and knowledge fails us.

When we pray for faith, we automatically pray for darkness. Think about it.

~Joan D. Chittister

It's the beauty within us that makes it possible for us to recognize the beauty around us.

~Joan D. Chittister

Our role in life is to bring the light of our own souls to the dim places around us.

~Joan D. Chittister

Freedom, in childhood, may be the right to be totally self-centered. Â... But freedom in old age is the ability to be the best of the self I have developed during all those years.

~Joan D. Chittister

We don't change as we get older - we just get to be more of what we've always been.

~Joan D. Chittister

The purpose of leadership is not to make the present bearable. The purpose of leadership is to make the future possible.

~Joan D. Chittister

Acceptance is the universal currency of real friendship. . . .It does not warp or shape or wrench a person to be anything other than what they are.

~Joan D. Chittister

Life is not meant to be a burden. Life is not a problem to be solved. It is a blessing to be celebrated.

~Joan D. Chittister

But we are here to depart from this world as finished as we can possibly become.

~Joan D. Chittister

Work is not slavery, then. Work is creativity. It is the expression of ourselves that no one else can duplicate.

~Joan D. Chittister

Longing is a compass that guides us through life. We may never get what we really want, that's true, but every step along the way will be determined by it.

~Joan D. Chittister

Life is a series of lessons, some of them obvious, some of them not. We learn as we go that dreams end, that plans get changed, that promises get broken, that our idols disappoint us.

~Joan D. Chittister

June is the time for being in the world in new ways, for throwing off the cold and dark spots of life.

~Joan D. Chittister

Every dimension of life, its gains and its losses, are reason for celebration because each of them brings us closer to wisdom and fullness of understanding.

~Joan D. Chittister

To be enlightened is to know that heaven is not "coming." Heaven is here.

~Joan D. Chittister

Life always comes out of death. The present rises from the ashes of the past. The future is always possible for those who are willing to re-create it.

~Joan D. Chittister

A life of value is not a series of great things well done; it is a series of small things consciously done.

~Joan D. Chittister

If the people speak and the king doesn't listen, there is something wrong with the king. If the king acts precipitously and the people say nothing, something is wrong with the people.

~Joan D. Chittister

Memory is not about what went on in the past, it is about what is going on inside us right this moment. It is made up of the stuff of life in the process of becoming the grist of the soul.

~Joan D. Chittister

We need a much broader conversation on what the morality of pro-life is

~Joan D. Chittister

No one finds time for prayer. You either take time for it or you don't get it.

~Joan D. Chittister

Imagine how happy, how holy, life would be if we ever really learn to see beauty.

~Joan D. Chittister

Prophets are those who take life as it is and expand it. They refuse to shrink a vision of tomorrow to the boundaries of yesterday.

~Joan D. Chittister

Awareness of the sacred in life is what holds our world together, and the lack of awareness of the sacred is what is tearing it apart.

~Joan D. Chittister

The Christmas season is a gift in itself. It releases us from the priorities of ordinary time and gives us the right to party more and pray more and love more.

~Joan D. Chittister

If life is really for the living, then the trick to living well is to learn to live it fully, to soak it up, to revel in it.

~Joan D. Chittister

Try saying this silently to everyone and everything you see for thirty days and see what happens to your own soul: I wish you happiness now and whatever will bring happiness to you in the future.

~Joan D. Chittister

Find the thing that stirs your heart and make room for it

~Joan D. Chittister

Fear is not the opposite of courage. Fear is the catalyst of courage.

~Joan D. Chittister

Hospitality is simply love on the loose.

~Joan D. Chittister

We are living in a period of commercial globalization. What we really need is spiritual globalization.

~Joan D. Chittister

We each should have 2 pockets: in 1 the message, 'I am dust & ashes;' in the other, 'For me the universe was made.'

~Joan D. Chittister

The message we have internalized is clear - we are what we do and

what we own, not what we are inside ourselves. Where it counts!

~Joan D. Chittister

The vision of a culture lies in what becomes its major institutions, in what it remembers as its most impacting events, in who it sees as its heroes.

