

# The Little Motivational Quote Book

*Compiled with insights from  
EJ Hunter*

**Energizing quotes to help you  
get off your butt**

# Dedication

**This is for all of those who want to 'make something' of their lives.**

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# Introduction

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In the middle of 2010, during the time that those around me were crying about the economy, I decided to quit my 'real job' and set off on my own as a freelance writer. If you'd asked me then, I would have told you that I was following a plan. If you ask me now, I'll tell you that I had no idea what I was doing.

I was driven by the need to 'make something' of myself. I wanted to be a writer. I wanted to be a marketer. Most of all, and more importantly, I wanted to have the freedom to make my own choices and choose my own direction. I started to look at others to find something, some baby nugget of inspiration that would give me the secret to what I wanted to be. For some reason, I expected there to be a neon sign which said 'Emily, go here!'

There were no neon signs. In fact, in the 'great big world,' there are no road maps because each person has to create their own worlds and their own territory. The world has room for someone like you, just as it has room for someone like me. We're all welcome here.

The ones before me and beside me did leave snippets of wisdom to make it easier to follow their path – you can find them within these pages.

These quotes have helped me in times when I've lacked motivation, when I've been looking for a spark to kickstart me. These quotes have also helped me become a better person... not because they're unique, but because they've made me realize that anyone can be responsible for the motivation of others.

I hope that you gain as much pleasure and motivation in reading these quotes as I had in compiling them.

--EJ Hunter – May 13, 2011

Now, what you've all been waiting for...

**The quotes!**

*If you want to make your dreams come true, the first thing you have to do is wake up.*

*J.M. Power*

So many people are sleeping through their lives. They are going to work, vegetating in front of the television, then going to sleep to rest up for the same routine the following day. Break out of the doormouse role and live the determined life. Your dreams can be large or small, as long as you push for them.

*Life's problems wouldn't be called 'hurdles' if there weren't a way to get over them.*

*Author Unknown*

There is absolutely nothing outside of our capabilities. Everything is surmountable, and each peak is there to climb. Allowing yourself to be caught in the negativity is absolutely paralyzing. Use that determination and inner strength to drive those demons away. Soon, you will be leaping over hurdles like an Olympian.

*Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.*

*Dr. Seuss*

Too many folks are caught up in the fear of rejection by people who don't actually matter. There's more to life. That focus on your inner fire is what will make your world just that much better.

*Be the change that you want to see in the world*

*Mohandas Gandhi*

This is the most important and inspirational quote in this book, one that should be repeated frequently. You have permission to change those things which drive you crazy. You have permission to become everything of which you've dreamed. You have permission to seize the moment. You are special. Show it.

*The best way to teach people is by telling a story.*

*Kenneth Blanchard*

Your stories are the lessons that others will remember. You are the one who makes your life special. Give everyone a great story and something to hang their experiences on, and you will have folks remembering YOUR lessons and learning from YOUR mistakes. A great portion of many things lies in the storytelling.

*Every adversity, every failure,  
every heartache carries with it  
the seed of an equal or greater  
benefit.*

*Napoleon Hill*

How many people do you know who tried a diet once and gave it up because they weren't seeing any results after a week? How many do you know who gave up their dreams because they weren't immediately successful? Those 'failures' are the foundation for your personal success because you learn those tools that you were missing.

*Improvement begins with I.*

*Arnold Glasgow*

All of the improvement of which you're capable rests within the beauty of your soul. You are the one who is responsible for making things better in your life just as you are at the heart of your world. Take your hopes, dreams, intentions and goals and make them truly yours.

*It is better to do something  
imperfectly than to do nothing  
perfectly.*

*Tucky Palmieri*

You might be waiting for the perfect chance and the perfect opportunity to restart your life. You might say to yourself that you need to have an exorbitant amount of money, and then your dreams will come true. Ask yourself the most important question – what can you do RIGHT NOW?

*If you'll not settle for anything less than your best, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish in your lives.*

*Vince Lombardi*

By taking that extra time to devote your best to a job, you are bringing it to a state of perfection. That vision that you have, that knowledge of the best, that will open doors that go far beyond the next room. Do not procrastinate, but don't be afraid to focus on what's important.

*It is better to offer no excuse than a bad one*

*George Washington*

How many bad excuses have you provided over the course of your lifetime? What was the reason? Was it because you were afraid of what the truth would hold? Most of us fear rejection, and use that fear to come up with excuses to 'the dog ate my homework' or 'the check is in the mail.'



*Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.*

*Albert Einstein*

Training in something is just a formalized way of making mistakes. There is always something new and always a road that you haven't traveled. The self doubt that you feel from the fear of making a mistake will pass. Make it a point to conquer your day.

*Discovery consists of seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought*

*Jonathan Swift*

The power of synthesis is amazing. Take one thing that you love and spin it around into something even better by meshing it with something else that you love. Try the new thing, talk about it, and make new discoveries by the boatload.

*Motivation is everything. You can do the work of two people, but you can't be two people. Instead, you have to inspire the next guy down the line and get him to inspire his people.*

*Lee Iacocca*

Being a leader is the best way to get more done. There should be a common goal which goes beyond a paycheck. The company which has effective leaders goes much further than the company which has floundering ones. The leader can provide an excellent example to follow.

*To handle yourself, use your head. To handle others, use your heart.*

*Donald Laird*

Speaking and living from the heart is the best way to garner a good reputation in others' eyes. Being mindful in your actions leads to less adverse consequences and more things getting done. Handle yourself wisely, with forethought.

*Look at a day when you are  
supremely satisfied at the end.  
It's not a day when you lounge  
around doing nothing; it's  
when you had everything to do,  
and you've done it.*

*Margaret Thatcher*

We are goal minded individuals, and every step that we take towards these goals leaves us feeling more self satisfied. Lounging around, even when it was doing something still feels like we were doing absolutely nothing. Keep your to-do lists to the point of overflowing and see how you feel when you are able to blast through a lot of them.

*Help people become more  
motivated by guiding them to  
the source of their own power.*

*Paul G. Thomas*

Teaching the dharma is one of the most vital and essential tasks that one can perform. When your pupils find their source of power, that will help them to motivate others. Allow yourself the opportunity to recognize potential teaching moments and capitalize upon them.

*You make the world a better place by making yourself a better person*

*Scott Sorrell*

Making yourself a better person requires recognizing your personal flaws and having the strength to tame them and mold them into strengths. If you are mindful of your weaknesses at critical moments you become a person of which you can be supremely proud.

*The person who you're with most in life is yourself and if you don't like yourself you're always with somebody you don't like.*

*Marc S. Lewis*

This quote has always struck home for me. I hated myself for the longest time, believing that I was the scourge of the earth. Honestly, it came to the fact that I didn't want to live with that person anymore – that was the reason that I went through the effort to change.

*Life takes on meaning when you become motivated, set goals and charge after them in an unstoppable manner.*

*Les Brown*

Being goal driven, hopping from one to the next, makes us energized, invigorated, and enlightened. Take charge of your personal life and relish the meaning that you have received from those goals. Push and work so you can be rewarded, then keep going.

*Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going.*

*Jim Ryun*

Your life is a series of habits. Your body gets used to habits and patterns, wanting to stay within the for as long as possible. Try to establish one positive goal related habit that you do first thing in the morning.

*The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on. It is never of any use to oneself.*  
*Oscar Wilde*

It's of great use to future incarnations of yourself, in case you have forgotten necessary pieces of information. Examine your habits and do your best to look objectively at the advice you could give to yourself.

*Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.*  
*Mark Twain*

Mostly because you didn't think of the example yourself. It is incredibly difficult not to think about the world in the terms of our own lives. The best and most effective thing that you can do is seek to provide a great example for yourself. That way, you'll be able to be annoyed with yourself.

*You must do the things you think you cannot do.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

When starting any sport, you need to learn how to breathe. If you're out of shape, you begin expanding your lungs like a balloon – a little at a time. Start with the tiny things. Resolve to yourself that you will work to learn it. The easy road is to never try. The easy road leaves you with regrets.

*Success is a journey, not a destination.*

*Ben Sweetland*

Success is all about the mindset that you choose. There is no point where you are able to say that you're a true success, because there's always more. What you want to be able to say is that you're doing the best you can. This is the measure of success – doing better every single day.

*The secret of happiness, you see, is not found in seeking more, but in developing the capacity to enjoy less.*

*Socrates*

By enjoying less and intentionally paring ourselves down, we can more appreciate what we have. This frame of mind is usually achieved when the paring down is intentional. When the paring down and enjoying less is not intention, we will tend to feel quite bitter on the matter, and feel cheated.

