



Quotes About Belief

A select collection of more than 300 citations (32 pages) about belief—some pithy others sesquipedalian (characterized by long words; long-winded), some profound others profane, some will undoubtedly raise your ire while others are bound to inspire...

Belief consists in accepting the affirmations of the soul; unbelief, in denying them.

— George Eliot

Man is made by his belief. As he believes, so he is.

— Bhagavad Gita

Miracles happen to those who believe in them.

— Bernard Berenson

The whole conviction of my life now rests upon the belief that loneliness, far from being a rare and curious phenomenon, peculiar to myself and to a few other solitary men, is the central and inevitable fact of human existence.

— Thomas Jefferson

A nation can assume that the addition of the words under God to its pledge of allegiance gives evidence that its citizens actually believe in God whereas all it really proves is that they believe in believing in God.

— Huston

I believe in human dignity as the source of national purpose, human liberty as the source of national action, the human heart as the source of national compassion, and in the human mind as the source of our invention and our ideas.

— John Fitzgerald Kennedy

One person with a belief is equal to ninety-nine who have only interests.
— John Stuart

The existence of any pure race with special endowments is a myth, as is the belief that there are races all of whose members are foredoomed to eternal inferiority
— Franz Boas

We believed in our idea— a family park where parents and children could have fun—together.
— Walt Disney

To believe in men is the first step toward helping them
— Galileo Galilei

You are always a valuable, worthwhile human being, not because anybody says so, not because you're successful, not because you make a lot of money, but because you decide to believe it and for no other reason.
— Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

When you develop yourself to the point where your belief in yourself is so strong that you know you can accomplish anything you put your mind to, your future will be unlimited.
— Brian Tracy

If you think you're a second-class citizen, you are.
— Ted Turner

Strong beliefs win strong men, and then make them stronger.
— Richard Bach

Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.
— Mary Kay Ash

If you believe that discrimination exists, it will.
— Anthony J. D'Angelo

There are no limitations to the mind except those we acknowledge; both poverty and riches are the offspring of thought.
— Napoleon Hill

Sincere friendship towards God, in all who believe him to be properly an intelligent, willing being, does most apparently, directly, and strongly incline to prayer; and it no less disposes the heart strongly to desire to have our infinitely glorious and gracious Friend expressing his mind to us by his word, that we may know it.

— Jonathan Edwards

Deep down, beneath all our insecurities, beneath all our hopes for and beliefs in equality, each of us believes we're better than anyone else. Because it's our beliefs that are right, our doubts that are allowable ones, our fears which are legitimate

— Audrey Beth Stein

The reason man may become the master of his own destiny is because he has the power to influence his own subconscious mind.

— Napoleon Hill

So if you have a dream then just believe that you can achieve it no matter what. Even when you can't feel deep in your heart any words of encouragement, just believe in your dream and your heart will finally show you the way.

— Shuchi Gupta

Believe while others are doubting.

— William Arthur Ward

Believing in yourself is not for you; it's for every person who has touched your life in a significant way and for every person your life will touch the same way five minutes from now, or five centuries from now.

— Jaye Miller

You have to believe in yourself, that's the secret. Even when I was in the orphanage, when I was roaming the street trying to find enough to eat, even then I thought of myself as the greatest actor in the world.

— Charlie Chaplin

A belief has been created, because your subconscious mind could easily accept what your conscious mind told it.

— Anita Foley

It is not so much what you believe in that matters, as the way in which you believe it and proceed to translate that belief into action.

— Lin Yutang

You are in charge of your feelings, beliefs, and actions. And you teach others how to behave toward you. While you cannot change other people, you can influence them through your own behaviors and actions. By being a living role model of what you want to receive from others, you create more of what you want in your life.

— Eric Allenbaugh

I believe that nothing in life is unimportant.

— John McLeod

Self-confidence and a belief in yourself is a must. To instill confidence in others, you first must have confidence in yourself.

— Byron & Catherine Pulsifer

Your self-beliefs either support or undermine you.

— Marsha Sinetar

Changing your negative beliefs is the first step in the transformation process that will really make a difference in your life.

— Anita Foley

I believe that life is a journey, often difficult and sometimes incredibly cruel, but we are well equipped for it if only we tap into our talents and gifts and allow them to blossom.

— Les Brown

If you feel inferior to someone else, it is because of your own beliefs.

— Catherine Pulsifer

By Changing Your Thinking,

You change your beliefs...

— Author Unknown

When our self-confidence is low we sometimes tend to believe what others think of us. We do not have the confidence in ourselves to believe otherwise.

