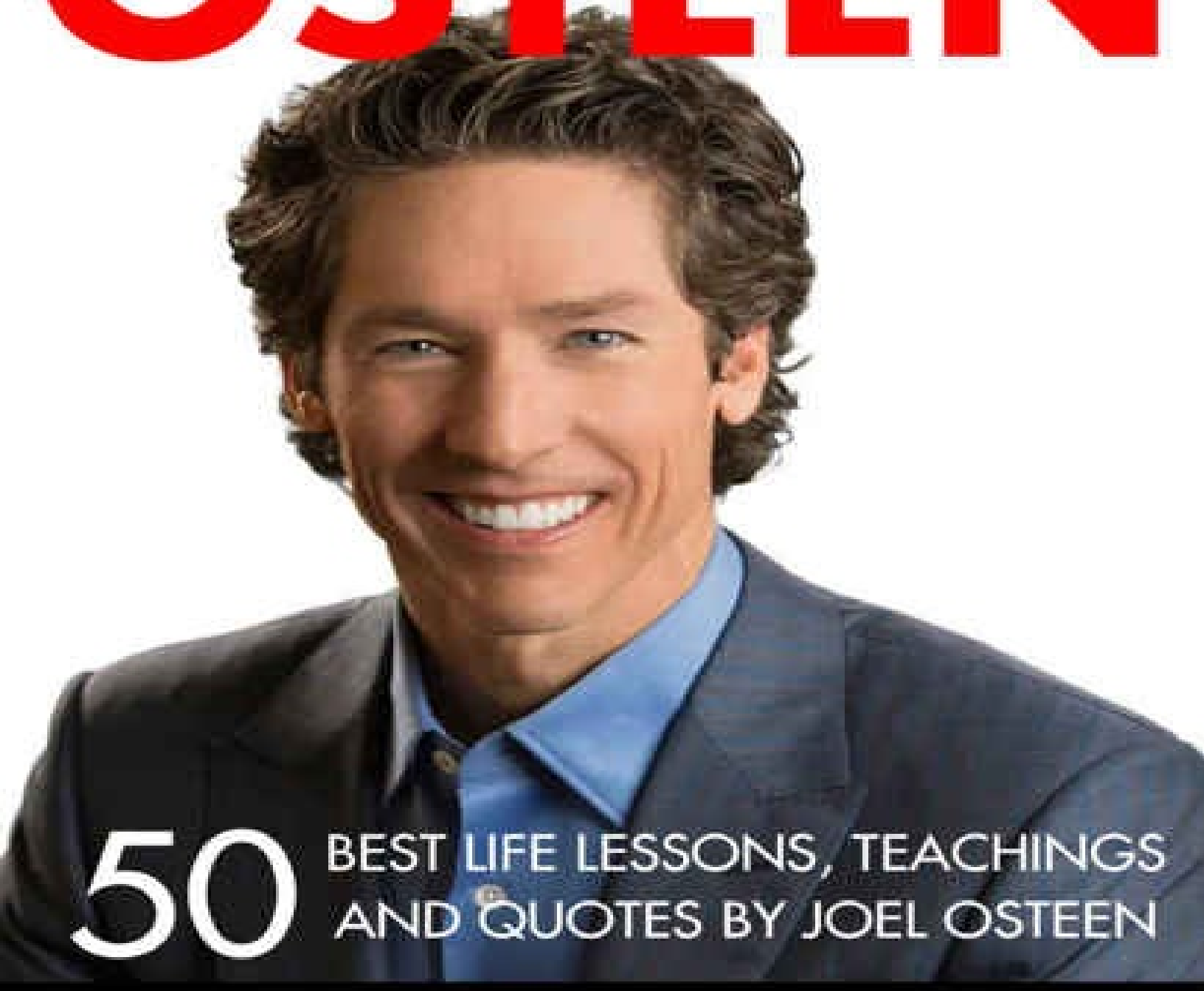
JOEL OSTEEN



50 BEST LIFE LESSONS, TEACHINGS AND QUOTES BY JOEL OSTEEN

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Joel Osteen:

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Table of contents

Introduction

Chapter 1 – The Forgiveness of Sin

Chapter 2 – Put Your Faith in God, Not Your Fears

Chapter 3 – Give Him Your Best

Chapter 4 – Work Out Your Own Salvation

Chapter 5 – Living Righteously

Conclusion – The Power of I Am

Top 50 Inspirational Joel Olsteen quotes:

Introduction

Joel Olsteen first started his career in front of the camera as a televangelist in early 1999 after his father, senior pastor at the Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, had passed away from a heart attack.