*If you can imagine it, you can achieve it; if you can dream it, you can become it.*

*William Arthur Ward*

I am absolutely sure that Mr. Ward did not intend to inspire flashbacks to the Rocky Horror Picture Show. This quote is priceless – it sums up the contract that we have with the universe. If you can put it into words, add some determination, you can break the barrier between 'gonna do' and done.

*Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.*

*George Washington Carver*

This inevitably goes back to the concept that it takes more energy to come up with reasons that you didn't do something than to just do it. If you're failing at something, there's a good chance that you're making excuses or not putting your complete, unyielding effort into it.



*Most people have attained their greatest success just beyond their greatest failure.*

*Napoleon Hill*

When your latest failure is burning within your mind, you have the opportunity to evaluate and determine what went wrong and where the sticking points are. The real reason for your success is that you cultivate a honed mindfulness from your failures.

*Be not simply good; Be good for something*

*Henry David Thoreau*

Even if you are serving as a bad example, you are doing well. Think about where you will launch your creative fire today. Push yourself toward it, and blow it out of the park.

*Winners must have two things: definite goals and a burning desire to achieve them.*

*Anonymous*

You are a winner. You have been given the tools by which you can accomplish anything. Take your goals by the hand and drag them to their completion. If you're finding that you can't do that, at least fake it until you're able to. Even faking it will push you closer.

*The road to success is always under construction.*

*Lily Tomlin*

That wouldn't be so bad except for the fact that there are no signs which show where the workers are. You have to work for your own success because if you're depending on the luck to just drop into your lap, you'll be waiting a painfully long time.

*Those who believe they can do something and those who believe they can't are both right.*

*Henry Ford*

When it comes right down to it, your attitude is what will make or break you. I know that you might be someone who constantly doubts. Let me tell you the truth: More stuff gets done when you believe in yourself.

*Begin each day as if it were on purpose.*

*Mary Anne Radmacher*

Before you go to sleep, write the things that you are most itching to do for the next day. If you have difficulties with time management, begin the day with a timeframe attached to your goals. This ensures that you will get something done within the day, so you can say that something was accomplished.

*To climb steep hills requires a slow pace at first.*

*William Shakespeare*

Everything that you haven't done before can be perceived as a mountain. There's always the hint and the fear of failure associated with that mountain. That is absolutely natural. Walk slowly and deliberately toward your life's goals, but keep walking.

*You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.*

*Jack London*

Inspiration, unfortunately, isn't like a moon cycle or a Saturday. It's not regular in the least, sometimes overwhelming you with its presence and sometimes being elusive. When you're proactive about it, you can more easily predict the times in which it will strike. Carry your club with you, though. Sneaking up to inspiration with the sole intention of using it is a noble, noble way to live.

*You don't need to win every medal to be successful.*

*Jason Fried*

As it is said, success is a journey, not a destination. The time and care and love that you put into winning the medal are more important than the accolade itself. Personal growth should be from within, rather than external. Medals are icing on the cake, not the cake.

*The best way to predict your future is to create it*

*Author Unknown*

The best thing about being a thinking, smart individual is that you are the one who is responsible for your destiny. When you wake up with that unyielding purpose and drive, you set the wheels in motion for a success driven life. Determination is that fuel that keeps you chugging along.

*Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life.*

*Confucius*

Actually, when you decide to follow that overall burning dream, you can't help but take steps toward it. The money comes naturally when you're not only doing something that you love but something which fills a need in your life. It is quite true that it doesn't feel like work at all.

*Inspiration is wonderful when it happens, but the writer must develop an approach for the rest of the time... The wait is simply too long.*

*Leonard Bernstein*

Watch the world with wonder and imagination. You will never be at a loss for inspiration, but you will constantly be filling notebooks with your thoughts. If the words aren't there, coax them out with some stream of consciousness writing.

*Our greatest glory is not in  
never falling, but in rising up  
every time we fail.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

There's a flex bag in the middle of my living room which begs to be hit by passers by. When you strike it, the bag swings mightily away and then returns with a vengeance. The successful people that you know personally can all tell you stories about their personal failures, and about the successive triumph. They dodged when their punching bag came back to strike them, then punched back harder.

*It's not that I'm so smart, it's  
just that I stay with problems  
longer.*

*Albert Einstein*

Keep plugging at it and chipping away at the barriers to your success. Most of the things that separate you from your ultimate success are tiny and technical. Take care of them one after the other, and you will soon realize your goal.