— Catherine Pulsifer

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

— John Stuart Mill

When men destroy their old gods they will find new ones to take their place.
— Pearl S. Buck

Don't let go of your dreams. If you have determination and belief in your dreams, you will succeed in spite of your desire to let go.
— Catherine Pulsifer

A firm belief in yourself is all that is needed to alter your life. No one except you alone can change your life.
— M. K. Soni

One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important.
— Bertrand Russell

These people— and all winners— possess the will to win. It's a will that starts with a belief in our ability to achieve the goals we dream of accomplishing.
— Dare2BU

Today, many will rise above their believed limitations and make contact with their powerful innate strength. Why not you?
— Steve Maraboli

My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.
— Jim Valvano

I believed that anything was possible, or at least because I didn't put together everyone else's 'facts' and believe that winning was impossible.
— Yanni

What do I believe? As an American I believe in generosity, in liberty, in the rights of man. These are social and political faiths that are part of me, as they are, I suppose, part of all of us. Such beliefs are easy to express. But part of me too is my relation to all life, my religion. And this is not so easy to talk about. Religious experience is highly intimate and, for me, ready words are not at hand.
— Adlai E. Stevenson

There are two ways to slide easily through life: to believe everything or to doubt everything; both ways save us from thinking.
— Alfred Korzybski

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.

— Anatole France

Believe those who are seeking the truth; doubt those who find it.

— Andre Gide

In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery and death.

— Anne Frank

What a man believes upon grossly insufficient evidence is an index into his desires— desires of which he himself is often unconscious. If a man is offered a fact, which goes against his instincts, he will scrutinize it closely, and unless the evidence is overwhelming, he will refuse to believe it. If, on the other hand, he is offered something, which affords a reason for acting in accordance to his instincts, he will accept it even on the slightest evidence. The origin of myths is explained in this way.

— Bertrand Russell

Believe nothing just because a so-called wise person said it. Believe nothing just because a belief is generally held. Believe nothing just because it is said in ancient books. Believe nothing just because it is said to be of divine origin. Believe nothing just because someone else believes it. Believe only what you yourself test and judge to be true.

— Buddha

Habits of thought persist through the centuries; and while a healthy brain may reject the doctrine it no longer believes, it will continue to feel the same sentiments formerly associated with that doctrine.

— Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Our subconscious minds have no sense of humor, play no jokes and cannot tell the difference between reality and an imagined thought or image. What we continually think about eventually will manifest in our lives.

— Robert Collier

Nothing is easier than self-deceit. For what each man wishes, that he also believes to be true.

— Demosthenes

The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen.

— Frank Lloyd Wright

We have become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.

— Jimmy Carter

It is not bigotry to be certain we are right; but it is bigotry to be unable to imagine how we might possibly have gone wrong.

— G. K. Chesterton

Nothing else matters much— not wealth, nor learning, nor even health without this gift: the spiritual capacity to keep zest in living. This is the creed of creeds, the final deposit and distillation of all-important faiths: that you should be able to believe in life.

— Harry Emerson Fosdick

Only barbarians are not curious about where they come from, how they came to be where they are, where they appear to be going, whether they wish to go there, and if so, why, and if not, why not.

— Isaiah Berlin

When you believe in a thing, believe in it all the way, implicitly and unquestionable.

— Walt Disney

If you must tell me your opinions, tell me what you believe in. I have plenty of doubts of my own.

— Johann Goethe

In religion and politics people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second-hand, and without examination, from authorities who have not themselves examined the questions at issue but have taken them at second-hand from other non-examiners, whose opinions about them were not worth a brass farthing.

— Mark Twain

To succeed, we must first believe that we can.

— Michael Korda

I feel no need for any other faith than my faith in the kindness of human beings. I am so absorbed in the wonder of earth and the life upon it that I

cannot think of heaven and angels.

— Pearl S. Buck

Reality is that which, when you stop believing in it, doesn't go away.

— Philip K. Dick

Belief consists in accepting the affirmations of the soul; Unbelief, in denying them.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you believe you can, you probably can. If you believe you won't, you most assuredly won't. Belief is the ignition switch that gets you off the launching pad.

— Denis Waitley

I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge— myth is more potent than history— dreams are more powerful than facts— hope always triumphs over experience— laughter is the cure for grief— love is stronger than death.

— Robert Fulghum

I always try to believe the best of everybody— it saves so much trouble.

— Rudyard Kipling

You're not free until you've been made captive by supreme belief.

— Marianne Moore

Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness, and the feeling of being especially privileged. Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies.

— Sophia Lyon Fahs

An idealist believes the short run doesn't count. A cynic believes the long run doesn't matter. A realist believes that what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run.