~Joan D. Chittister

Anger is not bad. Anger can be a very positive thing, the thing that moves us beyond the acceptance of evil.

~Joan D. Chittister

To insist on living until we die may be one of life's greatest virtues.

~Joan D. Chittister

We punish the body and strip the earth. And we do it in pursuit of a so-called holiness that smacks of the bogus, that denies the gifts of God, that makes us marauders on the earth.

~Joan D. Chittister

Hospitality is the key to new ideas, new friends, new possibilities. What we take into our lives changes us. Without new people and new ideas, we are imprisoned inside ourselves.

~Joan D. Chittister

If anything diminishes a person, it is the cancer of constant complaining.

~Joan D. Chittister

Failure is the foundation of truth. It teaches us what isn't true, and that is a great beginning. To fear failure is to fear the possibility of truth.

~Joan D. Chittister

Everything we do seeds the future. No action is an empty one.

~Joan D. Chittister

There is always new life trying to emerge in each of us. Too often we ignore the signs of resurrection and cling to part of life that have died for us.

~Joan D. Chittister

Persistence may not solve everything - at least in our lifetime - but it is truer to the meaning of life for us to wait for another plowing, another seeding, another harvest, then not.

~Joan D. Chittister

Indifference is the acid of life. It erodes all the spirit that's in us and makes us useless to anyone else. We all have to stand for something, or our souls cease to breathe.

~Joan D. Chittister

To be a presence of perpetual thanksgiving may be the ultimate goal of life. The thankful person is the one for whom life is simply one long exercise in the sacred.

~Joan D. Chittister

Never confuse desire with vision. Desire has to do with what we want. Vision has to do with what we need.

~Joan D. Chittister

Beware of your definition of success: If it has more to do with what other people think of you than it does with what you know of your own abilities, you may be confusing applause with achievement.

~Joan D. Chittister

Precisely because of the greatness of God, we don't have to be great at all. Just in awe.

~Joan D. Chittister

Prophets are so dangerous because they cry in season and out of season, politely and impolitely, loud and long.

~Joan D. Chittister

Solitude is not a way of running away from life ... from our feelings. On the contrary. This is the time we sort them out, air them, get over them, and go on without the burden of yesterday.

~Joan D. Chittister

"When we do not know what harbor we are making for," the Roman philosopher Seneca wrote, "no wind is the right wind." Persons have vision only when they have a dream that drives them on.

~Joan D. Chittister

When I know and accept myself-all my strengths and all my limitations-I am immediately respectful of everyone else because I know they have something beautiful within them that I do not have.

~Joan D. Chittister

Life is the ability to start over again.

~Joan D. Chittister

Hope is what sits by the window and waits for one more dawn, despite the fact that there isn't an ounce of proof in tonight's black, black sky that it can possible come.

~Joan D. Chittister

Goodness is a process of becoming, not of being. What we do over and over again is what we become in the end.

~Joan D. Chittister

We must learn to pray out of our weaknesses so that God can become our strength.

~Joan D. Chittister

In our dreams lies our unfinished work for the world.

~Joan D. Chittister

A hard heart makes for hard judgments; a compassionate heart understands the humanity of the one we presume to judge.

~Joan D. Chittister

All of us wrestle with the angels of our inabilities all the time. We live in fear that our incapacities will be exposed. We posture and evaluate and assess and criticize mercilessly.

~Joan D. Chittister

Humility is authenticity. It comes from the Latin word humus, meaning "earth." As the church has taught, we're made of dust, and unto dust we shall return.

~Joan D. Chittister

To be contemplative we must become converted to the consciousness that makes us one with the universe, in tune with the cosmic voice of God.

~Joan D. Chittister

Religion is pointing toward the moon

~Joan D. Chittister

Hope grows in us, despite our moments of darkness, regardless of our regular bouts of depression.

~Joan D. Chittister

We are each called to go through life reclaiming the planet an inch at a time until the Garden of Eden grows green again.

~Joan D. Chittister

The spiritual response is too often a simplistic one: we abandon God or

we blame God for abandoning us.

~Joan D. Chittister

It is not our job to work miracles, but it is our task to try.

~Joan D. Chittister

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