

## CONTENTS

---

<i>Introduction</i>	11	Boredom	71
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	13	Brokenness	72
Ability	17	Brotherhood	72
Action	19	Burdens	74
Adversity	21	Business	75
Advertising	23	Capitalism	77
Advice	24	Caring, Charity, Compassion	77
Advocate	25	Change	79
Affliction	26	Character	80
Age	27	Cheerfulness	84
Aim	36	Children	86
Alcohol	37	Christ	88
Ambition	38	Christianity	93
America	39	Christian living	95
Ancestors	42	Christmas	100
Angels	42	Church	103
Anger	43	Cities	108
Antichrist	46	Civil Disobedience	112
Apathy	47	Civilization	113
Appreciation	48	Comfort	114
Arguing	49	Commitment	114
Art	49	Committees	115
Artist	51	Communication	116
Ascension	51	Compromise	116
Atheism	52	Confession	118
Atonement	52	Confidence	119
Attitudes	54	Conflict	120
Belief	59	Conscience	121
Bible	61	Consecration	122
Bible Endurance	67	Contentment	122
Bible Study	69	Contrition	124
Books and Reading	70	Countenance	125

Courage	125	Excellence	180
Courtesy	128	Excuses	181
Covetousness	128		
Creation	129	Failure	187
Criticism	130	Faith	187
Cross	131	Family	192
		Fear	196
Death	137	Fellowship	197
Decay and Decline	142	Forgiveness	197
Decisions	143	Fortune	199
Dedication	146	Frankness	200
Deeds	149	Freedom	201
Defeat	151	Friendship	201
Delay	152	Future	205
Depression, Despair	153		
Determination	154	Giving	207
Devil	155	God	209
Devotions	158	God's Character	210
Difficulties	159	God's Will	213
Diplomacy	162	Gospel	218
Discipline	163	Gossip and Slander	219
Doubt	164	Grace	221
Dreams	165	Growth	222
Duty	166	Guidance	224
Easter	167	Happiness	227
Education	168	Heart	227
Egotism	169	Heaven	228
Empathy	170	Hell	231
Encouragement	170	Heritage	232
Endurance	171	History	233
Enemies	171	Hobbies and Leisure	234
Enthusiasm	172	Holiness	235
Epitaphs	173	Holy Spirit	235
Equality	175	Home	239
Eternity	176	Honesty	240
Ethics	177	Hope	240
Evangelism	177	Humanism, Secular	242
Evolution	179	Humility	243
Example	179	Hunger	245

Hypocrisy	245	Mediocrity	321
Humor	247	Meditation	321
Ideals	269	Memory	323
Ideas	269	Mind	324
Idolatry	270	Missions	324
Imagination	271	Mistakes	327
Immortality	272	Modern Culture	328
Incarnation	272	Money	330
Influence	273	Music	333
Intelligence	274	Nation	335
Jesus	277	Nature	336
Jews	279	Neglect	337
Joy	280	Neighbors	337
Judgment	282	New Birth	338
Justice	284	Opinions	341
Justification	285	Opportunity	342
Kindness	287	Pain	345
Kingdoms	288	Passion	346
Knowledge	288	Past	346
Last Words	291	Pastors	347
Laughter	292	Patience	348
Laziness	293	Patriotism	349
Leaders	293	Peace	350
Learning	295	People	351
Lies	296	Perseverance, Persistence	352
Life	297	Pleasure	354
Life Views	297	Poetry	356
Little Things	300	Politics	356
Loneliness	301	Poverty	357
Lost man	302	Power	358
Love	305	Prayer	359
Man	315	Preaching	365
Marriage	317	Prejudice	367
Meaning	320	Pride	368
Media, the	321	Progress	370
		Purpose of Man	370

Race	373	Tact	417
Redemption	374	Teaching	418
Religion	375	Television	419
Repentance	376	Temptations	420
Reputation	377	Thanks and Praise	421
Responsibility	377	Thinking	422
Resurrection	378	Thirst for God	423
Retirement	380	Time	424
Revival	381	Today	427
Righteousness	383	Trust	428
		Truth	429
Saints	385		
Salvation	385	Urgency	433
Sanctification	388		
Science	389	Vanity	435
Search for Meaning	389	Victory	435
Second Coming	391	Virtue	436
Selfishness	394		
Self-knowledge	395	Walking	437
Self-pity	396	War	437
Sermons	397	Weather	439
Service	397	Wisdom	440
Silence	399	Witness	442
Sin	400	Words	446
Solitude	405	Work and Duty	452
Sorrow	406	World	454
Speech	408	Worldliness	455
Stewardship	411	Worry	457
Stories	411	Worship	458
Submission	412	Writing	460
Success	413		
Suffering	414	Index of authors	463



