

## Merrill Warkentin's Favorite Quotes

"You're going to fall down, but the world doesn't care how many times you fall down, as long as it's one fewer than the number of times you get back up." (Aaron Sorkin, screenwriter and producer)

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"Watch your thoughts for they become your words. Watch your words for they become your actions. Watch your actions for they become your habits. Watch your habits for they become your character. And watch your character, for it becomes your destiny. What we think we become!"  
(Margaret Thatcher, 10/13/1925 - 4/8/2013 "Iron Lady")

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"This is not a "try hard league" – it's a "do good league.""  
(Mark Schlereth, former Washing Redskin Guard, now sportscaster (speaking of the NFL))  
(To paraphrase: "Academic research is not a "try hard" job, it's a "do good" job.")

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"Those who do not archive the past are condemned to retype it!" (Simson Garfinkel and Eugene Spafford)

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As we know,  
There are known knowns.  
There are things we know we know.  
We also know  
There are known unknowns.  
That is to say  
We know there are some things  
We do not know.  
But there are also unknown unknowns, the ones we don't know.  
We don't know.  
(Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense)

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"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." (Aristotle)

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There are two kinds of truth: the truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science, and the second is art. Neither is independent of the other or more important than the other. Without art, science would be as useless as a pair of high forceps in the hands of a plumber. Without science, art would become a crude mess of folklore and emotional quackery. The truth of art keeps science from becoming inhuman, and the truth of science keeps art from becoming ridiculous. -  
Raymond Thornton Chandler, writer.

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"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors—we borrow it from our children." (Native American Chief Seattle)

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"Life is a cruel teacher. She loves to give you the test first and the lesson later" (heard on "Shark Tank")

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"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." (Soren Kierkegaard)

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"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." (Maya Angelou)

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"The real index of civilization is when people are kinder than they need to be."  
(Louis deBernieres, novelist)

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An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego." He continued, "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. The same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"  
The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

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"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have." (Thomas Jefferson / Michael Shelly)

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"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing." (Albert Einstein)

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"To argue with a person who has renounced the use of reason is like administering medicine to the dead."  
(Thomas Paine, English-American political activist, writer, and revolutionary)

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Metrics Matter. If you aren't measuring performance, you are just practicing. (unknown)

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"I have failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed." (Michael Jordan)

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"The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved -- loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves." (Victor Hugo, novelist and dramatist)

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"Travel is always both a window and a mirror." (Andrew Solomon)

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"When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other."  
Eric Hoffer, writer/philosopher, quoted by Henshan Sun in *MIS Quarterly* (37:4), 2013, p. 1015,

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"True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth, universal brotherhood and good will, and a constant and earnest striving toward the principles and ideals on which this country was founded." (Eleanor Roosevelt, diplomat, author, and lecturer)

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"The higher up you go, the more mistakes you are allowed. Right at the top, if you make enough of them, it's considered to be your style." (Fred Astaire, dancer, actor, singer, musician, and choreographer)

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“The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum -- even encourage the more critical and dissident views. That gives people the sense that there's free thinking going on, while all the time the presuppositions of the system are being reinforced by the limits put on the range of the debate.” (Noam Chomsky, linguistics professor and political activist)

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“Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it ... he who doesn't ... pays it.

“Compound interest is the most powerful force in the universe.”

“Compound interest is the greatest mathematical discovery of all time.” - Albert Einstein

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“The Master has failed more times than the beginner has even tried.”  
(Stephen McCrainie (possibly originally an ancient guru from India?))

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“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.” (Winston Churchill)

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“The illiterate of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.” (Alvin Toffler)

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“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.” (Andre Gide)

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“If you want exploration, very often you much get out of the system, because the system is paralyzed by common assumptions. It's not the people selling candles who invented the light bulb.” ...and... “It's interesting to see the difference between conquering and exploring. When you want to conquer, it's to have more. When you want to explore, it's to know more.”

Bertrand Piccard, MD, Chairman and Pilot, Soloar Impulse. First to circumnavigate the planet without fossil fuel (in 2016), grandson of Auguste Piccard, PhD (Physicist) who was the first to fly into the stratosphere (in a balloon) and see the curvature of the earth. Also son of Jacque Piccard, who went to the bottom of the Mariana Trench (11 km deep).

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“All men should strive to learn before they die what they are running from, and to, and why.”  
- Author James Thurber

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As I pilot, I appreciate a few of these favorites:

“Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, experience usually comes from bad judgment.”