*I don't know the key to success,  
but the key to failure is trying  
to please everybody.*

*Bill Cosby*

Very few people become extraordinarily successful at being a jack of all trades. Focus is needed on a single activity. You decide what you want to do and then pursue that dream. Trying to please everybody is the culmination of allowing others to determine what you want to do. You aren't being true to yourself that way, and hence not a success.

*A champion needs a motivation  
above and beyond winning.*

*Pat Riley*

Champions aren't champions by chance. Your personal success is driven by the fire that you've got within you. That fire is the spark, and rarely do you see sports matches where every single person on both teams brought that winning spirit and championship attitude with them.

*Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.*

*Raymond Chandler*

Each person has natural abilities. Some are extremely versed in speaking, others can write, still others are blessed with the innate ability to draw. It is completely up to you to recognize those abilities and thoroughly capitalize upon them.

Pursue your goals with a positive attitude, and the world will be at your fingertips.

*The men who have done big things are those who were not afraid to attempt big things, who were not afraid to risk failure in order to gain success.*

*B.C. Forbes*

Remember that one person's big things are another person's small ones. Those great giants in your field did not become what they are overnight. They weren't afraid to accept rejection because they knew that it would only take one yes to push them along. Remember that even if you don't get the job, you will still be remembered.



*Motivation is simple. You eliminate those who are not motivated.*

*Lou Holtz*

While this is definitely one of the things to keep in mind as a team builder, it can also be used in the personal arena. Take those thoughts which aren't motivating and discard them. It's difficult, but when you're mindful of the practice, you accomplish more.

*I wonder sometimes if the motivation for writers ought to be contempt, not admiration*

*Orson Scott Card*

I think that the motivation for the writers is a deft combination of contempt and admiration. We start out with imitation and envy, moving on to a healthy sense of competition. Finally, there's a push for getting things done, writing things down... and then the writer realizes that they can't stop.

*Enthusiasm is excitement with inspiration, motivation, and a pinch of creativity.*

*Bo Bennett*

Waking up in the morning with that fire in your heart and the purpose in your mind is an exhilarating sensation. All of these qualities and more come to the forefront to be relished and delighted from. Ride your enthusiasm when it arrives.

*With time, many of the facts that I learned were forgotten but I never lost the excitement of discovery*

*Paul Berg*

Motivation to discover is the thing which really pushes many people to succeed. 'What's next around the corner?' you might ask. "What things can I find out by dipping my toes into the water?" Let yourself soar in that sense of wonder, because you never know what you will find.

*Small deeds done are better  
than great deeds planned.*

*Peter Marshall*

This book is a prime example of pushing oneself to completion and totally ignoring the planning of great deeds. Most of my activities revolved around the fact that I can make it better, so nothing truly gets done. You can always improve upon the framework later, just push yourself into the small deeds. Doing something is always more important than not.

*The wise does at once what the  
fool does at last.*

*Baltasar Gracian*

Look at what needs to be done, then do it. The wise person plans ahead to eliminate their potential obstacles long before the fool does. Take lessons from the concept that planning something and understanding the consequences does not make you lame or 'uncool.'

*There is nothing deep down  
inside us except what we have  
put there ourselves.*

*Richard Rorty*

I'm really hoping that I'm made of more than the great breakfast that I had this morning. In all seriousness, it comes down to the concept that our determination, attitude, and ability are what make us the great people that we are destined to become.

*It's always too early to quit.*

*Norman Vincent Peale*

Many people out there have the problem that they quit before they ever get started, or that they pay only a tiny bit of lip service to the solution and don't completely follow through. Quitting is not the answer. It's a lot easier to refocus and push yourself toward a slightly more honed goal.

*One person with a belief is  
equal to a force of ninety-nine  
who have only interests.*

*Peter Marshall*

If you believe, truly believe in who you are and the direction in which you are traveling, you surpass a majority of the population. Many don't care about a particular niche, then there are those who are hobbyists – never intending to go further than the 'like to' stage. This leaves you with a tiny portion of the population, effectively surpassing 99% of the others.

*We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations.*

*Charles Swindoll*

Recognize the position that you're in – what is preventing you from seizing the opportunities that are presented? Many entrepreneurs will tell you that the best advice that they have gotten was received in criticism and adverse situations.

*The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.*

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

Push yourself in the direction of success and make a point of striving toward it everyday. That way, you can be assured that you are moving in a particular direction and with a purpose in mind.