## ABILITY

---

*When it's a question of God's almighty Spirit, never say, "I can't."*

OSWALD CHAMBERS

*God does not ask about our ability, but our availability.*

UNKNOWN

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:13 NKJV

*Knock the "T" off of "can't" and make it "can."*

G. S.

*I add this also, that rational ability without education has oftener raised man to glory and virtue, than education without natural ability.*

CICERO

*It is all one to me if a man comes from Sing Sing Prison or Harvard.  
We hire a man, not his history.*

HENRY FORD

*Just as ordinary sun rays when focused through a magnifying glass burn holes in the material beneath, so ordinary ability, when focused, excels.*

G. S.

*When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.*

JOHN RUSKIN

*Ability and learning contrasted. Charles II once expressed his astonishment that such a learned man as Dr. Owen should go so often to hear John Bunyan, the ignorant tinker preacher. "Had I the tinker's ability, your Majesty, I would gladly relinquish my learning."*

T. DE WITT TALMAGE

*Every man who can be a first-rate something—as every man can be who is a man at all—has no right to be a fifth-rate something; for a fifth-rate something is no better than a first-rate nothing.*

J. G. HOLLAND,  
PLAIN TALKS ON FAMILIAR SUBJECTS

*Ability*

1. *Able to save rough fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James, and John: John 1:35–42, Luke 5:3–11.*
2. *Able to save despised tax collectors: Matthew, Luke 5:27–29; Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1–10.*
3. *Able to save a master in Israel, a religious leader and highly moral man, Nicodemus: John 3.*
4. *Able to save a much married and religiously heretical woman: John 4:7–39.*
5. *Able to save a woman taken in adultery: John 8:1–11.*
6. *Able to save a dying thief: Luke 23:39–43.*
7. *Able to save a sorcerer: Acts 8:9–24.*
8. *Able to save the chief of sinners, the leading opponent and persecutor of Christianity, Saul of Tarsus: Acts 9:1–31; 1 Timothy 1:15.*
9. *Able to save a Roman military officer, Cornelius: Acts 10.*
10. *Able to save a business woman, Lydia: Acts 16:14–15.*
11. *Able to save a brutal jailer: Acts 16:30–34.*
12. *Able to save an innumerable multitude out of all tribes and tongues and nations whom John saw already safe in heaven: Revelation 7:9–17.*

F. D. WHITESELL,  
EVANGELISTIC ILLUSTRATIONS

*The winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigators.*

EDWARD GIBBON

*Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

*What we do upon some great occasion will probably depend on what we already are; and what we are, will be the result of previous years of self-discipline.*

H. P. LIDDON

*Men are often capable of greater things than they perform. They are sent into the world with bills of credit, and seldom draw to their full extent.*

HORACE WALPOLE

*A genius can't be forced; nor can you make an ape an alderman.*

THOMAS SOMERVILLE

*When my horse is running good, I don't stop to give him sugar.*

WILLIAM FAULKNER

## **ACTION**

.....

*And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

JOSHUA 24:15 NKJV

*The actions of men [are] the best interpreters of their thoughts.*

JOHN LOCKE

*Eighty percent of success is showing up.*

WOODY ALLEN

*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

JAMES 1:22

*When Demosthenes was asked what were the three most important aspects of oratory, he answered, "Action, Action, Action."*

PLUTARCH

*Dwight L. Moody was a man of action. Once he mentioned a clever promotion idea to a church leader and asked, "What do you think?"*

*"We've been aimin' to do it for two years," the layman replied.*

*"Well, now," Moody retorted, "don't you think it's time to fire?"*

G. S.

*A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent.*

JOHN CALVIN

*Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.*

BENJAMIN DISRAELI

*Resolved, never to do anything which I should be afraid to do, if it were my last of life.*

JONATHAN EDWARDS

*My hat's in the ring! The fight is on and I am stripped to the buff!*

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

*Thou wilt find rest from vain fancies if thou doest every act in life as though it were thy last.*

MARCUS AURELIUS

*It is difficult to steer a parked car, so get moving.*

HENRIETTA MEARS



*In the book In Search of Excellence, Thomas J. Peters and Robert H. Waterman suggest eight qualities that are characteristic of excellent companies in the United States. The first is “a bias for action,” which Peters and Waterman describe as a tendency to act rather than to remain passive.*

