

# John Lewis Quotes

*Thinking, People, President, Kings, America, Believe, Years, Country, Trump,  
Campaigns, Rights, Optimistic, Teacher, Children, Mother, Moving, Men, Book,  
Two, Giving Up*

If you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something about it.

~John Lewis

You cannot be afraid to speak up and speak out for what you believe. You have to have courage, raw courage.

~John Lewis

We may not have chosen the time, but the time has chosen us.

~John Lewis

When people tell me nothing has changed, I say come walk in my shoes and I will show you change.

~John Lewis

If you're not hopeful and optimistic, then you just give up. You have to take that long hard look and just believe that if your consistent, you will succeed

~John Lewis

I say from time to time that the vote is precious. It's almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool or instrument that we have in a democratic society. And we must use it.

~John Lewis

Don't give up! Don't give in! Keep the faith! And keep your eyes on the prize!

~John Lewis

You cannot give up - you have to be persistent and keep pushing, and press on.

~John Lewis

I truly believe that one day we will get there, we will arrive. And if we do

it right in America, maybe, just maybe, we can serve as a model for the rest of the world.

~John Lewis

You have to have the capacity and the ability to take what people did, and how they did it, and forgive them and move on.

~John Lewis

We will stand up for what is right, for what is fair and what is just. Health care is a right and not a privilege.

~John Lewis

We never gave up. We didn't get lost in a sea of despair. We kept the faith. We kept pushing and pulling. We kept marching. And we made some progress.

~John Lewis

I say to people today, 'You must be prepared if you believe in something. If you believe in something, you have to go for it. As individuals, we may not live to see the end.

~John Lewis

People must understand that people were beaten, arrested, jailed, and some people were murdered, while attempting to register to vote, or to get others to register to vote.

~John Lewis

When growing up, I saw segregation. I saw racial discrimination. I saw those signs that said white men, colored men. White women, colored women. White waiting. And I didn't like it.

~John Lewis

We built a coalition of conscience, and that we can do it again, and we can go forward, and help redeem the soul of America.

~John Lewis

To make it hard, to make it difficult almost impossible for people to cast a vote is not in keeping with the democratic process.

~John Lewis

In spite of all of the things, the issues, that we may be confronting today, I'm very hopeful, very optimistic about the future.

~John Lewis

Races don't fall in love, genders don't fall in love: Individuals fall in love. We all should be free to marry the person that we love.

~John Lewis

But you have to have hope. You have to be optimistic in order to continue to move forward.

~John Lewis

The reward for playing jazz is playing jazz.

~John Lewis

I've said it in the past and I'll say it again today: the vote is precious; it's almost sacred.

~John Lewis

We're not questioning the legitimacy of the outcome of the election. You didn't have Republicans questioning whether or not [Barack] Obama legitimately beat John McCain in 2008.

~John Lewis

Be prepared to organize nonviolent workshops - a teach-in around what is happening in America today. Organize your teachers and schoolmates, and be prepared to engage in some action.

~John Lewis

The government, both state and federal, has a duty to be reasonable and accommodating.

~John Lewis

I would say to a young person: continue to study. Study what is taking place in your community, in your neighborhood, maybe at your school.

~John Lewis

Many of us in Nashville accepted nonviolence as a way of life, a way of living, not simply as a technique or a tactic.

~John Lewis

I would like to think that we have made much more progress, that we've come much further, to have someone like a Donald Trump to emerge as the nominee of a major political party.

~John Lewis

This book [March], in my estimation, is a road map. It is a change agent. It is saying to people, "This is a way".

~John Lewis

I think putting the United States down across the world is not something that a responsible person does.

~John Lewis

If someone had told me in 1963 that one day I would be in Congress, I would have said, 'You're crazy. You don't know what you're talking about.'

~John Lewis

I think [James Comey] should take a hard look at what he has done. And I think it would not be a bad thing for the American people if he did step down.

~John Lewis

The book Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story, I read it when I was about 17-and-a-half or 18. It changed my life.

~John Lewis

I think all Americans should be hopeful, and try to be optimistic.