*Successful people are not gifted;  
they just work hard, then  
succeed on purpose.*

*G.K. Nielson*

When you lead a life that drives toward a purpose, you encounter more opportunities along the way to become more successful. Those steps make your world exponentially better.

*Only those who dare to fail  
greatly can achieve greatly.*

*Robert F. Kennedy*

No success or failure is permanent, and there is nothing standing in the way of you doing great things, no matter how old you are. Those who want that personal success badly enough are willing to take risks and are willing to fail – but learn from those mistakes.

*One way to keep momentum going is to have constantly greater goals.*

*Michael Korda*

Never give up. Never surrender. If you have beaten your competition at the school, look at the county, then the state, and then national. It's always too early to quit, so the purpose needs to expand in scope. Stack small goals with your larger ones to enhance the feeling of accomplishment. Once you have acquired one level, there is nothing stopping you from taking it to the next.

*Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity.*

*Oprah Winfrey*

Oprah should be the one to know, too. She has had a lot of 'luck' in her field, but it honestly came about as her being the only person who was qualified to do the job. When you set your sights at the top, the field becomes narrower and narrower. Best of luck on all of your endeavors, Oprah!

*Wisdom doesn't necessarily  
come with age. Sometimes age  
just shows up all by itself.*

*Tom Wilson*

We're all rallying against the clock like video game fighters. Allotted only a certain length of time, we have to get wise before we die, and that's the battle that every last one of us faces. I love this quote because it is so very true.

*A wise man can see more from  
the bottom of a well than a fool  
can from a mountain top.*

*Author Unknown*

This one goes back to the conversation about wise men and fools. You can be wise, too. All you have to do is take a moment to breathe, look around, and contemplate the consequences. Wise men and fools use the same tools, just at different times.



*If there is no struggle, there is  
no progress.*

*Frederick Douglass*

It is on very rare occasions that the stars 'line up' and the heavens open up to reveal some new progress. Most times, you have to overcome obstacles and figure things out to make them come to fruition. Those struggles, those steps are what help you overcome.

*Great spirits have always  
encountered violent opposition  
from mediocre minds.*

*Albert Einstein*

Mediocre is the majority of people on any given subject because, in all honesty, very few really care for the things which get you going. Those mediocre minds are having trouble with change, not the fact that you have a great spirit.

*I just love when people say I can't do something because all my life people said I wasn't going to make it.*

*Ted Turner*

The number of people who will bring you down and try to drag you down is twice as many as those who will support you. Ted Turner is no different, but he was persistent in the face of the naysayers and is now reaping his success. You can either laugh in the face of those who would deny you or let them get you down.

*There is no one giant step that does it. It's a lot of little steps.*

*Peter A. Cohen*

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Here's where I compare two shop owners with similar businesses. One has been in business for a year and two months. The other only a year. The owner who is taking tiny steps every day is showing an exponential amount of success compared to the one who does everything possible to not be in the store. The yield is astronomical if you remain focused.

*Man is a goal-seeking animal.  
His life only has meaning if he  
is reaching out and striving for  
his goals.*

*Aristotle*

How many days have you gone to sleep feeling like you've done absolutely nothing during the course of that day? When you are striving and pushing for absolutely nothing, more of those days will happen. Take the time and write your motivations – keep them visible at all times, and your life will have more meaning and beauty.

*Success is a process, a quality of  
mind and way of being, an  
outgoing affirmation of life.*

*Alex Noble*

I can't help but think of the high school cheerleaders spelling out success with their fake happiness. There are so many people who believe that there will be a road sign to personal success, like they will know it when they see it. Since it is a process and a way of life, there are some who will inevitably become disappointed.

*It takes 20 years to build a reputation and five minutes to ruin it. If you think about that, you'll do things differently.*

*Warren Buffett*

Look at Tiger Woods, the head of the IMF or the governor of California. We tear down individuals with secrets quickly and effectively. When you wrap your business completely around the idea of honesty and integrity, your worries need not be about how you're going to respond when the truth comes out. In any business, reputation is paramount.

*The man who follows the crowd will usually get no further than the crowd. The man who walks alone is likely to find himself in places no one has ever been.*

*Alan Ashley-Pitt*

The unknown is terrifying to a lot of people. We're never sure what will happen, so we are content to follow the crowd and let them tell us what to expect. Take a few minutes to ask the questions that you've never received a good answer from and pursue it for all it's worth.

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Well, let's see. There's blood, gooey stuff, bones and other junk. If we have the determination to follow through and the character within us, we have the capability to do anything we desire. We're the ones who make the 'like to' into the 'wasn't that cool?'