— Sydney J. Harris

All... religions show the same disparity between belief and practice, and each is safe till it tries to exclude the rest. Test each sect by its best or its worst, as you will, by its high-water mark of virtue or its low-water mark of vice. But falsehood begins when you measure the ebb of any other religion against the flood tide of your own. There is a noble and a base side to every

history.

— Thomas Wentworth Higginson

Never talk defeat. Use words like hope, belief, faith, victory.

— Norman Vincent Peale

As long as people believe in absurdities, they will continue to commit atrocities.

— Voltaire

Belief in a certain series of myths was neither obligatory as a part of the true religion, nor was it supposed that, by believing, a man acquired religious merit and conciliated the favour of the gods.

— William Robertson Smith

Most executives, many scientists, and almost all business school graduates believe that if you analyze data, this will give you new ideas. Unfortunately, this belief is totally wrong. The mind can only see what it is prepared to see.

— Edward de Bono

We look at the world and see what we have learned to believe is there. We have been conditioned to expect... but, as photographers, we must learn to relax our beliefs.

— Aaron Siskind

Capitalism has destroyed our belief in any effective power but that of self-interest backed by force.

— George Bernard Shaw

The certainty with which a religious belief is held is usually in direct proportion to its absurdity

— Donald Morgan

Those who believe in nothing are very, very jealous and angry at those who believe in something.

— Dennis Prager

The goal of modern propaganda is no longer to transform opinion but to arouse an active and mythical belief

— Jacques Ellul

It's an indulgence to sit in a room and discuss your beliefs as if they were a juicy piece of gossip.

— Robert A. Heinlein

Demons do not exist anymore than gods do, being only the products of the psychic activity of man

— Sigmund Freud

As a first approximation, I define belief not as the object of believing (a dogma, a program, etc.) but as the subject's investment in a proposition, the act of saying it and considering it as true.

— Thomas Carlyle

Whenever we see something that we want to create, the first thing we bump into is these beliefs (reasons) that have shaped our experience thus far. And so the battle ensues. Possibilities vs. Limitations.

— Harald Anderson

Believe that you will succeed, and you will.

— Dale Carnegie

It takes effort and belief to persevere and stay dedicated to accomplish your goal.

— Catherine Pulsifer

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy.

— Norman Vincent Peale

One needs something to believe in, something for which one can have whole-hearted enthusiasm. One needs to feel that one's life has meaning, that one is needed in this world.

— Hannah Senesh

Ignorance is preferable to error, and he is less remote from the truth who believes nothing than he who believes what is wrong.

— Thomas Jefferson

Self-efficacy beliefs differ from outcome expectations, judgments of the likely consequence [that] behavior will produce.

— Albert Bandura

We believe no evil till the evil's done.

— Jean de La Fontaine

In any culture, subculture, or family in which belief is valued above thought, and self-surrender is valued above self-expression, and conformity is valued above integrity, those who preserve their self-esteem are likely to be heroic exceptions

— Nathaniel Branden

When belief in a god dies, the god dies

— Harlan Ellison

I believe that you as an individual possess much more than you ever tap into. This may be in the form of wisdom, skills, beliefs, strengths, intuition, ability, and gifts.

— Wendy Hearn

If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning.

— Mahatma Gandhi

If you believe in what you are doing, then let nothing hold you up in your work. Much of the best work of the world has been done against seeming impossibilities. The thing is to get the work done.

— Dale Carnegie

At that time, I started to collect quotes. I discovered that certain quotes made me stop and think; they made me challenge my beliefs, while others gave me hope.

— Catherine Pulsifer

Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe.

— Gail Devers

The lack of belief is a defect that ought to be concealed when it cannot be overcome.

— Lillian Smith

A man must be both stupid and uncharitable who believes there is no virtue or truth but on his own side.

— Joseph Addison

Why? Because I believe I will. If you believe, then you hang on. If you believe, it means you've got imagination, you don't need stuff thrown out for you in a blueprint, you don't face facts-what can stop you?

— Ruth Gordon

Need is not quite belief.

— Anne Sexton

I know this now. Every man gives his life for what he believes. Every woman gives her life for what she believes. Sometimes people believe in little or nothing yet they give their lives to that little or nothing. One life is all we have and we live it as we believe in living it, and then it's gone. But to surrender what you are, and live without belief— that's more terrible than dying— more terrible than dying young.

— Maxwell Anderson

Credulity is belief in slight evidence, with no evidence, or against evidence

— Tryon Edwards

Nothing is so firmly believed as that which we least know.

— Michel de Montaigne

I can believe anything provided it is incredible.

