

# John Calvin

## Quotes

*Men, Heart, Christian, Christ, Prayer, Mean, Giving, Grace, Faith, Doe, May,  
Scripture, Mind, Religious, Suffering, People, Church, Joy, Son, Fall*

When God wants to judge a nation, He gives them wicked rulers.

~John Calvin

We shall never be clothed with the righteousness of Christ except we first know assuredly that we have no righteousness of our own.

~John Calvin

Whatever a person may be like, we must still love them because we love God.

~John Calvin

Prayer doesn't change things - God changes things in answer to prayer.

~John Calvin

I gave up all for Christ, and what have I found? Everything in Christ.

~John Calvin

A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent.

~John Calvin

While all men seek after happiness, scarcely one in a hundred looks for it from God.

~John Calvin

Only those who have learned well to be earnestly dissatisfied with themselves, and to be confounded with shame at their wretchedness truly understand the Christian gospel.

~John Calvin

When I took the leap, I had faith I would find a net; Instead I learned I could fly.

~John Calvin

Faith is like an empty, open hand stretched out towards God, with nothing to offer and everything to receive

~John Calvin

Humility is the beginning of true intelligence.

~John Calvin

If a preacher is not first preaching to himself, better that he falls on the steps of the pulpit and breaks his neck than preaches that sermon.

~John Calvin

We should ask God to increase our hope when it is small, awaken it when it is dormant, confirm it when it is wavering, strengthen it when it is weak, and raise it up when it is overthrown.

~John Calvin

Whoever is not satisfied with Christ alone, strives after something beyond absolute perfection.

~John Calvin

Nothing is more dangerous than to be blinded by prosperity.

~John Calvin

There is not one blade of grass, there is no color in this world that is not intended to make men rejoice.

~John Calvin

The excellence of the Church does not consist in multitude but in purity.

~John Calvin

The pastor ought to have two voices: one, for gathering the sheep; and another, for warding off and driving away wolves and thieves. The Scripture supplies him with the means of doing both.

~John Calvin

The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life.

~John Calvin

We must not think that [God] takes no notice of us, when He does not answer our wishes: for He has a right to distinguish what we actually need.

~John Calvin

It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone.

~John Calvin

Whenever the Lord holds us in suspense, and delays his aid, he is not therefore asleep, but, on the contrary, regulates all His works in such a manner that he does nothing but at the proper time.

~John Calvin

We are nowhere forbidden to laugh, or be satisfied with food...or to be delighted with music or to drink wine.

~John Calvin

God works in his elect in two ways: inwardly, by his Spirit; outwardly, by his Word.

~John Calvin

For what is idolatry if not this: to worship the gifts in place of the Giver himself?

~John Calvin

Peace is not to be purchased by the sacrifice of truth.

~John Calvin

There is no work, however vile or sordid, that does not glisten before God.

~John Calvin

If God does nothing random, there must always be something to learn.

~John Calvin

No man is excluded from calling upon God, the gate of salvation is set open unto all men: neither is there any other thing which keepeth us back from entering in, save only our own unbelief.

~John Calvin

The blindness of unbelievers in no way detracts from the clarity of the gospel; the sun is no less bright because blind men do not perceive its light.

~John Calvin

We should never insult others on account of their faults, for it is our duty to show charity and respect to everyone.

~John Calvin

Every one of us is, even from his mother's womb, a master craftsman of idols.

~John Calvin

True wisdom consists in two things: Knowledge of God and Knowledge of Self.

~John Calvin

Unless God's Word illumine the way, the whole life of men is wrapped in darkness and mist, so that they cannot but miserably stray.

~John Calvin

The Lord has not redeemed you so you might enjoy pleasures and

luxuries or so that you might abandon yourself to ease and indolence, but rather so you should be prepared to endure all sorts of evils.

~John Calvin

Repentance is the true turning of our life to God, a turning that arises from a pure and earnest fear of Him; and it consists in the mortification of the flesh and the renewing of the Spirit.

~John Calvin

God tolerates even our stammering, and pardons our ignorance whenever something inadvertently escapes us - as, indeed, without this mercy there would be no freedom to pray.

~John Calvin

You must submit to supreme suffering in order to discover the completion of joy.

~John Calvin

How do we know that God has elected us before the creation of the world? By believing in Jesus Christ.

~John Calvin

We may rest assured that God would never have suffered any infants to be slain except those who were already damned and predestined for eternal death.

~John Calvin

Men will never worship God with a sincere heart, or be roused to fear and obey Him with sufficient zeal, until they properly understand how much they are indebted to His mercy.

~John Calvin

Joy is a quiet gladness of heart as one contemplates the goodness of God's saving grace in Christ Jesus.

~John Calvin

Scripture is like a pair of spectacles which dispels the darkness and gives us a clear view of God.

~John Calvin

Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, there a church of God exists, even if it swarms with many faults.

~John Calvin

We must make the invisible kingdom visible in our midst.

~John Calvin

But those who wish to prove to unbelievers that Scripture is the Word of God are acting foolishly, for only by faith can this be known.

~John Calvin

When God designs to forgive us he changes our hearts and turns us to obedience by His Spirit.