*The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will.*

*Vince Lombardi*

You can walk ten miles today, but if you never walk again, it is useless when compared to the person who walks one mile a day for ten days straight. The will and discipline required to keep taking those steps and keep pushing separates the successful one from the others. Work on that willpower to gain your success.

*One man with courage is a majority.*

*Andrew Jackson*

Courage is knowing that you may fail and still proceeding. When you're willing to toss all of that aside, you are ready to take the next step and journey onto your inevitable success. The one who truly cares about the outcome will generally make the rules.

*You measure the size of the accomplishment by the obstacles you had to overcome to reach your goals.*

*Booker T. Washington*

Competition for success is just the number of people who also care about the same goals. If you had to really work for your knowledge and training, you will remember it more. If you have a long term goal that you have achieved, it is much sweeter than the short term goals that you've stumbled into.

*Enthusiasm is the steam that drives the engine.*

*Napoleon Hill*

This is a quote on which I'm willing to differ. I believe that the determination that one has deep within is what drives the engine. The knowledge that you will break all of your personal barriers to achieve the goal is valuable. Take charge and use that determination to get your prize.

*Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others.*

*Danny Thomas*

The cynical side has to speak up and say something about the fact that when one is an entertainer, you have to be reliant upon the feedback and delight of others. Then again, if you are a hermit and you have the greatest outlook in the world, does it matter? A service based life is much more fulfilling than a selfishly led one.

*The critical ingredient is getting off your butt and doing something. It's as simple as that. A lot of people have ideas, but there are few who decide to do something about them now. Not tomorrow. Not next week. But today. The true entrepreneur is a doer.*  
*Nolan Bushnell*

You are craving freedom, craving release from your dead end job which threatens to kill you. What are you doing right now to alleviate that pain and suffering? Have you revisited your resume? Are you learning new awesome skills which will propel you to a new level? Put down this book and spend eleven minutes doing something that you're determined to do.

*No matter how small,  
acknowledge the achievement.*  
*Greg Henry Quinn*

One of the most common negative traits of managers is that they fail to acknowledge and accept the achievements of their employees. This leads to diminished morale and an overall bad feeling about the company and the other people present. Remember that even the tiniest steps are important in your journey toward success.



*Empty pockets never held anyone back. Only empty heads and empty hearts can do that.*

*Norman Vincent Peale*

I have a friend who always complains about the money and how they are not able to do anything because there's no money within the house. The truly determined, the ones with an exceptional willpower and determination, will make their dreams come true regardless of the cost. Nothing except yourself stands in the way of progress.

*Champions aren't made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision.*

*Muhammad Ali*

When you focus your inspiration to a cause and a focus, nothing can stop you from becoming a champion. That inner fire for success can't be taught, and it can't be given away. You have a dream and a vision of what's right, and that will catapult you to your desired location.

*The history of the world is the history of a few people who had faith in themselves.*

*Swamí Vivekananda*

There is a wide landscape of factors which go into the most noteworthy in history. Many of them are confident in their abilities and highly motivated to see a change happen in the world. Sometimes, all of the factors combine to propel a person onto the world stage.

*Our business in life is not to get ahead of others, but to get ahead of ourselves.*

*Zig Ziglar*

Comparing yourself to others only leads to suffering and pain. You can look and say, 'well, that person has X,' or 'this person has Y!' That means that you're not paying attention to your Z. Most successes in life aren't concerned with anything more than outdoing themselves.

*The merit in action lies in  
finishing it to the end.*

*Genghis Khan*

How many projects have you started, but never completed? What still exists on your to-do list from several months ago when you were appropriately inspired? The real question is – what can you do right NOW to push yourself toward your goals and motivations? Take all of your half finished activities and make the promise to yourself to get it done. You'll feel better.

*When you miss a shot, never  
think of what you did wrong.  
Take the next shot thinking of  
what you must do right.*

*Tony Alfonso*

Life is a perpetual series of events laid atop one another like transparencies. You lay one down, compare it to what should be done. Then, you create the successive transparencies. Dwelling on your mistakes only leads to regret, anger, and depression.

*The greater danger for most of us lies in not setting our aim too high and falling short, but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark.*

*Michelangelo*

We have a natural tendency to quit when we reach our goals, allowing us to slide back into the maelstrom from whence we came. If we set our sights at getting up in the morning, we miss out on pushing ourselves to the extremes, testing our personal boundaries, and going further than we ever dreamed.