— Oscar Wilde

The belief that becomes truth for me— is that which allows me the best use of my strength, the best means of putting my virtues into action

— Andre Gide

Since the masses are always eager to believe something, for their benefit nothing is so easy to arrange as facts.

— Charles M. de Talleyrand

All business proceeds on beliefs, or judgments of probabilities, and not on certainties.

— Charles W. Eliot

There are two objectionable types of believers: those who believe the incredible and those who believe that 'belief' must be discarded and replaced by 'the scientific method.

— Max Born

The price of seeking to force our beliefs on others is that someday they might force their beliefs on us.

— Mario Cuomo

A belief is not true because it is useful.

— Henri Frederic Amiel

The greatest thing about this man is he's steady. You know where he stands. He believes the same thing Wednesday that he believed on Monday, no matter what happened Tuesday. Events can change; this man's beliefs never will.

— Stephen Colbert

The belief in some being who can be the judge of all human matters is a very comfortable one—all wrongs will be righted and all rights will be rewarded.

— Eli Khamarov

An official man is always an official man, and he has a wild belief in the value of reports.

— Arthur Helps

The brute necessity of believing something so long as life lasts does not justify any belief in particular.

— George Santayana

When our vices quit us, we flatter ourselves with the belief that it is we who quit them.

— François de la Rochefoucauld

Myths, which are believed in, tend to become true.

— George Orwell

Does history support a belief in God? If by God we mean not the creative vitality of nature but a supreme being intelligent and benevolent, the answer must be a reluctant negative.

— Will Durant

The voice of the people has been said to be the voice of God; and, however generally this maxim has been quoted and believed, it is not true to fact. The people are turbulent and changing, they seldom judge or determine right.

— Alexander Hamilton

I observe that a very large portion of the human race does not believe in God and suffers no visible punishment in consequence. And if there were a God, I think it very unlikely that he would have such an uneasy vanity as to be offended by those who doubt his existence.

— Bertrand Russell

The statesman cannot govern without stability of belief, true or false.

— George Bernard Shaw

(Nationalism is) a set of beliefs taught to each generation in which the Motherland or the Fatherland is an object of veneration and becomes a burning cause for which one becomes willing to kill the children of other Motherlands or Fatherlands.

— Howard Zinn

The outer conditions of a person's life will always be found to reflect their inner beliefs.

— James Allen

Our philosophy precedes from the belief that sport is an inalienable part of the educational process and a factor for promoting peace, friendship, cooperation and understanding among peoples.

— Juan Antonio Samaranch

With magnetism, power of uncondensed steam, gravitation, radiant energy of electric waves, equilibrium and activity of atoms, all inscrutable to human eyes, man still cries, I believe only what I can see.

— Author Unknown

America has believed that in differentiation, not in uniformity, lies the path of progress. It acted on this belief; it has advanced human happiness, and it has prospered.

— Louis D. Brandeis

Since a politician never believes what he says, he is surprised when others believe him.

— Charles de Gaulle

A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence

— David Hume

If you believe in an unseen Christ, you will believe in the unseen Christ like potential of others.

— Anthony Burgess

All wrongdoing is done in the sincere belief that it is the best thing to do

— Arnold Bennett

They were so strong in their beliefs that there came a time when it hardly mattered what exactly those beliefs were; they all fused into a single stubbornness.

— Louise Erdrich

The will to believe is perhaps the most powerful, but certainly the most dangerous human attribute.

— Author Unknown

Contrary to the vulgar belief that men are motivated primarily by materialistic considerations, we now see the capitalist system being discredited and destroyed all over the world, even though this system has given men the greatest material comforts

— Ayn Rand

Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief

— The Bible

Capitalism is the astounding belief that the most wickedest of men will do the most wickedest of things for the greatest good of everyone.

— John Maynard Keynes

Our Lord did not try to alter circumstances. He submitted to them. They shaped his life and eventually brought him to Calvary. I believe we miss opportunities and lovely secrets our Lord is waiting to teach us by not taking what comes.

— Mother Maribel

Drugs are not always necessary, but belief in recovery always is.

— Angel Cordero, Jr.

I believe in eight of the Ten Commandments; and I believe in going to church every Sunday unless there's a game on

— Steve Martin

The stupid believe that to be truthful is easy; only the artist, the great artist, knows how difficult it is.

— Willa Sibert Cather

I am tomorrow, or some future day, what I establish today. I am today what I established yesterday or some previous day.

— James Joyce

Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.

— Buddha

Believe and act as if it were impossible to fail.

— Charles F. Kettering

Every man prefers belief to the exercise of judgment.

— Seneca

Believe that with your feelings and your work you are taking part in the greatest; the more strongly you cultivate this belief, the more will reality and the world go forth from it.