“You start with a bag full of luck and an empty bag of experience. The trick is to fill the bag of experience before you empty the bag of luck.”

“Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.”

“There are old pilots and there are bold pilots. There are, however, no “old, bold pilots.””

“The three most useless things to a pilot are altitude above you, runway behind you, and “a tenth of a second ago.””

"Takeoffs are optional. Landings are mandatory."

"Never let an airplane take you somewhere your brain didn't get to five minutes earlier."

"It's better to be on the ground wishing you were in the air than to be in the air wishing you were on the ground!"

"The three most important things when you are flying your plane are ... the next three things that will happen to you, and you should know what they are before they happen." (one of my first CFIs)

"Lose not thy airspeed lest the ground rise up and smite thee."

"If you can walk away from a landing, it's a good landing. If you use the airplane the next day, it's an outstanding landing." (Chuck Yeager, first pilot to break the sound barrier (Mach 1))

"Sometimes experience harms more than it helps. Rather than making us more vigilant, it can lead to a sort of comfortable complacency. Not only about the dangers we face, but about our own capabilities and those of our aircraft." ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JkLR\\_xgayM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JkLR_xgayM)) ... and "You fly the weather you have, not the weather that was forecasted."

... and the most important one talks about priorities! ... "Aviate, Navigate, Communicate"

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"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood, and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea." (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry)

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"Cause it to Remain in a Relatively Uncomplicated State" (or "Keep in Simple Stupid" (KISS Principle))

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"If you are successful, it is because somewhere, sometime, someone gave you a life or an idea that started you in the right direction.

Remember, also, that you are indebted to life

until you help some less fortunate person,

just as you were helped."

Melinda French, now Melinda Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, from her High School Commencement speech (Ursuline Academy, Dallas, Texas).

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"Past error is no excuse for its own perpetuation. Tragedy is a tool for the living to gain wisdom.....Now, as ever, we do ourselves best justice when we measure ourselves against ancient tests, as in the Antigone of Sophocles: 'All men make mistakes, but a good man yields when he knows his course is wrong, and repairs the evil. The only sin is pride.'" - Robert F Kennedy, probably in reference to his earlier support for bombing North Viet Nam during the JFK administration, which he later renounced.

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"If life had a second edition, how I would correct the proofs." (John Clare, poet)

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"Enjoy the journal and try to get better every day. And don't lose the passion and the love for what you do." (Nadia Comaneci, Olympic gymnast)

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"Only those who risk going too far ...  
find out how far they can go."  
(T.S. Eliot)

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"Don't let the Perfect be the Enemy of the Good" (paraphrasing Voltaire). "Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without." — Confucius

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**Pursue excellence, not perfection** - Excellence is attainable, perfection isn't. Excellence is an admirable goal, perfection a potentially destructive one. As the definition in *Psychology Today* notes, perfectionists view life "as an endless report card on accomplishments."

(corollary = Sometimes good enough is good enough, be a "satisficer")

"Perfection is the enemy of progress." (Winston Churchill)

"Perfection is the enemy of done." or "Perfect is the enemy of good."

"The best is the enemy of the good" (Voltaire) (literally "*Dit que le mieux est l'ennemi du bien.*")

"Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without." (Confucius)

"Striving to better, oft we mar what's well." (Shakespeare)

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Most people overestimate what they can do in one year and underestimate what they can do in ten years.

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"Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote!" (Ben Franklin)

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"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the capacity to act despite our fears." (John McCain)

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"A society grows great when people plant trees whose shade they will never sit in." (Greek proverb)

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"Most creativity is a transition from one context into another where things are more surprising. There's an element of surprise, and especially in science, there is often laughter that goes along with the 'Aha'. Art also has this element. Our job is to remind us that there are more contexts than the one that we're in -- the one that we think is reality." (Alan Kay, computer scientist)

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A Chinese proverb says: "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now."

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"We succeed in enterprises which demand the positive qualities we possess, but we excel in those which can also make use of our defects." -Alexis de Tocqueville, statesman and historian

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Patriots have won 10 straight division titles (record) as of 2019 and 6 Super Bowls (record).  
Bill Belichick (famous for "No time off" and "Next man up") has 31 career playoff wins (most of all time)

Q: Are you having more fun than before?

A: This is a tough business, but it beats working. So I enjoy football.

Tom Brady (Greatest of all time ("GOAT")) with 6 Super Bowl wins and many records

Q: Which Super Bowl ring do you like the most?

A: The next one.