~John Lewis

Nonviolence is one of those immutable principles that we cannot and must not deviate from.

~John Lewis

[Donald Trump] is not going to cut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

~John Lewis

Sen. McCain and Gov. Palin are sowing the seeds of hatred and division, and there is no need for this hostility in our political discourse.

~John Lewis

In the past the great majority of minority voters, in Ohio and other places that means African American voters, cast a large percentage of their votes during the early voting process.

~John Lewis

I think right now, the focus has got to be on how we hold [Donald] Trump accountable.

~John Lewis

I don't have any extraordinary gifts. I'm just an average Joe who grew up very poor in rural Alabama.

~John Lewis

It's going to be very difficult. I don't see the president-elect [Donald Trump] as a legitimate president.

~John Lewis

[Donald Trump's inauguration] will be the first one that I miss since I've been in Congress. You cannot be at home with something that you feel that is wrong, is not right.

~John Lewis

The lessons of nonviolence are universal. Not just for America.

~John Lewis

The last thing we want is a monolithic viewpoint where six people are standing before a president saying the same thing over and over again.

~John Lewis

Nobody thinks that Obamacare is perfect. It has its problems.

~John Lewis

I think it is an imperfect arms control agreement. It's not a friendship treaty. But when America gives her word, we have to live up to it and work with our allies.

~John Lewis

DNI director [James] Clapper said as much many, many times, that there is no evidence that any outcome of the election was changed.

~John Lewis

John Lewis stood up and said in an interview that Donald Trump was not a legitimate president. It's insanity.

~John Lewis

I think the administration can do a lot of good by telling folks that are on their side of the aisle, look, we may have lost the election on the Democrat side, but it's time to come together.

~John Lewis

It is interesting that [James Comey] is not doing investigations about the possible - possible ties between [Donald] Trump's campaign and the Russians.

~John Lewis

To question the legitimacy of the next United States president, you know, and you're worried about a tweet that says, hey, why don't you get back to work instead of questioning my legitimacy? Too bad.

~John Lewis

I can tell just from working closely for the last year an half with president-elect [Donald Trump] and even over the course of the last six weeks, he has no problem with differing opinions in a room.

~John Lewis

Donald Trump has made it clear that certainly over the last few years that President [Barack] Obama was born in Hawaii.

~John Lewis

This man [ Donald Trump] won in an electoral landslide.

~John Lewis

President-elect [Donald] Trump won 30 of 50 states, more counties since Ronald Reagan.

~John Lewis

Well, what Cory Booker and John Lewis are right about is to talk about the racist past of Donald Trump.

~John Lewis

What has been doing in the last week, attacking Hollywood actresses [Meryl Streep] for criticizing him, I mean what would is this guy [Donald



Trump] living in?

~John Lewis

I think that [James] Comey acted in an outrageous way during the [presidential ] campaign [in 2016].

~John Lewis

Do I think Russians supported [Donald Trump]? Do I think they tried to get him elected? Do I think it worked against Clinton? I do. And that is something that has to be investigated.

~John Lewis

I want [Donald] Trump to send out a tweet saying that he's going to keep his campaign promises.

~John Lewis

Some people know Rosa Parks, they know Daisy Bates in Arkansas, but every... Ruby Doris Smith, Diane Nash, countless individuals.

~John Lewis

I'm gonna say that I have followed every presidential campaign since the campaign of President [John F.] Kennedy in 1960.

~John Lewis

Ornette Coleman is doing the only really new thing in jazz since the innovations in the mid-forties of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, and those of Thelonious Monk

~John Lewis

My mother and father and many of my relatives had been sharecroppers.

~John Lewis

I think, in fact, I think President [Barack] Obama could step up.

~John Lewis

Sensible people have got to work together.

~John Lewis

I believe it is my obligation to tell the story of the civil rights movement to the next generation.

~John Lewis

I heard Dr. King speaking on the radio, and it seemed like he was saying, "John Robert Lewis, you too can make a contribution. You can get involved!"

~John Lewis

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