

# 100 Inspirational Quotes

"It was when I realized I needed to stop trying to be somebody else and be myself, I actually started to own, accept and love what I had." – Tracee Ellis Ross

"Love him and let him love you. Do you think anything else under heaven really matters?" – James Baldwin

"Don't settle for average. Bring your best to the moment. Then, whether it fails or succeeds, at least you know you gave all you had. We need to live the best that's in us" – Angela Bassett

"If I wait for someone else to validate my existence, it will mean that I'm shortchanging myself." – Zanele Muholi

"What I know for sure is that speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we all have." – Oprah Winfrey

"I am proud, that I found the courage to deal the initial blow to the hydra of public contempt." – Karl Heinrich Ulrichs

"If you prioritize yourself, you are going to save yourself." – Gabrielle Union

"It is absolutely imperative that every human being's freedom and human rights are respected, all over the world." – Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir

"I thrive on obstacles. If I'm told that it can't be told, then I push harder." – Issa Rae

"Equality means more than passing laws. The struggle is really won in the hearts and minds of the community, where it really counts." – Barbara Gittings

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"It's important for young people to know that they are made the way they are made and they're beautiful and that's how they're supposed to be." – Raven Simone

"Nature made a mistake, which I have corrected." – Christine Jorgensen

"My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you." – Audre Lorde

"I realized that I don't have to be perfect. All I have to do is show up and enjoy the messy, imperfect, and beautiful journey of my life." – Kerry Washington

"We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers." – Bayard Rustin

"Yes, I do have a big ego ... and I am in love with myself ... Because if you don't love yourself how can anybody love you back?" – Mel B

"When you are doing something that is right, you just do it and take care ... Someone has to do this." – Alice Nkom

"You can't be hesitant about who you are." – Viola Davis

"There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it's now okay to express ourselves publicly. We make that day by doing things publicly until it's simply the way things are." – Tammy Baldwin

"Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start." – Jason Collins

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"The richness, beauty and depths of love can only be fully experienced in a climate of complete openness, honesty and vulnerability." – Anthony Venn Brown

"It takes no compromise to give people their rights ... it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression." – Harvey Milk

"This world would be a whole lot better if we just made an effort to be less horrible to one another." – Elliot Paige

"We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference, and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity." – George Takei

"You look ridiculous if you dance. You look ridiculous if you don't dance. So you might as well dance." – Gertrude Stein

"No person is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow." – Alice Walker

"We are not what other people say we are. We are who we know ourselves to be, and we are what we love. That's okay." – Laverne Cox

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive." – Dalai Lama

"Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing we'll ever do." – Brené Brown

"The only way to survive is by taking care of one another." – Grace Lee Boggs

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"To be yourself is truly a revolutionary act, and I think more and more people should try it, because it's gotten me a pretty cool life." – Lena Waithe

"People will stare. Make it worth their while." – Harry Winston

"After a while, you learn to ignore the names people call you and just trust who you are." – Shrek

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those matter don't mind." – Dr. Seuss

"Why is it that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands?" – Ernest J. Gaines

"Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself." – Harvey Fierstein

"The beauty of standing up for your rights is others see you standing and stand up as well." – Cassandra Duffy

"Somebody, your father or mine, should have told us that not many people have ever died of love. But multitudes have perished, and are perishing every hour--and in the oddest places!--for the lack of it." – James Baldwin

"I was going to die, if not sooner, then later, whether or not I have ever spoken myself. My silence has not protected me. Your silence will not protect you." – Audre Lorde

"We're all born naked, and the rest is drag." – RuPaul

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"Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." – Audre Lorde

"We are all stronger, smarter, talented, beautiful, and more resilient than we were told." – CeCe McDonald

"Every person felt like they didn't belong, or at some point felt like they didn't need to carry on, they weren't needed. So I think it's important to show each other, "Look, we're all in this together, we all feel this way, let's work together." – Cole Ledford

"Once you've done something that you used to think was impossible, what could ever really scare you again?" – Elliot Paige

"To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance." – Oscar Wilde

"Hope will never be silent." – Harvey Milk

"To be afraid is to behave as if the truth were not true." – Bayard Rustin

"You don't have to live a lie. Living a lie will mess you up. It will send you into depression. It will warp your values." – Gilbert Baker

"I believe that telling our stories, first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act." – Janet Mock