“Nothing is given in this game. If you are not the best, you gotta give it to someone else.” (Improve each year.)

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“If you want to be the best, you’ve got to beat the best.”

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“Everything in moderation ... even moderation”  
(usually attributed to Oscar Wilde, but may also be Horace Porter or Petronius)

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The richest man is not the man who has the most, but the one who needs the least. (Buddhist saying?)

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It ain’t what you don’t know that gets you in trouble. It’s what you know for sure that just ain’t so.  
(Mark Twain)

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Our job is to take fear out of doing business. – Peter Altabef, UNISYS CEO, 2019

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“There are two types of people in the world, those who can extrapolate from incomplete data...”

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You don’t make poor people rich by making rich people poor. (Winston Churchill)

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It is easier to ask for forgiveness than it is to get permission. (Grace Hopper, Agnes Strickland)

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The definition of luck is when opportunity meets preparation. (Seneca)

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The reward for achievement is a hunger for more ... a blessing that lives inside a curse. (David Carr,  
*NY Times* award-winning journalist and best-selling author in a letter to his daughter, Erin Lee Carr)

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On the fields are sown the seeds that on other days on other fields will bear the fruits of victory.  
(General Douglas MacArthur, speaking of American football as peacetime practice for wartime teamwork)

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I’d rather be in the mountains thinking of God, than in church thinking about the mountains. (John Muir)

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Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

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Failure to plan is planning to fail.

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Be fearful when others are greedy and be greedy when others are fearful. (Warren Buffet)

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Nick Saben says that one of his favorite quotes is “High achievers don’t like mediocre people and mediocre people don’t like high achievers.”

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The United States will do the right thing after it has tried everything else. (Winston Churchill)

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It's better to try and fail than to fail to try.

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If your plan is for one year, plant rice. If your plan is for 10 years, plant trees. If your plan is for 100 years, educate children. (Confucius)

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Are we being good ancestors? (Jonas Salk)

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Tomorrow can wait and the past will find its place.

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Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said."

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.

(Ira Byock, author of "Dying Well")

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"It is easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled." (Mark Twain)

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"Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." (Peter Drucker)

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"You can't manage what you can't measure." (Dr. Denning)

"If you can't measure it, you can't improve it." (Peter Drucker)

"If you're not keeping score, it's just practice. If you're not measuring, you're not competing." (Ronald Snee?)

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"The best revenge is a life well lived."

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"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings; the inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries." (Winston Churchill)

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"History is a vast early warning system." (Norman Cousins)

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"You can't cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." (Christopher Columbus)

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." (T.S. Eliot)

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"You never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before." (Rahm Emanuel)

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"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." (Soren Kierkegaard)

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"You buy a Ferrari when you want to be somebody. You buy a Lamborghini when you are somebody." (Frank Sinatra)

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"Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes." (Oscar Wilde)

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"It is better to be roughly right than precisely wrong" (John Maynard Keynes)

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"History does not repeat itself, but it rhymes." (Mark Twain)

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When the ignorant are taught to doubt, they do not know what they safely may believe." -Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

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My life has been a quest for knowledge and understanding,  
and I'm nowhere near having achieved that,  
and it doesn't bother me in the least,  
I will die without having come up with the answer to many things in life.

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Goodbye everyone.

Have a great life.

And thank you.

(Alex Trebek, both from the book he wrote in 2020 at home during Covid, as he was dying from cancer.)

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Worrying is like a rocking chair. You go back and forth, but you don't get anywhere!

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To make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe. (Carol Sagan, *Cosmos*)

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Give me a lever and a place to stand on, and I will move the Earth. (Greek philosopher Archimedes)

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Bertrand Russell gave up on the idea of a creator god after reading the following passage in the autobiography of John Stuart Mill: "My father taught me that the question, 'Who made me?' cannot be answered, since it immediately suggests the further question, 'Who made God?'"

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Tempered by physical law, which adds a dash of necessity, chance becomes the creative force, the mover and shaker of our universe. All the beauty we see around us, from galaxies to sunflowers, is the results of this creative collaboration between chaos and necessity. (nonophysicist Peter Hoffman)+

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Be yourself. Everyone else is taken. (unknown origin)

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Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans. (John Lennon)

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Whenever two people meet, there are really six people present. There is each man as he sees himself, each man as the other person sees him, and each man as he really is. -William James, psychologist and philosopher

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"If you succeed, you win. If you fail, you learn."