*The authors use phrases like, “do it,” “fix it,” “try it,” and state that “chaotic action is preferable to orderly inaction.”*

*Ludwig van Beethoven arose at daybreak and immediately began composing until 2 P.M. when he would have dinner. He worked in long stretches of unbroken time to allow his thoughts to unfold and flow uninterrupted. He exemplified a bias for action.*

*John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, traveled more than 250,000 miles on horseback, preaching often fifteen times a week for over fifty years. As an octogenarian, he complained that he found it difficult to work more than fifteen hours a day.*

C. T. WINCHESTER

*We must not sit still and look for miracles; up and be doing, and the Lord will be with thee. Prayer and pains, through faith in Christ Jesus, will do anything.*

JOHN ELIOT

## **ADVERSITY**

.....

*When a man gets to despair he knows that all his thinking will never get him out. He will only get out by the sheer creative effort of God. Consequently he is in the right attitude to receive from God that which he cannot gain for himself. (Acts 12)*

OSWALD CHAMBERS

*Adversities do not make a man frail. They show what sort of man he is.*

THOMAS À KEMPIS

*We say, "sorrow, disaster, calamity"; God says, "chastening," and it sounds sweet to Him though it is a discord to our ears. Don't faint when you are rebuked, and don't despise the chastening of the Lord. "In your patience possess ye your souls."*

OSWALD CHAMBERS

*Sometimes your medicine bottle has on it, "Shake well before using." That is what God has to do with some of His people. He has to shake them well before they are ever usable.*

VANCE HAVNER

*When I dig another out of trouble, the hole from which I lift him is the place where I bury my own.*

ANONYMOUS

*We are always on the anvil; by trials God is shaping us for higher things.*

HENRY WARD BEECHER

*There are three things to remember concerning trials:*

- 1. Trials are a common experience of all of us. No one is immune. Trials are a part of living.*
- 2. Trials are transitory. C. B. Williams translates 1 Peter 1:6 this way: "In such a hope keep on rejoicing, although for a little while you must be sorrow-stricken with various trials." Trials, though difficult, are "for a little while."*
- 3. Trials are lessons that shouldn't be wasted. Though not enjoyable or necessarily good in themselves, trials constitute a divine work for our ultimate good. Jesus never promised an easy journey, but He did promise a safe landing.*

G. S.

*Pressure produces! As we face the pressures of life, let it not just be a passive acceptance, but rather a positive cooperation with God's purpose for our lives.*

G. S.

*No author, without a trial, can conceive of the difficulty of writing a romance about a country where there is no shadow, no antiquity, no mystery, no picturesque and gloomy wrong, not anything but a common-place prosperity, in broad and simply daylight, as is happily the case with my dear native land. . . . Romance and poetry, ivy, lichens and wallflowers need rain to make them grow.*

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE,  
PREFACE TO *THE MARBLE FAUN*

*A young boy was sailing a small sailboat. The string that held his boat snapped, and the little boat was blown farther and farther out on the water. An older boy picked up some stones and began to throw them in the direction of the boat. That infuriated the little boy. But shortly he learned that the older boy's purpose was for his good. Each stone went just beyond the boat, and the resulting waves gently pushed it back to shore.*

G. S.

*Sweet are the uses of adversity;  
Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,  
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head;  
And this our life, exempt from public haunt,  
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing.*

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE,  
*AS YOU LIKE IT*

## ADVERTISING

.....

*Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it.*

STEPHEN LEACOCK

*I do not read advertisements — I would spend all my time wanting things.*

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

*The Devil comes along with something the natural man wants, and he paints the town red to let them know he is coming. The church comes along with something the natural man doesn't want, and thousands of pastors seem to think a mere announcement of the project from the pulpit is quite enough.*

W. E. BIEDERWOLF

*Very old indeed is advertising. The rainbow in the clouds, according to Scripture, was one of the early advertisements. It promised that men should not be destroyed by a flood again. In that advertisement, brilliant in color, magnified in size, Supreme Power announced the fact that that particular flood was to be the last flood.*

ARTHUR BRISBANE

## ADVICE

.....