He spent many years in production and post production behind the scenes of his father's ministry yet never would speak, due to an extreme shyness. He conquered this personal hang up to minister to the fastest growing church in the United States and became an international star as well.

His approach to his sermons appeal to many because of his laid-back style as well as his interjection of personal stories to illustrate the scripture he espouses. His choice to focus every sermon on the positive versus the negative aspects of life gives his followers a sense of peace after every service.

Chapter 1 – The Forgiveness of Sin

One of the first lessons that Joel Olsteen shows his audience, is that God Himself, is a comforting God and not one of fire and brimstone that many preachers have previously alluded to.

Joel tells his audience that whenever a person makes the choice to consciously seek out Jesus, every past infraction is wiped clean. His God is a God of love and benevolence as he forgives past transgressions to love the sinner so to speak.

Above all, Olsteen prides his ministry on putting his belief in the fact that each and every person is redeemable and worthy of God's love.

He quotes the Bible frequently, saying that “The angels in heaven rejoice when one person turns away from sin and turns to Jesus.” In his ministry he does this as well.

He encourages his entire congregation to also motivate others by inviting friends and family to services, and they too should rejoice when another person comes to the Lord versus staying in the darkness of sin.

In quoting Jeremiah 29:11 he says, “I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Olsteen takes this passage and applies the practical aspects of it to his ministry, seeing the individual in an attempt to follow that prescribed path becoming weary, so a key component in his plan to touch others' lives is to inspire that hope. In this case, the first lesson to learn is to forgive.

As God forgives us our trespasses and sins, every person should be given equal footing and the opportunity to grow within the church as well, despite any past transgressions.

Another way that Olsteen's ministry program is vastly different is the welcoming atmosphere of the church.

This welcoming attitude and the willingness of every member of the congregation to forgive any previous transgressions has allowed it to grow exponentially and turn into a mega church.

The power to bring people of different races, social classes, and backgrounds

together is a true testament to the power of divine forgiveness.

Olsteen preaches that one should always take the time to witness to friends, family, neighbors, or even strangers because one should always remember they may indeed be entertaining angels.

One person has the power to effect multitudes as exemplified by his own leadership.

At the end of every single broadcast and sermon, he offers a simple prayer to those in attendance to accept the Lord into his or her heart and by just saying that one prayer the slate is essentially wiped clean as this concept of divine forgiveness lets one start a new path.

The goal then is to pay that forward and encourage others to do the same while leading a righteous life by example, always striving to forgive the trespasses of others and forgive yourself as well.

We are humans prone to sin as it's our nature, but by trusting in the Lord's guidance and grace, we will be saved.

Chapter 2 – Put Your Faith in God, Not Your Fears

A key aspect of Olsteen's sermons relies on the concept of faith. When he opens his broadcasts, he will normally tell a story where a person has lost faithfulness in God for whatever reason, be it an addiction, a series of accidents, a hopeless situation financially, etc.; then at the end of the story the faithful person, just by relying on that faith and fellowship with God, finds a way to claim blessings that the Lord has set before them, only to succeed in their situation and rise above challenges to become better than before.

Olsteen says, “Do not put your faith in your fears. Believe that God is in control, believe that He's taking care of you and believe that good things are in store.”

Even when the situation looks dire, he stresses the importance of maintaining faith in the impossible because through God all things are possible. He also says that we unconsciously give power to things when we put belief into them.

So essentially when a person fills their mind with doubts and worry, they are doing nothing more than to empower those doubts and worries to take over their lives, versus allowing for the power of faith and positive thinking to take over and influence their lives.

When the people he speaks about in his anecdotes decided to put their worries to rest and give all of their problems to God, therefore letting go of those subconscious negative thoughts, the power of the positive begins to make changes in their lives.

For this lesson, Joel Olsteen often likes to cite the Biblical parable of David and Goliath.

Despite being doubted by his family and friends when attempting to defeat the enemy, the supposedly insurmountable Giant, David does not listen listen to them.

Instead he trusts in himself and doesn't give a voice to his fear. By conquering this fear and putting faith and trust in something higher than the odds stacked against him, he defeats the enemy, thus showing that his faith was stronger than any force on earth.