"I've never been interested in being invisible and erased." – Laverne Cox

"The things that make us different, those are our superpowers." – Lena Waithe

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"Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it." – Maya Angelou

"I was built this way for a reason, so I'm going to use it." Simone Biles

"One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals." – Michelle Obama

"I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard. ... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back." – Malala Yousafzai

"It took me quite a long time to develop a voice, and now that I have it, I am not going to be silent." – Madeleine Albright

"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong, it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." – G.D. Anderson

"We are all artists of our own lives...We can use as many colors and brushstrokes as we like." – Oprah Winfrey

"I will not be 'famous,' 'great.' I will go on adventuring, changing, opening my mind and my eyes, refusing to be stamped and stereotyped. The thing is to free one's self: to let it find its dimensions, not be impeded." – Virginia Woolf

"Just be you, and that's going to be so much better than wishing to be anything else." – Angel Haze

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"Be an independent thinker at all times, and ignore anyone who attempts to define you in a limiting way." – Sherry Argov

"There can be no true home without liberty." – Harriet Beecher Stowe

"The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud." – Coco Chanel

"You wanna fly, you got to give up the shit that weighs you down." – Toni Morrison

"Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally. It comes from what you do consistently." – Marie Forleo

"Let children read whatever they want and then talk about it with them. If parents and kids can talk together, we won't have as much censorship because we won't have as much fear." – Judy Blume

"We were the people who were not in the papers. We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print. It gave us more freedom. We lived in the gaps between the stories." – Margaret Atwood

"The secret of happiness is freedom, the secret of freedom is courage." – Carrie Jones

"The only way we'll get freedom for ourselves is to identify ourselves with every oppressed people in the world." – Malcom X

"Those people, who hate you, envy your freedom." – Santosh Kalwar

"Education is the door to freedom." – Oprah Winfrey

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"I am a lover of truth, a worshiper of freedom, a celebrant at the altar of language and purity and tolerance." – Stephen Fry

"Your judgments about another person say more about your own character than the character of the person you're pointing a finger at." – Alaric Hutchinson

"There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved." – George Sand

"If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore." – Michelle Ruiz

"There will always be enemies. Time to stop being your own." – Larry Kramer

"The day we stop resisting our instincts, we'll have learned how to live." – Federico Garcia Lorca

"Some people say you are going the wrong way, when it's simply a way of your own." – Angelina Jolie

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Life-fulfilling work is never about the money – when you feel true passion for something, you instinctively find ways to nurture it." – Eileen Fisher

"There's no better time than now to be who you are." – Boy George

"Don't let anyone define you. You define yourself." – Billie Jean King

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"Love is never wrong." – Melissa Etheridge

"Sometimes people try to destroy you, precisely because they recognize your power - not because they don't see it, but because they see it and they don't want it to exist." – Janet Mock

"Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways it can change someone else's life forever." – Margaret Cho

"Sometimes in life you don't always feel like a winner, but that doesn't mean you're not a winner." – Lady Gaga

"To not have any hope is where things start to get really bleak. Things are possible. The impossible can be possible." – Sarah Paulson

"So many people are concerned with being the perfect 'something.' Whether it's the perfect singer, the perfect sexy girl, or the perfect feminist. I don't want to be the perfect anything." – Halsey

"If you feel like there's something out there that you're supposed to be doing, if you have a passion for it, then stop wishing and just do it." – Wanda Sykes

"I will not have my life narrowed down. I will not bow down to somebody else's whim or to someone else's ignorance." – Alice Walker

"I'm just someone who cannot fake it. I can only do something with my full heart invested or just not do it at all." – Amanda Stenberg

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"I know it sounds new age-y, but what I've truly come up with is that you really need to trust that you're on your own path, as long as you stay true to it and you show up, which is 99% of it." – Jane Lynch

"Silence kills the soul. It diminishes its possibilities to rise and fly and explore. Silence withers what makes you human. The soul shrinks, until it's nothing." – Marlon Riggs

"With ignorance comes fear- from fear comes bigotry. Education is the key to acceptance." – Kathleen Patel

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt

"The most violent element in society is ignorance." – Emma Goldman

"Soon the day will come when science will win victory over error, justice a victory over injustice, and human love a victory over human hatred and ignorance." – Magnus Hirschfeld

"I changed the past by walking back into it." – Sapphire

"You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead, pursue the things you love doing, and do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you." – Maya Angelou

"It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not." – Andre Gide