*In those days he was wiser than he is now — he used frequently to take my advice.*

WINSTON CHURCHILL

*I not only use all the brains I have but all I can borrow.*

WOODROW WILSON

*A good scare is worth more to a man than good advice.*

E. W. HOWE

*It takes a great man to give sound advice tactfully, but a greater to accept it graciously.*

J. C. MACAULAY

*Don't follow any advice, no matter how good, until you feel as deeply in your spirit as you think in your mind that the counsel is wise.*

DAVID SEABURY

*In his own gentle, procrastinating way, Dr. George Harris did much as president of Amherst College, but the unpleasant duties of such a post he neglected or ignored. He was not really opposed to work, but I never heard him say much in favor of it. One autumn he rose in chapel to address the students at the first assembly of the year, but after three or four sentences he got tired and, breaking into a happy smile, said: "I intended to give you some advice, but now I remember how much is left over from last year unused." With that he took his hat and walked out.*

JOHN ERSKINE,  
*THE MEMORY OF CERTAIN PERSONS*

**ADVOCATE**

.....

*There is an old ploughman in the country I sometimes talk with, and he often says, though in uncouth words, some precious things. He said to me one day, "The other day, sir, the devil was tempting me and I tried to answer him; but I found he was an old lawyer, and understood the law a great deal better than I did, so I gave over, and would not argue with him any more; so I said to him, 'What do you trouble me for?'*

*"'Why,' said he, 'about your soul.'*

*"'Oh!' said I, 'that is no business of mine; I have given my soul over into the hand of Christ; I have transferred everything to him; if you want an answer to your doubts and queries, you must apply to my Advocate.'"*

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

*Is Christ thy advocate to plead thy cause?  
Art thou His client? Such shall never slide.  
He never lost His case. . . .  
My case is bad, Lord, be my advocate.  
My sin is red: I'm under God's arrest.*

EDWARD TAYLOR

*The words the Lord Jesus used when He promised to send the Holy Spirit leave no room for the idea that He is merely a force or an impersonal influence. Jesus said, "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter" (John 14:16). The word another in the Greek means "one the same as." The Holy Spirit is the same as Christ; He is a person. The word comforter is from the Greek word paraklete, which means "one called alongside." It is the same word translated "advocate" in I John 2:1. It is a word that only makes sense if it is applied to a personal being. The Holy Spirit is our Paraclete. He is one called to aid us, to instruct us, to intercede for us. He is a person.*

G. S.

## **AFFLICTION**

.....

*Nothing can render affliction so insupportable as the load of sin. Would you then be fitted for afflictions? Be sure to get the burden of your sins laid aside, and then what affliction soever you may meet with will be very easy to you.*

JOHN BUNYAN

*If all the skies were sunshine  
Our faces would be fain  
To feel once more upon them  
The cooling splash of rain.*

HENRY VAN DYKE

*God will not permit any troubles to come upon us, unless He has a specific plan by which great blessing can come out of the difficulty.*

PETER MARSHALL

*Iron till it be thoroughly heated is incapable to be wrought; so God sees good to cast some men into the furnace of affliction, and then beats them on his anvil into what frame he pleases.*

ANNE BRADSTREET

*The Lord gets his best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction.*

CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON

*Affliction is not sent in vain, young man,  
From that good God, who chastens whom he loves.*

ROBERT SOUTHEY

*Afflictions are but the shadows of God's wings.*

GEORGE MACDONALD

*I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard  
my cry.*

PSALM 40:1

*Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the  
enemy.*

PSALM 64:1

*For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.*

PSALM 66:10

*It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy  
statutes.*

PSALM 119:71

## **AGE**

.....

*At a church social a visitor asked the pastor to guess her age. When  
he hesitated, she said, "Oh, you must have some idea."*

*"I have two ideas," he admitted. "My problem is . . . I can't decide  
whether to make you ten years younger because of your looks, or ten  
years older because of your charm."*

ANONYMOUS

*A stockbroker urged Claude Pepper to buy a stock that would triple in value every year. Pepper told him, "At my age, I don't even buy green bananas."*

CLAUDE PEPPER

*I wake up every morning at eight and grab for the morning paper. Then I look at the obituary page. If my name is not on it, I get up.*

HARRY HERSHFIELD

*Every morning a retired gentleman took a short stroll around his yard before starting his customary longer walk around several blocks. He explained to a curious neighbor, "It's the preamble to my constitution."*

ANONYMOUS

*When Somerset Maugham was recuperating from the flu an admirer called and asked, "Could I send you fruit, or would you prefer flowers?" He was eighty-eight years old. He told her, "It's too late for fruit, too early for flowers."*