By having faith that his God would give him strength to meet the challenge of the Giant, he proved that one man's faith alone is strong enough to change the

entire playing field of the universe.

Olsteen equates this with having enough courage and faith in God to overcome every day life challenges as well.

He encourages his followers to quiet the negative voice in their head which tells them repeatedly that will not land that promotion, or being to beat that addiction, or pay that bill.

He merely says, to flip the negative thinking and make it positive. Such positive incantations such as, “God, I know that I don't have much experience, but I know you have a plan for me with this new job,” or “God, I know I am stronger than this addiction,” can give rise to that positive thinking which can be used as a force to combat the doubt left in all of us by our enemies, both physical and spiritual.

Trust is the second element in that equation. Faith is one thing, in the belief that everything will work out for the positive, but trust is another.

By placing this trust in the Lord, you will put the outcomes of certain events into the Lord's hands.

In the examples Olsteen sites, in both personal realms, and the events of David and Goliath, the outcome of any event could have a serious impact on an individual's day to day life, but by depositing that truth and faithfulness in God and affirming it through daily prayer and affirmations, the outcome will be positive.

Chapter 3 – Give Him Your Best

In this area, Joel Olsteen also lives by example. When he first got in front of the cameras, after many years of being in production and post-production, he only made one promise: that he would do his best.

By trusting in God, accentuating the positive, and just doing his very best, he managed to preach sermons that not only captured the attention of the small congregation, but grew the church into a mega church, with multitudes in attendance.

He focuses on Matthew 2:11 to illustrate this point as well. He speaks about the wise men , “going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then opening their treasure bags, they presented to Him gifts-- gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

The point of this particular lesson is to always give your best as the wise men did. They recognized the holiness of spirit the child had, so they did their best to honor him, not necessarily with things, they just happened to have treasures to give, but they gave the best of those they had.

In giving it shows a humility and an opening to receive grace. Olsteen believes that when we open ourselves up and give everything we have in terms of faithfulness and presence to the Lord, he in turn will open up doors and avenues once thought impossible in our lives.

It is in this humbleness of giving our best, and also having a giving heart and spirit, where we can truly find and know God.

The recognition of the divine is another area that Olsteen focuses on. In his teachings, he emphasizes that we must recognize the divinity in both others and ourselves to gain all of God's abundance and favor.

He sees us as being an extension of God, so therefore God has a plan in store for each and every single person.

By looking for the good in others we often will discover the good within ourselves. In recognizing that good, we will accentuate the positive and claim all the rewards that the Lord has in store for us.

The concept of worship and the wise men falling to their knees is an area in

which Olsteen doesn't specifically state one must be on their knees to pray, he merely interprets this as being humble and expressing gratitude for receipt of blessings.

In the spirit of gratitude, one therefore is open to receiving even more favor. When a friend or family member sees these favors and questions the rewards received, Olsteen says to give the glory and honor to God that way the friend or family member may also start becoming more open to that grace as well.

It is the expression of gratitude and openness to announce and receive this grace that is what is truly meant in terms of worship, not bowing down to anyone or anything.

Chapter 4 – Work Out Your Own Salvation

This lesson explores how God works both within and as an external force to provide one with blessings and salvation when accepted into a person's heart and mind. Olsteen examines the meaning of Philippians 2:12 which states, “...work out your own salvation...”

He postulates that when one accepts Jesus as Lord of your life, there will be some immediate changes that the Lord will provide as a blessing or favor.

The Lord provides this almost as proof that acceptance will change a person's life for the favorable.

An example of this would be a hard working person who has worked for a company for many years toiling away at a lower position and being repeatedly rejected for a promotion because he or she was content to toil away in that position and watch others succeed.

The person, then one day decides to accept God into their life, and suddenly their whole outlook in life changes, they feel empowered by the divinity they have accepted into them and suddenly they get that promotion they worked long and hard to receive.

After this immediate wave of changes, then a person must actively work with the Lord to ensure this continued salvation. There will be times of stress, strife, and of course obstacles.

An example of this would be a person who worked long and hard to battle and addiction. Upon receiving the Lord's favor the person then has the strength to beat the addiction.

The key though is maintenance. In maintaining this relationship with God, one will have the courage to face these obstacles. The person who was battling the addiction may then have a relapse.

