

# Paul Tillich

## Quotes

*Men, Doubt, Anxiety, Destiny, Self, Faith, Love Is, Infinite, Answers, Names, Character, Love, Depth, Joy, Opposites, Spiritual, Wisdom, States, Mean, Pain*

The first duty of love is to listen.

~Paul Tillich

The courage to be is the courage to accept oneself, in spite of being unacceptable.

~Paul Tillich

Grace strikes us when we are in great pain .... Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying, 'You are accepted.'

~Paul Tillich

God does not exist. He is being-itself beyond essence and existence. Therefore to argue that God exists is to deny him.

~Paul Tillich

We have to build a better man before we can build a better society.

~Paul Tillich

One cannot be strong without love. For love is not an irrelevant emotion; it is the blood of life.

~Paul Tillich

Faith is an act of a finite being who is grasped by, and turned to, the infinite.

~Paul Tillich

We can speak without voice to the trees and the clouds and the waves of the sea. Without words they respond through the rustling of leaves and the moving of clouds and the murmuring of the sea.

~Paul Tillich

Every institution is inherently demonic.

~Paul Tillich

The fatal pedagogical error is to throw answers like stones at the heads of those who have not yet asked the questions.

~Paul Tillich

He who risks and fails can be forgiven. He who never risks and never fails is a failure in his whole being.

~Paul Tillich

Doubt is not the opposite of faith; it is one element of faith.

~Paul Tillich

I hope for the day when everyone can speak again of God without embarrassment.

~Paul Tillich

I loved thee beautiful and kind, And plighted an eternal vow; So altered are thy face and mind, t'were perjury to love thee now!

~Paul Tillich

Sometimes I think it is my mission to bring faith to the faithless, and doubt to the faithful.

~Paul Tillich

The basic anxiety, the anxiety of a finite being about the threat of non-being, cannot be eliminated. It belongs to existence itself.

~Paul Tillich

Language... has created the word 'loneliness' to express the pain of being alone. And it has created the word 'solitude' to express the glory of being alone.

~Paul Tillich

The abundance of a grateful heart gives honor to God even if it does not turn to Him in words. An unbeliever who is filled with thanks for his

very being has ceased to be an unbeliever.

~Paul Tillich

Faith consists in being vitally concerned with that ultimate reality to which I give the symbolical name of God. Whoever reflects earnestly on the meaning of life is on the verge of an act of faith.

~Paul Tillich

Being religious means asking passionately the question of the meaning of our existence and being willing to receive answers, even if the answers hurt.

~Paul Tillich

Doubt is the necessary tool of knowledge.

~Paul Tillich

The name of this infinite and inexhaustible depth and ground of all being is God.

~Paul Tillich

Decision is a risk rooted in the courage of being free.

~Paul Tillich

The awareness of the ambiguity of one's highest achievements, as well as one's deepest failures is a definite symptom of maturity.

~Paul Tillich

The passion for truth is silenced by answers which have the weight of undisputed authority.

~Paul Tillich

Culture (science) is the form of religion; Religion is the substance of culture (science).

~Paul Tillich

Loneliness can be conquered only by those who can bear solitude.

~Paul Tillich

The affirmation of one's essential being in spite of desires and anxieties creates joy.

~Paul Tillich

Fear is the absence of faith.

~Paul Tillich

The courage to be is rooted in the God who appears when God has disappeared in the anxiety of doubt.

~Paul Tillich

Accept the fact that you are accepted, despite the fact that you are unacceptable.

~Paul Tillich

Astonishment is the root of philosophy.

~Paul Tillich

There is no place to which we could flee from God, which is outside of God.

~Paul Tillich

The separation of faith and love is always a consequence of a deterioration of religion.

~Paul Tillich

The anxiety of fate is conquered by the self-affirmation of the individual as an infinitely significant microcosmic representation of the universe .

~Paul Tillich

Cruelty towards others is always also cruelty towards ourselves.

~Paul Tillich

Love that cares, listens.

