

Be the Special Person You Were Meant to Be

Be someone who listens, and you will be heard.
Be someone who cares, and you will be loved.
Be someone who gives, and you will be blessed.
Be someone who comforts, and you will know peace.

Genuinely seek to understand, and you will be wise.
Be someone kind and considerate, and you will be admired.
Be someone who values truth, and you will be respected,
Take action, and you will move life forward.

Lift others higher, and your life will be rich.
Be someone filled with gratitude, and there will be no
End to the things for which you'll be thankful.

Be someone who lives with joy, with purpose, as your
Own light brightly shines. Be, in every moment, the special
Someone you are truly meant to be.

--Ralph Marson

Hold on to Your Dream

There is inside you all the potential to be
 Whatever you want to be—
All the energy to do whatever you want
 to do.
Imagine yourself as you would like to be,
 doing what you want to do.
And each day take one step toward your dream.
And though at times it may seem
 difficult to continue,
Hold on to your dream.
One morning you will awake to find that
 you are the person that you dreamed
 of being,
Doing what you want to do.
Simply because you had the courage to
 believe in your potential—
And hold on to your dream.

Dare To

When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully.
When there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light.
When there is injustice, dare to be the first to condemn it.
When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway.
When life seems to beat you down, dare to fight back.
When there seems to be no hope, dare to find some.
When you're feeling tired, dare to keep going.
When times are tough, dare to be tougher.
When love hurts you, dare to love again.
When someone is hurting, dare to help them heal.
When another is lost, dare to be the first to extend a hand.
When you cross paths with another, dare to make them smile.
When you feel great, dare to help someone else feel great too.
When the day has ended, dare to feel as you've done your best.
Dare to be the best you can.
Dare to be!

God Won't Ask

God won't ask what kind of car you drove,
But will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house,
But will ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the fancy clothes you had in your closet,
But will ask how many of those clothes helped the needy.

God won't ask about your social status,
But will ask what kind of class you displayed.

God won't ask how many material possessions you had,
But will ask if they dictated your life.

God won't ask what your job title was,
But will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself,
But will ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived,
But will ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask how many times your deeds matched your words,
But will ask how many times they didn't.

God won't ask how many friends you had,
But will ask how many people to whom you were a true friend.

When there is nothing left but God,
That is when you find out God is all you need.

--Jill Penley (modified)

You're Special

You're Special...
In all the world there's nobody like you.

OPTIONAL READINGS FOR B. MITZVAH SERVICE

Nobody has your smile, nobody has your
Eyes, nose, hair or voice.

You're Special...

No one laughs like you or cries like you.

No one sees things just as you do.

No one reacts just as you would react.

You're Special

You're the only one in all creation who has
Your set of abilities. Your unique combination
Of gifts, talents, and abilities are an original
Symphony.

You're Special...

You're rare. And in all rarity, there is great value.

You need not imitate others. You will accept and yes,

Celebrate your differences.

You're Special...

And you're beginning to see that God made you
Special for a very special purpose. God has a job
For you that no one else can do as well as you do.
Out of all the applicants only one is qualified.

That one is you.

Because you're special!

Go After Your Dreams

You're good,
but you're going to be great.
You're the best,
but you're going to get better.

Sometimes the paths we take are long and hard,
but remember: those are always the ones
that lead to the most beautiful views.

Challenges come along inevitably:
how you respond to them determines who you are
deep down inside and everything you're going to be.

Increase the chances of reaching your goals
by working at them gradually.

The very best you can do
is all that is asked of you.
Realize that you are capable of working miracles
of your own making.

Remember that opportunities have a reason
for knocking on your door,
and the right ones are there for the taking.

You don't always have to win,
but you do need to
know what it takes to be a winner.

It's up to you to find the key that unlocks
the door to a more fulfilling life.

Understand that increased difficulty brings you
nearer to the truth of how to survive it;
and get beyond it. *(continued on next page)*

Cross your bridges.
Meet your challenges.
Reach out for your dreams,

and bring them closer and closer to your heart.

Get rid of the "if only's" and get on with whatever
you need to do to get things right.

Go after what you want in life,
with all the blessings of all the people who care about you.

And find out what making your wishes
come true really feels like.

~ Collin McCarty ~

Words To Live By

It's not how much you accomplish in life
that really counts,
but how much you give to other.

It's not how high you build your dreams
that makes a difference,
but how high your faith can climb.

It's not how many goals you reach,
but how many lives you touch.

It's not who you know that matters,
but who you are inside.

Believe in the impossible,
hold tight to the incredible,
and live each day to its fullest potential.
You can make a difference
in your world.

~ Rebecca Barlow Jordan ~

May Your Future Hold Only Bright Tomorrows

Follow your heart;
Never surrender your dreams.
Constantly work toward your goals.
Believe in yourself, and always be truthful.
Take time to enjoy life's pleasures.
Keep your mind open to new experiences.
Think before acting,
But don't forget the joys of spontaneity.
Make your own decisions.
Look out for yourself, but remember
That you share this universe with others.