When that relapse occurs, it is up to the person who is working to fight the addiction to stay strong and seek help if necessary to combat the addiction once more and not to relapse.

It is this constant push and pull of right versus wrong and being steadfast in an unsteady world that is the challenge.

If one fully accepts the Lord, however, they will be lent the strength to persevere through any of these challenges and serve as an example to others.

It is this oneness with God that allows the individual to not only meet life's challenges, but also receive a certain kind of grace as well.

In receiving that grace and good favor from the Lord, they will often times be sought out by other people, like moths attracted to a flame.

Everyone inherently wants to be around a happy or fortunate person in hopes of feeling some of that warmth.

The second part of working for one's own salvation is not only living the fellowship with the Lord in the everyday world filled with challenges, but also providing a light and a source of hope for those seeking that same grace.

When these blessings are talked about and shared with others needing solace, or just perhaps needing someone to be their comfort during times of their own personal storms, it allows the afflicted person a chance to see what the restorative powers the Lord has and how God can change their own life for the better as well.

When seeing a person continuing to make these strides in their personal lives and make those connections with other people to guide them onto a path in which they will encounter the Lord as well, God will then continually bless those who seek Him and and pursue this righteousness not just for themselves, but for others as well.

Meaning when works with the Lord, one will get their own salvation by maintaining and sharing that relationship.

Even if there is failure along the path, as the world is filled with stumbling blocks, the Lord will still continue to provide that support of blessings and enrichment if He is called upon and the effort is made to maintain righteous, as God wants everyone to succeed in their quest for peace and happiness.

Olsteen even says, “God will use the obstacles in your path, the stumbling blocks that would hold you back, as stepping stones instead.

He will use them to take you to a higher level.” This means basically that those obstacles will draw you nearer to God in an attempt to maintain that level of righteousness necessary to remain in His grace.

By accentuating the positive and maintaining this strength one can also overcome these obstacles. Olsteen says that, “Just as our faith can work in the

right direction, it can also work in the wrong direction.

Don't meditate on the problem. Mediate on God's promises instead!” It is with this meditation on the promises that the Lord provides that will grant an individual the strength necessary to overcome any stumbling block placed before them, as the example previously mentioned with addiction and the recovery process along with a potential relapse situation.

By meditating on the good and having a constant stream of positive thinking those situations can be subverted and the Lord's blessings can be received and shared.

Chapter 5 – Living Righteously

Another key concept in Olsteen's ministry is the concept that God rewards the righteous. In living righteously, Olsteen cites Isaiah 26:7 which states, “The path of the righteous is level; O upright One, You make the way of the righteous smooth.”

Olsteen boils this down to the basics with saying that living righteously is simply following God's ways.

Some may even interpret that as following the golden rule. In being mindful of God's ways, one should have a deeper connection with God, therefore opening the door and allowing for more of God's divine intervention in their own life.

So in following that path, the path of goodness and Godliness, the Lord will make that path smooth, often times removing those stumbling blocks before they will have an opportunity to get in the way of destiny. I It is easy in life to say one is righteous, but actions do speak louder than words. When action is called for it is also critical that one who seeks the Lord and seeks to live righteously must do so in their actions as well.

For example, that person who is struggling with addiction can say they are faithful or trusting in the Lord's strength to help them fight their ailment, however their actions will prove not righteous, should they backside in attesting to that faith and relapsing into addiction once again.

Another example would be a person who claims to be righteous and never lie yet can be found the next day after any Sunday service, lying to their friends and family about various things in life, such as their social status, financial situation, or personal relationships.

In living righteously, Olsteen believes that this will put a person in tune with the Lord so to speak.

When a person has those obstacles removed from their path by living righteously, they are free then to speak the gospel so to speak, about how the Lord has helped them to make positive changes in their life.

Joel Olsteen also exemplifies this. He remained steadfast and unwavering in his faith, even after his father died, and allowed the Lord to work through him and provide him with the strength necessary to speak in front of the congregation and

take his father's place.

He lived by example and therefore his congregation grew.

He let the Lord's blessings flow through him instead of giving up on his dreams and shutting down when he arrived at difficulties and provided an entire nation with an example of good faith to look up to.

Conclusion – The Power of I Am

Joel Olsteen is known for his positive messages and feelings of hope he transfers to his congregation every Sunday. He has written many best-selling books also, and he believes the key his success has been the power of I am.