*What is not started today is never finished tomorrow*

*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

Aah! Procrastination! Many relish that word, swearing that the cool things can wait until the morning. As it happens, though, every single thing can change in an instant, in the blink of an eye or the snap of the fingers. What beauty would it be that we were that much closer to our goals tomorrow because we worked upon them today?

*Forget past mistakes. Forget failures. Forget about everything except what you're going to do now - and do it.*  
*William Durant*

Living in the present moment is all that matters to the task. This particular quote should have a mention about successes, too. When you're determined and striving toward a goal which burns within you, it is your sacred responsibility to implement prime solutions RIGHT NOW.

*Motivation will almost always beat mere talent.*  
*Norman R. Augustine*

How many people do you know who are talented but have absolutely no motivation to conquer their field? Your motivation and determination are what will make or break you in the pursuit of your dreams. When you would only like to get things moving, nothing will happen because the fire's not bright enough.

*Failure will never overtake me  
if my determination to succeed  
is strong enough.*  
*Og Mandino*

Failure is more of a method of looking at things. Just as success is an attitude, so is failure. Have you done something to further your goals today? What can you do to make your dreams come true? Make the commitment to your personal success.

*We win half the battle when we  
make up our minds to take the  
world as we find it, including  
the thorns.*  
*Orison Swett Marden*

Don't think about the way things should have been. Don't think about how stupid the situation appears, because it's necessary to take an objective viewpoint of the situation before you can pursue a satisfactory resolution.

*This is the highest wisdom that I own; freedom and life are earned by those alone who conquer them each day anew.*  
*Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

Every Monday, you rise like the phoenix to face the work week, relishing the moments and savoring the expectations. Think about it in a shorter time span. Conquer the day, conquer the moment. In a busy day, the beginning, middle, and end can feel like three separate events. Essentially, you get three days for the price of one.

*It's not the will to win, but the will to prepare to win that makes the difference.*  
*Paul Bryant*

Preparation, determination, motivation, and enthusiasm are the four things that we bring with us to the playing field of life. Those who aren't afraid to practice are the ones who are going to thrive. The difference between the college athlete and the professional is the length of practice and the amount of training that one performs. In other words, if you want to be a concert violinist, you have to pick up the violin for a little while each day.

*When you are making a success of something, it's not work. It's a way of life. You might enjoy yourself because you are making your contribution to the world.*

*Andrew Granatelli*

I have to admit that I'm addicted to my own successes. It is beautiful when the project works out exactly as planned, and the natural temptation is to ride the momentum as fast and as hard as possible. Your contribution to the world is done with little creeps and steps, not by huge jumps and leaps of faith.

*People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.*

*Dale Carnegie*

Fun builds passion in what you are doing. Fun makes you want to return to the task over and over, ensuring that you're successful. Let yourself find the magic in the project that you are doing, and you will soar higher.



*Failure is an event, never a person.*

*William D. Brown*

It infuriates me to hear 'that person is a failure' just as much as it gets to William Brown. Sure, you might not have won the race, but you are not a failure. Not winning the race means that you didn't win that round. Don't beat yourself up for not winning, it's not anywhere near the only thing in life.

*The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure*

*Sven Goran Eriksson*

A lot of people fear change. They believe that if change happens, everything will automatically get worse than what it is. Because of that fear of failure and change, folks don't even take the beginning steps. Nothing, except for that fear of failure, is keeping you from achieving your dreams.

*Why did I want to win?  
Because I didn't want to lose!  
Max Schmelling*

So many folks will tell you that they don't want to lose, but they're not willing to put the effort into making their dreams come to fruition. If you don't want to lose, you have to prepare yourself for winning.

*You can't lead anyone else  
further than you have gone  
yourself.  
Gene Mauch*

Followers want someone who is genuine and honest. They want to know that you've been in their shoes. If you want to become a leader in personal finance, they want to know that you've had to make the decision between a big bag of rice and gas money to get to the job. If you're talking about contentment and true happiness, they want to know that you're happy and content with your own life.

*A leader is a dealer in hope.  
Napoleon Bonaparte*

The leaders, good leaders, are people can inspire others to believe in a dream that is greater than themselves. They instill hope and push others to go beyond their own boundaries for that cause. Hope potentially gives you a way out, hope inspires dreams, dreams inspire goals... and with goals you can do anything.