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

*How can I die? I'm booked.*

GEORGE BURNS

*Age doesn't matter, unless you're cheese.*

BILL BURKE

*WIFE: Will you love me when I'm old and gray and wrinkled?  
HUSBAND: I do.*

ANONYMOUS

*Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art.*

GARSON KANIN

*Getting older is like water skiing, when you slow down, you go down.*

G. S.



*Children are a great help. They are a comfort in your old age. And they help you reach it faster, too.*

*Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust,  
If Alzheimer's don't kill ya, then Parkinson's must.*

*There are three ages to mankind, youth, middle age, and. . . . My you're looking good.*

*You can take no credit for beauty at sixteen. But if you are beautiful at sixty, it will be your soul's own doing.*

MARIE STOPES

*He's so old his blood type was discontinued.*

BILL DANA

*Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life, for which the first was made:  
Our times are in His hand  
Who saith: "A whole I planned,  
Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid!"*

ROBERT BROWNING, *RABBI BEN EZRA*

*Getting older is like riding a bicycle, if you don't keep peddling, you'll fall.*

CLAUDE PEPPER

*After being defeated in 1945, Winston Churchill was offered a dukedom by the king and the greatly coveted Order of the Garter. He remarked, "Why should I accept the Order of the Garter from His Majesty when the people have just given me the Order of the Boot?"*

WINSTON CHURCHILL

*Whatever poet, orator or sage may say of it, old age is still old age.*

SINCLAIR LEWIS

*How to tell you're getting older:*

*When your knees buckle but your belt won't*

*When everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.*

*When you bend over to tie your shoelaces and you think,*

*Is there anything else I ought to do, while I'm down here?*

*When, if you're a man, more hair grows out of your ears than on your head.*

*When a handsome man or a pretty woman passes by and you don't notice.*

*When you have so many liver spots on your hand that they look like speckled sausage.*

*And when you pray for a good prune juice harvest.*

UNKNOWN

*Age-based retirement arbitrarily severs productive persons from their livelihood, squanders their talents, scars their health, strains an already overburdened Social Security system, and drives many elderly people into poverty and despair. Ageism is as odious as racism and sexism.*

CLAUDE PEPPER

*Preparation for old age should begin not later than one's teens. A life which is empty of purpose until 65 will not suddenly become filled on retirement.*

ARTHUR MORGAN

*It's not how old you are, but how you are old.*

MARIE DRESSLER

*When David Ben-Gurion came out of retirement for the ninth time, he was asked by an American why he bothered to retire. "It's like those 'going out of business' signs you see along Seventh Avenue — a chance to unload stock he doesn't want, hire a new staff, and make a different contract with the union."*

DAVID BEN-GURION

*Age should not have its face lifted, but it should rather teach the world to admire wrinkles as the etchings of experience and the firm line of character.*

RALPH BARTON PERRY

*We are happier in many ways when we are old than when we were young. The young sow wild oats. The old grow sage.*

WINSTON CHURCHILL

*I married an archeologist because the older I grow, the more he appreciates me.*

AGATHA CHRISTIE

*Growing old isn't so bad when you consider the alternative.*

MAURICE CHEVALIER

*Life begins at 40—but so do fallen arches, rheumatism, faulty eyesight, and the tendency to tell a story to the same person, three or four times.*

BILL FEATHER

*Many foxes grow gray but few grow good.*

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

*Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older. Keep me from getting too talkative, and thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken. Make me thoughtful, but not moody, helpful, but not bossy; for Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.*

ANONYMOUS

*I've never known a person to live to be one hundred and be remarkable for anything else.*

JOSH BILLINGS

*We have no right to look for a happy old age if in our living we habitually violate physical and spiritual law. The full blessing of length of days comes to those who have known how to live, and the beauty of the years of maturity can be assured only by maintaining high standards of living.*

JANET BAIRD

*To me—old age is fifteen years older than I am.*

BERNARD MANNES BARUCH

*If a thing is old, it is a sign that it was fit to live. Old families, old customs, old styles survive because they are fit to survive. The guarantee of continuity is quality. Submerge the good in a flood of the new, and the good will come back to join the good which the new brings with it. Old-fashioned hospitality, old-fashioned politics, old-fashioned honor in business had qualities of survival. These will come back.*

ANONYMOUS

*Ah, nothing is too late,  
Till the tired heart shall cease to palpitate.*

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

*What if someone had decided that Pablo Picasso, Pablo Casals, or Michelangelo, still producing in their eighties and nineties, had “no future” when they became seventy years old?*

MARGARET C. ELWELL

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16 NKJV

*While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18