

Inspirational Quotes for Hard Times

Comforting quotes for setbacks, stress, and difficult seasons

Published January 22, 2026

A sensitive, non-cheesy set of quotes organized by hope, patience, courage, healing, and starting over. Works well for users searching support-oriented inspiration.



Hope Quotes for Dark Days

When you're tired, overwhelmed, or scared, hope doesn't have to be loud. These quotes offer steady light, small reminders that hard seasons are real, but not permanent.

▮▮ *"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness".*
— Desmond Tutu

▮▮ *"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul".*
— Emily Dickinson

▮▮ *"Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out".*
— Václav Havel

▮▮ *"Once you choose hope, anything's possible".*
— Christopher Reeve

▮▮ *"The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope".*
— Barbara Kingsolver

▮▮ *"Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today".*
— Thich Nhat Hanh

▮▮ *"I don't think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains".*
— Anne Frank

▮▮ *"Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid".*
— Frederick Buechner

▮▮ *"Hope is a waking dream".*
— Aristotle

▮▮ *"Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise".*
— Victor Hugo

▮▮ *"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind".*
— C.S. Lewis

▮▮ *"When you have exhausted all possibilities, remember this: you haven't".*
— Thomas A. Edison

Pro tip: If you're sharing a quote with someone going through a hard time, add one gentle line afterward: "I'm here with you, no pressure to respond". It keeps the message supportive, not performative.

Patience Quotes for Stress— Waiting, and Uncertainty

Hard times often include the hardest kind of work: waiting. These quotes help when progress feels slow, outcomes are unclear, or you're learning to take it one day at a time.

▮▮ *"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop".*
— Confucius

▮▮ *"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience".*
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

▮▮ *"The two most powerful warriors are patience and time".*
— Leo Tolstoy

▮▮ *"Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet".*
— Jean-Jacques Rousseau

▮▮ *"Patience is the companion of wisdom".*
— Saint Augustine

▮▮ *"He that can have patience can have what he will".*
— Benjamin Franklin

▮▮ *"Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day".*
— A.A. Milne

▮▮ *"No feeling is final".*
— Rainer Maria Rilke

▮▮ *"They also serve who only stand and wait".*
— John Milton

▮▮ *"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished".*
— Lao Tzu

▮▮ *"Patience is not passive, on the contrary, it is concentrated strength".*
— Bruce Lee

▮▮ *"Have patience with all things, but, first of all with yourself".*
— Saint Francis de Sales

Courage Quotes for Facing What You Can't Avoid

Some seasons ask for courage simply to show up, again and again, when you'd rather hide. These quotes are steady, non-cheesy reminders that fear can ride along without driving.

▮▮ *"If you're going through hell, keep going".*
— Winston Churchill

▮▮ *"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena".*
— Theodore Roosevelt

▮▮ *"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it".*
— Nelson Mandela

▮▮ *"You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them".*
— Maya Angelou

▮▮ *"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear".*
— Mark Twain

▮▮ *"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage".*
— Anaïs Nin

▮▮ *"Do not pray for an easy life, pray for the strength to endure a difficult one".*
— Bruce Lee

▮▮ *"What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?"*
— Vincent van Gogh

▮▮ *"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'"*
— Mary Anne Radmacher

▮▮ *"Fortune favors the bold".*
— Virgil

▮▮ *"Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it's having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome".*
— Brené Brown

▮▮ *"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face".*
— Eleanor Roosevelt

Healing Quotes for Grief— Burnout, and Emotional Recovery

Healing isn't linear, and it isn't something you "should be over" by a certain date. These quotes validate pain while pointing toward repair, softness, and steady rebuilding.

▮▮ *"There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in".*
— Leonard Cohen

▮▮ *"Turn your wounds into wisdom".*
— Oprah Winfrey

▮▮ *"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us".*
— William Wordsworth

▮▮ *"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it".*
— Helen Keller

▮▮ *"The greatest healing therapy is friendship and love".*
— Hubert H. Humphrey

▮▮ *"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you".*
— Lewis B. Smedes

▮▮ *"Feelings come and go like clouds in a windy sky. Conscious breathing is my anchor".*
— Thich Nhat Hanh

▮▮ *"Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars".*
— Khalil Gibran

▮▮ *"The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths".*
— Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

▮▮ *"The cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears or the sea".*
— Isak Dinesen

▮▮ *"The wound is the place where the Light enters you".*
— Rumi

▮▮ *"Out of difficulties grow miracles".*
— Jean de La Bruyère

Starting Over Quotes for New Beginnings After a Setback

Starting over can feel unfair, like you're rebuilding what shouldn't have broken. These quotes are for fresh pages: after loss, change, mistakes, endings, and the courage to try again.

▮▮ *"Rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life".*
— J.K. Rowling

▮▮ *"Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again. Fail again. Fail better".*
— Samuel Beckett

▮▮ *"Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat".*
— F. Scott Fitzgerald

▮▮ *"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work".*
— Thomas A. Edison

▮▮ *"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can".*
— Arthur Ashe

▮▮ *"It is never too late to be what you might have been".*
— George Eliot

▮▮ *"The beginning is the most important part of the work".*
— Plato

▮▮ *"Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forward".*
— Victor Kiam

▮▮ *"The secret of getting ahead is getting started".*
— Mark Twain

▮▮ *"It always seems impossible until it's done".*
— Nelson Mandela

▮▮ *"The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way".*
— Marcus Aurelius

▮▮ *"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts".*
— Winston Churchill

How to Use These Inspirational Quotes for Hard Times

If you're choosing a quote for yourself, pick the one that feels true today, not the one that sounds the most inspiring. If you're sharing with someone else, lead with empathy, keep it simple, and avoid "silver linings" that might minimize what they're facing.

- For a text message: Choose one short quote and add "Thinking of you today".
- For a card: Pair a hope quote with a practical offer: "I can drop off dinner this week".
- For a speech or caption: Use a courage quote, then add one personal sentence about what you're learning.