— Rainer Maria Rilke

They can conquer who believe they can.

— John Dryden

I don't know if I believe in God just as much as I don't know if gravity exists. All I know is that I feel it and I couldn't explain the world without it.

— Kate Miller

A skeptic is someone who is frustrated beyond belief.

— Author Unknown

It is my belief; you cannot deal with the most serious things in the world unless you understand the most amusing.

— Winston Churchill

It is only from the belief of the goodness and wisdom of a supreme being that our calamities can be borne in the manner, which becomes a man
— Henry MacKenzie

The eloquent man is he who is no eloquent speaker, but who is inwardly drunk with a certain belief
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

You cannot divorce religious belief and public service. I've never detected any conflict between God's will and my political duty. If you violate one, you violate the other.
— Jimmy Carter

And so you see I have come to doubt
All that I once held as true
I stand alone without belief
The only truth I know is you
— Paul Simon

Believe none of what you hear and half of what you see.
— Benjamin Franklin

Belief is the death of intelligence
— Robert Anton Wilson

Man's mind is like a store of idolatry and superstition; so much so that if a man believes his own mind it is certain that he will forsake God and forge some idol in his own brain
— John Calvin

Believing as I do that man in the distant future will be a far more perfect creature than he now is, it is an intolerable thought that he and all other sentient beings are doomed to complete annihilation after such long-continued slow progress.
— Charles Darwin

One life is all we have and we live it as we believe in living it. But to sacrifice what you are and to live without belief, that is a fate more terrible than dying.
— Joan of Arc

It's the repetition of affirmations that leads to belief. And once that belief becomes a deep conviction, things begin to happen.
— Muhammad Ali

I believe because it is impossible
— Tertullian

I believe in the impossible because no one else does.
— Florence Griffith Joyner

The belief that enhanced understanding will necessarily stir a nation to action is one of mankind's oldest illusions.
— Author Unknown

He does not believe who does not live according to his belief.
— Thomas Fuller

You can find on the outside only what you possess on the inside.
— Adolfo Montiel Ballesteros

The fact that there is a general belief in a future life is no evidence of its truth.
— Clarence Darrow

You can believe in God without believing in immortality, but it is hard to see how anyone can believe in immortality and not believe in God
— Ernest Dimnet

So long as there are earnest believers in the world, they will always wish to punish opinions, even if their judgment tells them it is unwise and their conscience that it is wrong.
— Walter Bagehot

A warrior...feeds his body well; he trains it; works on it. Where he lacks knowledge, he studies. But above all he must believe. He must believe in his strength of will, of purpose, of heart and soul.
— David Gemmell

Belief is a moral act for which the believer is to be held responsible.
— Lillian Hellman

If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning.

— Mahatma Gandhi

Ignorance is the soil in which belief in miracles grows.

— Robert Green Ingersoll

Seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.

— Saint Augustine

First thing every morning before you arise say out loud, I believe, three times.

— Ovid

Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around.

— Henry David Thoreau

I would rather live my life as if there is a God and die to find out there isn't, than live my life as if there isn't and die to find out there is.

— Albert Camus.

The belief that there is only one truth, and that oneself is in possession of it, is the root of all evil in the world

— Max Born

I believe that God felt sorry for actors so he created Hollywood to give them a place in the sun and a swimming pool. The price they had to pay was to surrender their talent.

— Cedric Hardwicke

It is not disbelief that is dangerous to our society; it is belief

— George Bernard Shaw

Hope unbelieved is always considered nonsense. But hope believed is history in the process of being changed.

— Jim Wallis

One must marry one's feelings to one's beliefs and ideas. That is probably the only way to achieve a measure of harmony in one's life.

— Napoleon Hill

My belief is that to have no wants is divine
— Socrates

For those who believe, no proof is necessary. For those who don't believe,
no proof is possible.
— Stuart Chase

You can have anything you want if you will give up the belief that you can't
have it.
— Dr. Robert Anthony

I believe 'credibility' is one of the biggest issues yet to be addressed by
Internet advertisers.
— Jef I. Richards

If you believe yourself sufficiently hungry, you will eat your own thoughts.
— Frank Herbert

If we may believe our logicians, man is distinguished from all other
creatures by the faculty of laughter. He has a heart capable of mirth, and
naturally disposed to it.
— Joseph Addison

Out of our beliefs are born deeds; out of our deeds we form habits; out of
our habits grows our character; and on our character we build our destiny.
— Henry Hancock

I have a great belief in the future of my people and my country.
— Marian Anderson

There are those who believe something, and therefore will tolerate nothing;
and on the other hand, those who tolerate everything, because they believe
nothing
— Robert Browning

My own belief is that there is hardly anyone whose sexual life, if it were
broadcast, would not fill the world at large with surprise and horror.
— William Somerset Maugham

When you can get people to believe in virgin birth and resurrection of the
dead as reality— well, what can one say?
— Grace McGarvie

I believe that everything that you do bad comes back to you. So everything that I do that's bad, I'm going to suffer from it. But in my mind, I believe what I'm doing is right. So I feel like I'm going to heaven.