Olsteen believes that words have power, just as much power as action or feelings and by speaking them, one can speak things into existence while being in tune with God.

He uses that power of I am approach in life and has inspired millions to do the same. He believes he is blessed, so therefore he is blessed. In the beginning of every telecast he does, he also makes it a point to tell his audience, while holding up his Bible as a testament to his faith that he is what it says he is and he can do anything the Lord says he can do.

It is that constant I am attitude that not only launched his career but provided for his family through hard times as well.

With that being said, some of Joel Olsteen's more positive messages are ones that inspire others to have a communion with God and take command of that positive energy in their daily existence, to accomplish feats no one would think possible and overcome obstacles with the help of the Lord's blessings to find a more peaceful life with God.

Top 50 Inspirational Joel Olsteen quotes:

1. “You’re going to go through tough times – that’s life. But I say, ‘Nothing happens to you, it happens for you.’ See the positive in negative events.” – **Joel Osteen 2.** “I believe if you keep your faith, you keep your trust, you keep the right attitude, if you’re grateful, you’ll see God open up new doors.” – **Joel Osteen 3.** “Don’t go into the new year holding a grudge from last year. Leave the hurts and disappointments behind.” – **Joel Osteen 4.** You have to come to your closed doors before you get to your open doors… What if you knew you had to go through 32 closed doors before you got to your open door? Well, then you’d come to closed door number eight and you’d think, ‘Great, I got another one out of the way’… Keep moving forward. – **Joel Osteen 5.** “Life’s too short to spend it trying to keep others happy. You can’t please everyone. To fulfill your destiny, stay true to your heart.” – **Joel Osteen 6.** “Nothing in life has happened to you. It’s happened for you. Every disappointment. Every wrong. Even every closed door has helped make you into who you are.” – **Joel Osteen 7.** “God would not have put a dream in your heart if He had not already given you everything you need to fulfill it.” – **Joel Osteen 8.** “If you have your health, if you have people in your life to love, you are blessed. Slow down and enjoy the simple things in life.” – **Joel Osteen 9.** “Start believing today that things are going to change for the better. Your best days are still out in front of you.” – **Joel Osteen 10.** “See, when you drive home today, you’ve got a big windshield on the front of your car. And you’ve got a little bitty rearview mirror. And the reason the windshield is so large and the rearview mirror is so small is because what’s happened in your past is not near as important as what’s in your future.” – **Joel Osteen 11.** “The more you talk about negative things in your life, the more you call them in. Speak victory not defeat.” – **Joel Osteen 12.** “You cannot hang out with negative people and expect to live a positive life.” – **Joel Osteen 13.** “Stones of judgment, discouragement or doubt may be thrown at you. You can’t stop them, but you can make the choice to keep your walls up and not let them affect you.” – **Joel Osteen 14.** “If you want success, if you want wisdom, if you want to be prosperous and healthy, you’re going to have to do more than meditate and believe; you must boldly declare words of faith and victory over yourself and your family.” – **Joel Osteen 15.** “It may look like the difficulty is

going to defeat you. But you need to keep telling yourself, “This sickness can’t take my life.” “This cancer can’t defeat me.” “No bad break, no disappointment, no accident can shorten one second of my divine destiny.” – **Joel Osteen 16.** “Don’t live worried, frustrated or upset because of what somebody did or what didn’t work out. Come back to a place of peace. It’s not going to work against you; it’s going to work for you.” – **Joel Osteen 17.** “Every day we have plenty of opportunities to get angry, stressed or offended. But what you’re doing when you indulge these negative emotions is giving something outside yourself power over your happiness. You can choose to not let little things upset you.” – **Joel Osteen 18.** “You can change your world by changing your words… Remember, death and life are in the power of the tongue.” – **Joel Osteen 19.** “When you go through enough dark places, you don’t complain about little things. You don’t lose your joy because you got stuck in traffic; you don’t get offended because a coworker was rude to you. You’ve been through too much to let that sour you.” – **Joel Osteen 20.** “No matter what’s happening, choose to be happy. Don’t focus on what’s wrong. Find something positive in your life. Thank God for the small things.” – **Joel Osteen 21.** “Don’t waste your energy trying to convince people to understand you. Your time is too valuable to try to prove yourself to people.” – **Joel Osteen 22.** “Make the decision and say, “I’m not letting that worry in. I’m done being upset when my plans don’t work out. I’m not letting that stress in.” Negative thoughts will still come to your mind, but you don’t have to let them into your spirit.” – **Joel Osteen 23.** “God will always bring the right people into your life, but you have to let the wrong people walk away.” – **Joel Osteen 24.** “Encouragement to others is something everyone can give. Somebody needs what you have to give. It may not be your money; it may be your time. It may be your listening ear. It may be your arms to encourage. It may be your smile to uplift. Who knows?” – **Joel Osteen 25.** “There is a winner in you. You were created to be successful, to accomplish your goals, to leave your mark on this generation. You have greatness in you. The key is to get it out.” – **Joel Osteen**

