

# Lord Kelvin Quotes

*Science, Believe, Numbers, Math, Knows, Doe, Energy, Discovery, Atheism,  
Physics, Soul, Common Sense, Measurement, Faces, Progress, Long,  
Intelligent, Stamp Collecting, Mathematics, Heat*

If you can not measure it, you can not improve it.

~Lord Kelvin

There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now. All that remains is more and more precise measurement.

~Lord Kelvin

If you study science deep enough and long enough, it will force you to believe in God.

~Lord Kelvin

Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible.

~Lord Kelvin

Can you measure it? Can you express it in figures? Can you make a model of it? If not, your theory is apt to be based more upon imagination than upon knowledge.

~Lord Kelvin

When you are face to face with a difficulty, you are up against a discovery.

~Lord Kelvin

In science there is only physics; all the rest is stamp collecting.

~Lord Kelvin

Radio has no future." "X-rays are clearly a hoax". "The aeroplane is scientifically impossible.

~Lord Kelvin

When you can measure what you are speaking about, and express it in numbers, you know something about it.

~Lord Kelvin

To measure is to know.

~Lord Kelvin

Large increases in cost with questionable increases in performance can be tolerated only in race horses and fancy women.

~Lord Kelvin

Fourier is a mathematical poem.

~Lord Kelvin

If you cannot measure it, then it is not science.

~Lord Kelvin

The more thoroughly I conduct scientific research, the more I believe that science excludes atheism.

~Lord Kelvin

All of science can be divided into physics and stamp-collecting.

~Lord Kelvin

The fact that mathematics does such a good job of describing the Universe is a mystery that we don't understand. And a debt that we will probably never be able to repay.

~Lord Kelvin

Do not imagine that mathematics is hard and crabbed, and repulsive to common sense. It is merely the etherealization of common sense.

~Lord Kelvin

If we can't express what we know in the form of numbers, we really don't know much about it.

~Lord Kelvin

Overwhelmingly strong proofs of intelligent and benevolent design lie

around us... the atheistic idea is so nonsensical that I cannot put it into words.

~Lord Kelvin

Vortices of pure energy can exist and, if my theories are right, can compose the bodily form of an intelligent species.

~Lord Kelvin

When you cannot measure, your knowledge is meager and unsatisfactory.

~Lord Kelvin

Mathematics is the only good metaphysics.

~Lord Kelvin

Quaternions came from Hamilton after his really good work had been done, and though beautifully ingenious, have been an unmixed evil to those who have touched them in any way.

~Lord Kelvin

The atheistic idea is so nonsensical that I do not see how I can put it in words.

~Lord Kelvin

The vortex theory [of the atom] is only a dream. Itself unproven, it can prove nothing, and any speculations founded upon it are mere dreams about dreams.

~Lord Kelvin

Simplification of modes of proof is not merely an indication of advance in our knowledge of a subject, but is also the surest guarantee of readiness for farther progress.

~Lord Kelvin

Ether is the only substance we are confident of in dynamics. One thing we are sure of and that is the reality and substantiality of the luminiferous ether.

~Lord Kelvin

I have no satisfaction in formulas unless I feel their numerical magnitude.

~Lord Kelvin

Science is bound, by the everlasting vow of honour, to face fearlessly every problem which can be fairly presented to it.

~Lord Kelvin

Mathematics is the only true metaphysics.

~Lord Kelvin

I believe that the more thoroughly science is studied, the further does it take us from anything comparable to atheism.

~Lord Kelvin

You know only insofar as you can measure.

~Lord Kelvin

There is nothing in science which teaches the origin of anything at all.

~Lord Kelvin

Symmetrical equations are good in their place, but 'vector' is a useless survival, or offshoot from quaternions, and has never been of the slightest use to any creature.

~Lord Kelvin

There cannot be a greater mistake than that of looking superciliously upon practical applications of science. The life and soul of science is its practical application.

~Lord Kelvin

Questions of personal priority, however interesting they may be to the persons concerned, sink into insignificance in the prospect of any gain of deeper insight into the secrets of nature.

~Lord Kelvin

At what time does the dissipation of energy begin?

~Lord Kelvin

[Of the ether] it is no greater mystery at all events than the shoemakers' wax.

~Lord Kelvin

[Referring to Fourier's mathematical theory of the conduction of heat] ... Fourier's great mathematical poem.

~Lord Kelvin

To live among friends is the primary essential of happiness.

~Lord Kelvin

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