~Paul Tillich

Morality [or ethics] is not a subject; it is a life put to the test in dozens of moments.

~Paul Tillich

There is no love which does not become help.

~Paul Tillich

Anxiety may consist of the loss of psychological or spiritual meaning which is identified with one's existence as a self, i.e., the threat of meaninglessness.

~Paul Tillich

Forgiving presupposes remembering.

~Paul Tillich

For love ... is the blood of life, the power of reunion in the separated.

~Paul Tillich

There is no condition for forgiveness.

~Paul Tillich

The joy about our work is spoiled when we perform it not because of what we produce but because of the pleasure with which it can provide us, or the pain against which it can protect us.

~Paul Tillich

...history has shown that the most terrible crimes against love have been committed in the name of fanatically defended doctrines.

~Paul Tillich

Theology moves back and forth between two poles, the eternal truth of its foundations and the temporal situation in which the eternal truth must be received.

~Paul Tillich

Nothing truly real is forgotten eternally, because everything real comes from eternity and goes to eternity.

~Paul Tillich

He who knows about depth knows about God.

~Paul Tillich

In the depth of the anxiety of having to die is the anxiety of being eternally forgotten.

~Paul Tillich

Boredom is rage spread thin.

~Paul Tillich

Neurosis is the way of avoiding non-being by avoiding being.

~Paul Tillich

Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness.

~Paul Tillich

Cynically speaking, one could say that it is true to life to be cynical about it.

~Paul Tillich

Man is able to decide for or against reason, he is able to create beyond reason or to destroy below reason

~Paul Tillich

Man is not what he believes himself to be in his conscious decisions.

~Paul Tillich

Only the philosophical question is perennial, not the answers.

~Paul Tillich

Parents need to listen as much to their kids as they do to them: "The first duty of love is to listen."

~Paul Tillich

We are known in a depth of darkness through which we ourselves do not even dare to look. And at the same time, we are seen in a height of a fullness which surpasses our highest vision.

~Paul Tillich

Where there is faith there is an awareness of holiness.

~Paul Tillich

There is faith in every serious doubt, namely, the faith in the truth as such, even if the only truth we can express is our lack of truth.

~Paul Tillich

Man is asked to make of himself what he is supposed to become to fulfill his destiny.

~Paul Tillich

Wine is like the incarnation--it is both divine and human

~Paul Tillich

Spirit is the presence of what concerns us ultimately, the ground of our being and meaning.

~Paul Tillich

Faith is the state of being ultimately concerned.

~Paul Tillich



Since the last decades of the nineteenth century, revolt against the objectified world has determined the character of art and literature.

~Paul Tillich

Faith embraces itself and the doubt about itself.

~Paul Tillich

Faith as the state of being ultimately concerned implies love, namely, the desire and urge toward the reunion of the separated.

~Paul Tillich

The vitality that can stand the abyss of meaninglessness is aware of a hidden meaning within the destruction of meaning.

~Paul Tillich

Man's ultimate concern must be expressed symbolically, because symbolic language alone is able to express the ultimate.

~Paul Tillich

Knowledge of that which concerns us infinitely is possible only in an attitude of infinite concern.

~Paul Tillich

Man and nature belong together in their created glory - in their tragedy and in their salvation.

~Paul Tillich

In Calvinism and sectarianism man became more and more transformed into an abstract moral subject, as in Descartes he was considered an epistemological subject.

~Paul Tillich

Courage is a greater virtue than love. At best, it takes courage to love.

~Paul Tillich

man is free, in so far as he has the power of contradicting himself and his essential nature. Man is free even from his freedom; that is, he can surrender his humanity

~Paul Tillich

In the courageous standing of uncertainty, faith shows most visibly its dynamic character.

~Paul Tillich

Wisdom loves the children of men, but she prefers those who come through foolishness to wisdom.

~Paul Tillich

If my tongue were trained to measures, I would sing a stirring song.

~Paul Tillich

Love is the infinite which is given to the finite.

~Paul Tillich

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