— Tupac Shakur

Men of integrity, by their very existence, rekindle the belief that as a people we can live above the level of moral squalor. We need that belief; a cynical community is a corrupt community.

— John W. Gardner

Confronted with the impossibility of remaining faithful to one's beliefs, and the equal impossibility of becoming free of them, one can be driven to the most inhuman excesses.

— James Arthur Baldwin

I have always noticed that deeply and truly religious persons are fond of a joke, and I am suspicious of those who aren't.

— Alfred North Whitehead

People must believe what they can, and those who believe more must not be hard upon those who believe less. I doubt if you would have believed it all yourself if you hadn't seen some of it.

— George MacDonald

Idiosyncratic belief systems, which are shared by only a few adherents, are likely to be regarded as delusional. Belief systems which may be just as irrational but which are shared by millions are called world religions. I.e. when a man suffers from delusions he is described as mad but when a million do so they belong to a world religion.

— Anthony Storr

Faith: Belief without evidence in what is told by one who speaks without knowledge, of things without parallel.

— Ambrose Bierce

The educated minority, although no longer believing in the existing religious teaching, still pretend to believe.

— Leo Nikolaevich Tolstoy

But the real secret to total gorgeousness is to believe in yourself, have self-confidence, and try to be secure in your decisions and thoughts.

— Kirsten Dunst

Belief in a cruel God makes a cruel man
— Thomas Paine

For my own part, my belief in the perfection of the Deity will not permit me to believe that a book so manifestly obscure, disorderly, and contradictory can be His work.
— Thomas Paine

Those who believe that they believe in God, but without passion in their hearts, without anguish in mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, without an element of despair even in their consolation, believe only in the God idea, not God Himself.
— Miguel de Unamuno

And above all things, never think that you're not good enough yourself. A man should never think that. My belief is that in life people will take you at your own reckoning
— Isaac Asimov

I believe that the true road to preeminent success in any line is to make yourself master of that line.
— Andrew Carnegie

I don't believe in mathematics.
— Albert Einstein

If we long to believe that the stars rise and set for us, that we are the reason there is a Universe, does science do us a disservice in deflating our conceits?
— Dr. Carl Sagan

I do not believe in God because I do not believe in Mother Goose
— Clarence Darrow

If I err in my belief that the souls of men are immortal, I err gladly, and do not wish to lose so delightful an error
— Marcus Tullius Cicero

A man must now swallow more belief than he can digest.
— Henry Brooks Adams

There is only one belief that can rob death of its sting and the grave of its victory... For without that you cannot be born again.

— George Bernard Shaw

Any belief worth having must survive doubt.

— Author Unknown

The radical novelty of modern science lies precisely in the rejection of the belief, which is at the heart of all popular religion, that the forces which move the stars and atoms are contingent upon the preferences of the human heart

— Walter Lippmann

If the United Nations is to survive, those who represent it must bolster it; those who advocate it must submit to it; and those who believe in it must fight for it.

— Norman Cousins

Thank God, I have my work, but instead of earning money by it, I need money to be able to work; that is the difficulty. I think there are no signs in my work that indicate that I shall fail. And I am not a person who works slowly or tamely. Drawing becomes a passion with me, and I throw myself into it more and more. I do not have great plans for the future; if for a moment I feel rising within me the desire for a life without care, for prosperity, each time I go fondly back to the trouble and the cares, to a life full of hardship, and think: It is better so; I learn more from it, and make progress. This is not the road on which one perishes. I only hope the trouble and the cares will not become unbearable, and I have confidence I shall succeed in earning enough to keep myself, not in luxury, but as one who eats his bread in the sweat of his brow.

— Vincent van Gogh

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

— The Bible (John 11:25)

I have always believed, and I still believe, that whatever good or bad fortune may come our way we can always give it meaning and transform it into something of value.

— Hermann Hesse

It is now life and not art that requires the willing suspension of disbelief

— Lionel Trilling

I believe in using words, not fists... I believe in my outrage knowing people are living in boxes on the street. I believe in honesty. I believe in a good time. I believe in good food. I believe in sex.