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"Victory has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan." (John F. Kennedy)

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"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome." (Booker T. Washington)

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"Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose." (Bill Gates)

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"Morality is doing right, no matter what you are told. Religion is doing what you are told, no matter what is right." (H.L. Mencken)

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"If better is possible, then good isn't enough"

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"When we lose someone we love, we must learn not to live without them, but to LIVE WITH THE LOVE THEY LEFT BEHIND." (Unknown origin)

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Winston Churchill loved paraprosdokians, figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

6. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
7. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out, I just wanted pay checks.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put "DOCTOR."
11. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
12. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street...with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
13. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
14. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
15. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
16. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
17. There's a fine line between cuddling and...holding someone down so they can't get away.
18. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
19. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
20. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
21. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
22. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
23. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
24. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but now it's getting harder and harder for me to find one. — with Kent Holmes and Kathleen Gordon Sellers.

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"Success breeds complacency. Complacency breeds failure. Only the paranoid survive." (Andy Grove)

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"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." (Confucius)

A modern corollary ...

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."-(Benjamin Franklin)

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"There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning." (Jiddu Krishnamurti)

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"In academia there is no difference between academia and the real world; in the real world, there is." - Nassim Nicholas Taleb

"Remember that all models are wrong; the practical question is how wrong do they have to be to not be useful." - George Box

"Your first impulse should always be to find the evidence that disconfirms your most cherished beliefs and those of others. That is true science." - Robert Greene

"If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It's simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've been taken." - Carl Sagan

"Living is easy with eyes closed, misunderstanding all you see." - John Lennon

"I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned." - Richard P. Feynman

"Never underestimate the power of ideas. Philosophical concepts nurtured in the stillness of a professor's study could destroy a civilization" - Heinrich Heine

"A man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest." - Simon & Garfunkel

"A great deal of intelligence can be invested in ignorance when the need for illusion is deep." - Saul Bellow

"He who stifles free discussion, secretly doubts whether what he professes to believe is really true." - Wendell Phillips

"We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves." - Eric Hoffer

"Assuming people are irrational most of the time is a very clear way to see the world." -Scott Adams

"When a pickpocket sees a saint, all she sees are pockets." - Gilbert H. Kappelman

"Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge." - Charles Darwin

"A theory is just a well founded conjecture and has no validity until it can be turned into a law by the requisite evidence for its truth can be found." - Frank Land

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"Most people overestimate what they can do in one year and underestimate what they can do in ten years." – Bill Gates

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"Any person capable of angering you becomes your master; he can anger you only when you permit yourself to be disturbed by him." - Epictetus

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"Opinion is the medium between knowledge and ignorance." (Plato)

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"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots." (Marcus Garvey)

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"The first step toward knowledge is to know that we are ignorant." (Richard Cecil)

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"The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary." -Vince Lombardi

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"All words are pegs to hang ideas on." - Beecher

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"Leaving home in a sense involves a kind of second birth in which we give birth to ourselves." Robert Neelly Bellah

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"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." -African Proverb

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"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery Today is a gift. That's why we call it the Present." (Eleanor Roosevelt, diplomat, author, and lecturer)

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"If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk with others." (African proverb)

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"A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for." (Admiral Grace Hopper)

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Reflecting on how hard it can be to get curriculum changes approved at universities, Ephraim McLean has said "It is easier to change the course of history than to change a course in History."

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I'm in favor of progress; it's change I don't like. (Mark Twain)

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"I may blush easily, go rubicund in the sun, and have covert yet mentally alert blue eyes."  
Ron Charles; Race Reversal; The Washington Post; Jan 18, 2009.

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"Recently, I was asked if I was going to fire an employee who made a mistake that cost the company \$600,000. No, I replied, I just spent \$600,000 training him. Why would I want somebody to hire his experience?" -Thomas J. Watson, Chairman and CEO of IBM (17 Feb 1874-1956)

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"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings. The inherent virtue of Socialism is the equal sharing of miseries." - Winston Churchill, House of Commons, Oct. 22, 1945

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"The older I get, the better I used to be!" – Golfer Lee Trevino (and others)

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"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best." – Tim Duncan

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"If I had an hour to solve a problem and my life depended on the solution, I would spend the first 55 minutes determining the proper question to ask. For once I know the proper question, I could solve the problem in less than five minutes." (Albert Einstein)

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"Everyone has a plan until they get punched I the mouth." (Mike Tyson)

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"About the time we can make the ends meet, somebody moves the ends." (Herbert Hoover)

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