~John Calvin

We must remember that Satan has his miracles, too.

~John Calvin

The grace of God has no charms for men till the Holy Spirit gives them a taste for it.

~John Calvin

Christ is much more powerful to save, than Adam was to destroy.

~John Calvin

Doctrine is not an affair of the tongue but of the life.

~John Calvin

Sometimes it seems things go by too quickly. We are so busy watching out for what's just ahead of us that we don't take the time to enjoy where we are.

~John Calvin

When the Bible speaks, God speaks.

~John Calvin

Prayer is the chief exercise of faith.

~John Calvin

To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them.

~John Calvin

Satan is an astute theologian.

~John Calvin

No man can come to God but by an extraordinary revelation of the Spirit.

~John Calvin

We can experience joy in adverse circumstances by holding God's benefits in such esteem that the recognition of them and meditation upon them shall overcome all sorrow.

~John Calvin

Human will does not by liberty obtain grace, but by grace obtains liberty.

~John Calvin

Faith and hope...are the wings by which our souls, rising above the world, are lifted up to God.

~John Calvin



Those who fall away have never been thoroughly imbued with the knowledge of Christ but only had a slight and passing taste of it.

~John Calvin

Faith does not proceed from ourselves, but is the fruit of spiritual regeneration.

~John Calvin

If it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house, then in a field,...it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a fetus in the womb before it has come to light.

~John Calvin

Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone.

~John Calvin

Man's mind is like a store of idolatry and superstition; so much so that if a man believes his own mind it is certain that he will forsake God and forge some idol in his own brain.

~John Calvin

A man that extols himself is a fool and an idiot

~John Calvin

The Scriptures obtain full authority among believers only when men regard them as having sprung from heaven, as if there the living words of God were heard.

~John Calvin

The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ efficaciously unites us to himself.

~John Calvin

We cannot rely on God's promises without obeying his commandments.

~John Calvin

The glory of God shines, indeed, in all creatures on high and below, but never more brightly than in the cross.

~John Calvin

The Lord has given us a table at which to feast, not an altar on which a victim is to be offered; He has not consecrated priests to make sacrifice, but servants to distribute the sacred feast.

~John Calvin

Holiness is not a merit by which we can attain communion with God, but a gift of Christ, which enables us to cling to him, and to follow him.

~John Calvin

There is no place for faith if we expect God to fulfill immediately what he promises.

~John Calvin

There is nothing in afflictions which ought to disturb our joy.

~John Calvin

God is not limited to any person, but calls freely whomsoever He pleases, and bestows on those who are called whatever rewards He thinks fit.

~John Calvin

There is no knowing that does not begin with knowing God.

~John Calvin

The Gospel acts without threats... it teaches us about the supreme goodwill of God towards us.

~John Calvin

men are undoubtedly more in danger from prosperity than from adversity. for when matters go smoothly, they flatter themselves, and are intoxicated by their success

~John Calvin

However many blessings we expect from God, His infinite liberality will always exceed all our wishes and our thoughts.

~John Calvin

The one condition for spiritual progress is that we remain sincere and humble.

~John Calvin

Since we are all naturally prone to hypocrisy, any empty semblance of righteousness is quite enough to satisfy us instead of righteousness itself.

~John Calvin

God would remain absolutely hidden if we were not illuminated by the brightness of Christ.

~John Calvin

Let us consider this settled, that no one has made progress in the school of Christ who does not joyfully await the day of death and final resurrection.

~John Calvin

My heart I give you, Lord, eagerly and entirely.

~John Calvin

All true knowledge of God is born out of obedience.

~John Calvin

There are sons of God who do not yet appear so to us, but now do so

to God; and there are those who, on account of some arrogated or temporal grace, are called so by us, but are not so to God.

~John Calvin

We are nowhere forbidden to laugh.

~John Calvin

The human heart has so many crannies where vanity hides, so many holes where falsehood works, is so decked out with deceiving hypocrisy, that it often dupes itself.

~John Calvin

There is no worse screen to block out the Spirit than confidence in our own intelligence.

~John Calvin

Let our chief goal, O God, be your glory, and to enjoy You forever.

~John Calvin

To will is human, to will the bad is of fallen nature, but to will the good is of Grace.

~John Calvin

Hatred grows into insolence when we desire to excel the rest of mankind and imagine we do not belong to the common lot; we even severely and haughtily despise others as our inferiors.

~John Calvin

Angels are the dispensers and administrators of the divine beneficence toward us.

~John Calvin

Let that ethical philosophy therefore of free-will be far from a Christian mind.

~John Calvin

I consider looseness with words no less of a defect than looseness of the bowels.

~John Calvin

Where riches hold the dominion of the heart, God has lost His authority.

~John Calvin

A perfect faith is nowhere to be found, so it follows that all of us are partly unbelievers.

~John Calvin

It is a most blessed thing to be subject to the sovereignty of God.

~John Calvin

The surest source of destruction to men is to obey themselves.

~John Calvin

Can true repentance exist without faith? By no means. But although they cannot be separated, they ought to be distinguished.

~John Calvin

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