26. “Don’t make excuses, don’t blame the past. The rest of your life can be the best of your life!” – **Joel Osteen 27.** “It’s easy to get negative because you get beat down. You go through a few disappointments and it’s easy to stay in that negative frame of mind. Choosing to be positive and having a grateful attitude is a whole cliche, but your attitude is going to determine how you’re going to live your life.” – **Joel Osteen 28.** “There may be times when you just have to love people from a distance.” – **Joel Osteen 29.** “You’re not really free until you’re

free from trying to please everybody." – **Joel Osteen 30.** "Don't settle in the land of barely enough. That is where you are, it is not who you are. That's your location, it's not your identity. No matter what it looks like, have an abundant mentality." – **Joel Osteen 31.** "Hard times may have held you down, but they will not last forever. When all is said and done, you will be better off than before." – **Joel Osteen 32.** "No matter how dark and gloomy it looks in your life right now, if you'll release the weight of those burdens, you will see the sun break forth." – **Joel Osteen 33.** "You must make a decision that you are going to move on. It wont happen automatically. You will have to rise up and say, 'I don't care how hard this is, I don't care how disappointed I am, I'm not going to let this get the best of me. I'm moving on with my life." – **Joel Osteen 34.** "Keep in mind, hurting people often hurt other people as a result of their own pain. If somebody is rude and inconsiderate, you can almost be certain that they have some unresolved issues inside. They have some major problems, anger, resentment, or some heartache they are trying to cope with or overcome. The last thing they need is for you to make matters worse by responding angrily." – **Joel Osteen 35.** "When the negative thoughts come – and they will; they come to all of us – it's not enough to just not dwell on it… You've got to replace it with a positive thought." – **Joel Osteen 36.** "If one dream dies, dream another dream. If you get knocked down, get back up and go again." – **Joel Osteen 37.** "Friend, there's no greater investment in life than in being a people builder. Relationships are more important than our accomplishments." – **Joel Osteen 38.** "Do all you can to make your dreams come true." – **Joel Osteen 39.** "I wouldn't ever say if you're having tough times then there must be something wrong with you or your attitude. Life's a fight. It's a good fight of faith. I encourage people to stay up, stay hopeful, stay faith-filled." – **Joel Osteen 40.** "Quit worrying about how everything is going to turn out. Live one day at a time; better yet, make the most of this moment. It's good to have a big – picture outlook, to set goals, to establish budgets and make plans, but if you're always living in the future, you're never really enjoying the present in the way God wants you to." – **Joel Osteen 41.** "Sometimes we look back and 10 years from now we think, 'Boy, those were great old days.' Well, you know, we're living in the good old days." – **Joel Osteen 42.** "You were not created to just get by with an average, unrewarding, or unfulfilling life. God created you to leave your mark on this generation." – **Joel Osteen 43.** "Indeed, it is as important to learn how to receive a blessing as it is to be willing to give one." – **Joel Osteen 44.** "You will never change what you tolerate." – **Joel Osteen 45.** "If we're going to bring out the best in people, we, too, need to sow seeds of encouragement." – **Joel Osteen 46.** "We may get knocked down on the outside, but the key to living in victory is to

learn how to get up on the inside." – **Joel Osteen 47.** "The question is not, 'Do you have a problem?' The question is, 'Does the problem have you?'" – **Joel Osteen 48.** "Don't just accept whatever comes your way in life. You were born to win; you were born for greatness; you were created to be a champion in life." – **Joel Osteen 49.** "Keep in mind, just because you don't know the answer doesn't mean that one does not exist. You simply haven't discovered it yet." – **Joel Osteen 50.** "In difficult times, we're not supposed to quit believing; we're not supposed to quit growing." – **Joel Osteen**