— Bertrand Russell

I believe that the very purpose of our life is to seek happiness. That is clear. Whether one believes in religion or not, whether one believes in this religion or that religion, we all are seeking something better in life. So, I think, the very motion of our life is towards happiness...

— Dalai Lama

Believe me, than in half the creeds.

— Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside of them was superior to circumstances.

— Bruce Barton

I would never die for my beliefs because I might be wrong.

— Bertrand Russell

If you wish others to believe in you, you must first convince them that you believe in them.

— Harvey MacKay

If you don't change your beliefs, your life will be like this forever. Is that good news?

— William Somerset Maugham

Men often become what they believe themselves to be. If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it. But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it even if I didn't have it in the beginning.

— Mahatma Gandhi

We should always be disposed to believe that that which appears white is really black, if the hierarchy of the Church so decides.

— Saint Ignatius of Loyola

What the British must never believe about themselves is that they are good at games, strong in adversity, but lousy in bed. It is a myth invented by jealous foreigners.

— Gerald McKnight

Toward no crimes have men shown themselves so cold-bloodedly cruel as in punishing differences of belief.

— James Russell Lowell

True love doesn't come to you; it has to be inside you.

— Julia Roberts

Tolerance implies no lack of commitment to one's own beliefs. Rather it condemns the oppression or persecution of others.

— John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Doublethink means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them.

— George Orwell

Those who believe that they are exclusively in the right are generally those who achieve something.

— Aldous Huxley

He who does not believe that God is above all is either a fool or has no experience of life.

— Author Unknown

The moment we want to believe something, we suddenly see all the arguments for it, and become blind to the arguments against it.

— George Bernard Shaw

What distinguishes the majority of men from the few is their ability to act according to their beliefs.

— Henry Miller

I believe that we should die with decency so that at least decency will survive.

— Dag Hammarskjöld

I believe in the sun when it's not shining, I believe in love even when I feel it not, I believe in God even when he is silent.

— Irish Saying

People believe what they want to believe, and I want to believe you're a smart man.

— Grim Fandango (Computer Game)

Alas, the fearful unbelief is unbelief in yourself.

— Thomas Carlyle

There's nothing that can help you understand your beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child.

— Frank A. Clark

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

— Peter Marshall

I believe that none of us ever fails at anything. Every time we create something we are successful at creation. However, we do make some poor choices about what we create.

— Author Unknown

Belief gets in the way of learning.

— Jeremy Collier

The belief in potential human virtue underlies the whole idea of the Bill of Rights; the document is a very tough guardian of that belief.

— Roger Rosenblatt

A belief is like a guillotine, just as heavy, just as light.

— David Hockney

The assumption that seeing is believing makes us susceptible to visual deceptions.

— Kathleen Hall Jamieson

The best way to know God is to love many things.

— Vincent van Gogh

Most of our so-called reasoning consists in finding arguments for going on believing as we already do.

— James Harvey Robinson

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.

— Clarence Darrow

I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use.
— Galileo Galilei

Our belief at the beginning of a doubtful undertaking is the one thing that assures the successful outcome of any venture
— William James

People do not believe lies because they have to, but because they want to.
— Malcolm Muggeridge

Learn to limit yourself; to content yourself with some definite work; dare to be what you are and learn to resign with a good grace all that you are not; and to believe in your own individuality.
— Henri Frederic Amiel

If one age believes too much it is natural that another believes too little.
— Ludwig Borne

One of the tragedies of modern times is that people have come to believe that something said by someone in the past, perhaps for illustrative or provocation purposes, actually represents that person's beliefs at the time.
— Idries Shah

Your belief in God is merely an escape from your monotonous, stupid and cruel life.
— Jiddu Krishnamurti

Believe you are defeated, believe it long enough, and it is likely to become a fact
— Norman Vincent Peale

I believe that every person is born with talent.
— Maya Angelou

Faith may be defined briefly as an illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable.
— Henry Louis Mencken

Frisbeetarianism is the belief that when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck.
— George Carlin

Within you right now is the power to do things you never dreamed possible.
This power becomes available to you just as you can change your beliefs.
— Author Unknown

Surely those who believe, and those who are Jews, and the Christians, and the Sabians, whoever believes in Allah and the Last day and does good, they shall have their reward from their Lord, and there is no fear for them, nor shall they grieve.
— Quran (c. 651 AD)

Finding that no religion is based on facts and cannot be true, I began to reflect what must be the condition of mankind trained from infancy to believe in error
— Robert Owen

Great things are accomplished by talented people who believe they will accomplish them.
— Warren G. Bennis

If I had believed in a God of rewards and punishments, I might have lost courage in battle
— Napoleon Bonaparte