*Companies that solely focus on competition will ultimately die. Those that focus on value creation will thrive.*  
*Edward de Bono*

I met a person who went into business solely because he was angry at the owner of the company where he worked. He had a passion, and a concept of the way that things should be done, and his former boss didn't see things in that way. Their primary point of divergence was in the focus of the company – should it be on the bottom line or the customers which are being served? The customer focused company is winning.

*Striving for excellence motivates you; striving for perfection is demoralizing*  
*Harriet Braiker*

Perfection, sadly, is a subjective state and fleeting if ever achieved. You might be at the top of your field, but there is always something which can be perfected. You can always temper your style, and prove to the world that there is something more to you than just X, Y, or Z. Instead of pushing toward the perfection which is nearly impossible, push yourself to be better than you were the day before.

*A man is only a leader when a follower stands beside him.*

*Mark Brouwer*

The best way to become a leader is to do something that you adore and have an overall purpose to your goals. When you can engage others on a higher level, they will follow you to the ends of the earth. When you persuade others to have a similar purpose, then more things get done, building momentum.

*If at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you.*

*Author Unknown*

Your mother is the source of a lot of great practical information. She has been where you are and usually knows the ins and outs of life matters. As such, rebelling and revolting against the way that she did it is probably the hard way. Time is something that perfects the methods, and your mother, by default, has the gift of time on her side.

*There is no point at which you can say, "Well, I'm successful now. I might as well take a nap.*

*Carrie Fisher*

Success is a state of being, but oh how I'd love to have some indicator that I could take a nap with my goals! The only one that I can really see is if we're overworked. That's the perfect time to take a break, but not to rest on our laurels. It's a temporary thing, maybe a day or three, then it's back to the constant movement and growth.

*Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot, but make it hot by striking.*

*William B. Sprague*

Strike when you are prepared. Better yet, strike the iron just before you are fully prepared, because the act of striking will push you over into the land of success. The sheer adrenaline and willpower will make things happen.

*How do you achieve success?  
Well, for one thing, you don't  
define it before you achieve it.  
Robert Brault*

While you are supposed to plan for something, planning every single detail of your success tends to raise the expectations so high that they're nearly impossible to match. Awards are based on subjective judgment in a lot of cases, so there is the possibility that you might not achieve it in a specific time frame. Keep moving, and work for yourself.

*It is wise to keep in mind that  
no success or failure is  
necessarily final  
Author Unknown*

It's only final when you say it's final. The key is to make sure that you're leaving on a high note. You're the sum of many things, and everything that you do can be molded into a greater success.

*Those who have succeeded at anything and don't mention luck are kidding themselves.*  
*Larry King*

The addition of luck to any project pushes you on the track of success that much faster. There are indeed some people who manage to be in the right place at the right time more frequently. That means that they're also at the right place and the wrong time, and the wrong place at the wrong time, too. Place yourself in a situation where you want to be noticed, make yourself noticeable, and you will be seen.

*Pray that success will not come any faster than you are able to endure it.*  
*Elbert Hubbard*

When your company makes it big or your ideas take root, you want to have the ability to capitalize upon the moment without losing face with your peers. The best way to avoid this particular situation is to have a notion of the type of success that you wish to have, and prepare for that. Sure, there will be the inevitable bumps, but it will be a lot smoother with planning.

*Don't live down to your expectations. Go out there and do something remarkable*  
*Wendy Wasserstein*

What do you want to do that would really blow people away? This is the remarkability in your life. This is where your energy should be focused. Yes, it will take longer than doing a mediocre job of it, but it will be well worth the effort. Pursue the things that fashion your dreams.

*Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.*  
*Ralph Marston*

Grasp the enthusiasm and the excellence that you have within you, striving toward the goals that are worthwhile. Take a few moments to think about how you battled mediocrity today and made it the best day ever.

*Seventy percent of success in life is showing up.*  
*Woody Allen*

Make the decision to achieve more than your goals. Come to your senses and show up. Take the first step to throw away the woulda coulda shouldas and show up to your success and your destiny. Woody Allen may have had his personal crises, but he was determined to show up for them.



EJ Hunter has a variety of interests, including collecting quotes, finding the perfect bowl of beef noodle soup, and tower defense games. Her idea of roughing it is not having room service, though she loves discovering and experimenting with stuff. She believes that your passions are important, and that you should be doing what you wanted to be when you 'grew up,' rather than sludging away at jobs you hate.

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