

**Articles and Sermons :: Excellent John Owen quotes****Excellent John Owen quotes - posted by theopenlife, on: 2008/8/19 21:56**

I just listened to John Piper's excellent mini-bio on John Owen. You can download the whole biography series here:

(<http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Biographies/>) Desiring God - Biographies

Now, if you haven't read Owen's "The Mortification of Sin", you are missing out on some of the best writing on sanctification there is. Dr. J. I. Packer often tells the story of how Owen's Mortification was God's means of rescuing him from suicide while under intense perfectionist influences. Here are some John Owen quotables...

"It is not the glorious battlements, the painted windows, the crouching gargoyles that support a building, but the stones that lie unseen in or upon the earth. It is often those who are despised and trampled on that bear up the weight of a whole nation."

"I will not judge a person to be spiritually dead whom I have judged formerly to have had spiritual life, though I see him at present in a swoon as to all evidences of the spiritual life. And the reason why I will not judge him so is this -- because if you judge a person dead, you neglect him, you leave him; but if you judge him in a swoon, though never so dangerous, you use all means for the retrieving of his life."

"It is not the distance of the earth from the sun, nor the sun's withdrawing itself, that makes a dark and gloomy day; but the interposition of clouds and vaporous exhalations. Neither is thy soul beyond the reach of the promise, nor does God withdraw Himself; but the vapours of thy carnal, unbelieving heart do cloud thee."

"When someone acts weak, negligent, or casual in a duty - performing it carelessly or lifelessly, without any genuine satisfaction, joy, or interest - he has already entered into the spirit that will lead him into trouble. How many we see today who have departed from warmhearted service and have become negligent, careless, and indifferent in their prayer life or in the reading of the Scriptures. For each one who escapes this peril, a hundred others will be ensnared. Then it may be too late to acknowledge, "I neglected private prayer," or "I did not meditate on God's Word," or "I did not hear what I should have listened to."

"See in the meantime that your faith brings forth obedience, and God in due time will cause it to bring forth peace."

"A minister may fill his pews, his communion roll, the mouths of the public, but what that minister is on his knees in secret before God Almighty, that he is and no more."

"Let our hearts admit, "I am poor and weak. Satan is too subtle, too cunning, too powerful; he watches constantly for advantages over my soul. The world presses in upon me with all sorts of pressures, pleas, and pretences. My own corruption is violent, tumultuous, enticing, and entangling. As it conceives sin, it wars within me and against me. Occasions and opportunities for temptation are innumerable. No wonder I do not know how deeply involved I have been with sin. Therefore, on God alone will I rely for my keeping. I will continually look to Him."

"If we do not abide in prayer, we will abide in temptation. Let this be one aspect of our daily intercession: "God, preserve my soul, and keep my heart and all its ways so that I will not be entangled." When this is true in our lives, a passing temptation will not overcome us. We will remain free while others lie in bondage."

"To believe that He will preserve us is, indeed, a means of preservation. God will certainly preserve us, and make a way

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of escape for us out of the temptation, should we fall. We are to pray for what God has already promised. Our requests are to be regulated by His promises and commands. Faith embraces the promises and so finds relief."

**Re: Excellent John Owen quotes - posted by Fuegoedios (), on: 2008/8/20 8:37**

Thanks openlife for these quotes by John Owen. I have been meaning to read his work on the mortification of sin.