History seems not so much a record of past events, more a catalogue of preferred beliefs expounded by people who have a vested interest.
— Author Unknown

Envy comes from people's ignorance of, or lack of belief in, their own gifts
— Jean Vanier

Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact
— William James

Some believe all that parents, tutors, and kindred believe. They take their principles by inheritance, and defend them as they would their estates, because they are born heirs to them.
— Alan Watts

Your chances of success in any undertaking can always be measured by your belief in yourself.
— Robert Collier

Human beliefs, like all other natural growths, elude the barrier of systems.
— Miguel de Unamuno

Man is a credulous animal, and must believe something; in the absence of good grounds for belief, he will be satisfied with bad ones.
— Bertrand Russell

People who cease to believe in God or goodness altogether still believe in the devil. I don't know why. No, I do indeed know why. Evil is always possible. And goodness is eternally difficult.
— Anne Rice

Just as no one can be forced into belief, so no one can be forced into unbelief
— Sigmund Freud

No matter what, ALWAYS BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. Any doubts must be put out of your mind. If you find yourself thinking something negative, figure out who it was who put that thought in your head... then acknowledge that it's not your thought, push it out of your mind, and say, I'm awesome!
— Christine Anderson

Contrary to general belief, I do not believe that friends are necessarily the people you like best; they are merely the people who got there first.
— Peter Ustinov

To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; credible we must be truthful.
— Edward R. Murrow

If there be any difference among professed believers as to the sense of Scripture, it is their duty to tolerate such difference in each other, until God shall have revealed the truth to all.
— John Milton

I believe in the immortality of the soul because I have within me immortal longings.
— Helen Keller

The constant assertion of belief is an indication of fear.
— Jiddu Krishnamurti

The belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary: men alone are quite capable of every wickedness.

— Joseph Conrad

You can't convince a believer of anything; for their belief is not based on evidence, it's based on a deep-seated need to believe.

— Dr. Carl Sagan

By believing passionately in something that still does not exist, we create it. The nonexistent is whatever we have not sufficiently desired.

— Author Unknown

It is proof of a base and low mind for one to wish to think with the masses or majority, merely because the majority is the majority. Truth does not change because it is, or is not, believed by a majority of the people.

— Giordano Bruno

Faith is not belief. Belief is passive. Faith is active.

— Edith Hamilton

You better believe there will be times in your life when you'll be feeling like a stumbling fool. So take it from me: you'll learn more from your accident than anything that you could ever learn in school.

— Billy Joel

When you heard that a mountain was moved, believe it; but when you hear that someone changed his character do not believe it

— Arabian Proverb

No one has the right to destroy another person's belief by demanding empirical evidence.

— Ann Landers

At the core of all well-founded belief, lies belief that is unfounded.

— Ludwig Wittgenstein

The greatest American superstition is a belief in facts

— Hermann Keyserling

Refusal to believe until proof is given is a rational position; denial of all outside of our own limited experience is absurd.

— Annie Besant

Belief is the death of intelligence. As soon as one believes a doctrine of any sort, or assumes certitude, one stops thinking about that aspect of existence.

— Robert Anton Wilson

If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons.

— James Thurber

Disbelief in magic can force a poor soul into believing in government and business.

— Tom Robbins

If you develop the absolute sense of certainty that powerful beliefs provide, then you can get yourself to accomplish virtually anything, including those things that other people are certain are impossible.

— William Lyon Phelps

If you believe the doctors, nothing is wholesome; if you believe the theologians, nothing is innocent; if you believe the military, nothing is safe.

— Lord Salisbury

We believe that if men have the talent to invent new machines that put men out of work, they have the talent to put those men back to work.

— John Fitzgerald Kennedy

It is the spirit of the age to believe that any fact, no matter how suspect, is superior to any imaginative exercise, no matter how true.

— Gore Vidal

To believe in God for me is to feel that there is a God, not a dead one, or a stuffed one, but a living one, who with irresistible force urges us towards more loving.

— Vincent van Gogh

I don't believe in anything and that makes me stronger than you think.

— Anne Rice

An idealist believes the short run doesn't count. A cynic believes the long run doesn't matter. A realist believes that what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run.

— Sydney J. Harris

Your belief that you can do the thing gives your thought forces their power.
— Robert Collier

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and don't lean on your own understanding. In all things acknowledge him, and he shall direct your way.
— The Bible [Proverbs 3:5, 6]

What we believe to be the motives of our conduct are usually but the pretexts for it.
— Miguel de Unamuno

BeliefBusters

**What your mind believes you WILL
achieve— always and in all ways.**