Look for the good in others—
Everybody has their own song to sing.
Live each moment to the fullest,
For a moment too soon becomes a memory.
Look for opportunities, not guarantees.
Hope for the best.
Give people a chance to love you,
For that is how you learn to love.
Live your life for yourself,
But always be considerate of others.
Believe in tomorrow, for it holds the key
To your continued success.

--Melissa Ososki

Believe in Yourself

Set your standards high
You deserve the best.
Try for what you want
And never settle for less.

Believe in yourself
No matter what you choose.
Keep a winning attitude
And you can never lose.

Think about your destination
But don't worry if you stray
Because the most important thing
Is what you've learned along the way.

Take all that you've become
To be all that you can be.
Soar above the clouds
And let your dreams set you free.

A Forever Friend

Sometimes in life,
You find a special friend;
Someone who changes your life
just by being part of it.
Someone who makes you laugh
Until you can't stop;
Someone who makes you believe
That there really is good in the world.
Someone who convinces you that there really is an unlocked door
Just waiting for you to open it.
This is forever friendship.

when you're down
And the world seems dark and empty,
Your forever friend lifts you up in spirit
And makes that dark and empty world
Suddenly seem bright and full.
Your forever friend gets you through
The hard times, the sad times,
And the confused times.

If you turn and walk away
Your forever friend holds your hand
And tells you that
Everything is going to be okay.
And if you find such a friend,
You feel happy and complete,
Because you need not worry.
You have a forever friend in life,
And forever has no end.

What If [for a brother]

What if I had no brother to boss me around and yell?

What if I had no brother my secrets to tell?

What if I had no brother help teach me what is right?

What if I had no brother to make up with when we fight?

I can't imagine my life without you—my friend, my protector,

A person like no other.

Thank you, God, for giving me such a wonderful brother.

What If [for a sister]

What if I had no sister to boss me around and yell?

What if I had no sister my secrets to tell?

What if I had no sister help teach me what is right?

What if I had no sister to make up with when we fight?

I can't imagine my life without you—my friend, my protector,

A person like no other.

Thank you, God, for giving me such a wonderful sister.

In This Moment in Time

Reach. Strive. And you will succeed.
Try...but don't try too hard.
Some of the best things come naturally.

Give...but don't give beyond your means,
Save some strength and some quiet time for yourself.

Question...but don't question everything.
Some problems have no answers.

Attempt...but don't try to conquer everything at once.
Go slowly, discovering and growing along the way.

Trust in doing the right thing, even if seems
Wrong at the time.

Believe in your inner strength, even if you don't feel very
Strong all the time.

Live your life and give your best, and
Try each and every day to keep in mind...
That to truly enjoy this moment, all you really need to
do is reach out for your dreams and let them reach out to you.

Take Time

Take time to work—

It is the price of success.

Take time to think—

It is the source of power.

Take time to play—

It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read—

It is the foundation of freedom.

Take time to be friendly—

It is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream—

It is hitching your wagon to a star

Take time to love and be loved—

It is the privilege of the gods.

Take time to look around—

The day is too short to be selfish

Take time to laugh—

It is the music of the soul.

[an old Irish prayer]

I Believe You Can Accomplish Anything You Choose

If you could see through my eyes,
I wonder what you'd be feeling right now,
Because I can see you standing
 as you really are—
Powerful, sensitive, determined, and gracious.
I can see you achieving everything
 you choose to achieve.
I can see you being exactly
who and what you want to be.
Look through my eyes for an instant,
and you'll see yourself
Conquering all limitations.
Look through my eyes, and see
Who you really are
and what you are capable of.
You can accomplish anything—
I know you can.

--Lea Marie Tomlyn

Nothing Means More than Family

As we grow older,
We learn that being family
Means more than being people
Who just share a last name or a family tree

Family are people who are there for each other
When times get tough, people who listen
Without judgment,
Who also want what's best for each other—
People who love beyond mistakes and care beyond distance.

Its people who seek each other out
When few others would understand.

It's the people who are always the first in our thoughts,
The last who we'd ever want to disappoint.
Family are the people we couldn't do without—

People like us...And as we grow older,
We realize just how much these
People mean in our lives
And just how much they always will.

[Renee Duvall]

Enjoy More

The more you enjoy, the more you accomplish.
Truly enjoy every moment, and you create a positive momentum that is unstoppable.

It is not success that brings happiness it is happiness that brings success.

Enjoy life, however it may be, and you open yourself to the
Very best possibilities.

The more sincerely thankful you are for what you have, the more value there is in it.

Let yourself enjoy yourself, your life, your world and all the people in it.

Enjoy, and the awesome power of gratitude comes easily and naturally.

Reality is what it is, and yet you can always choose how to respond to it.

Respond more and more with enthusiastic enjoyment and watch that reality steadily
improve.

Life is yours and it is beautiful on this day, in this place.

And we are so very grateful.

Live Each Day to the Fullest

Live each day to the fullest

Get the most from each hour, each day, and each age of your life

Then you can look forward with confidence and back without regret

Be yourself, but be your best self

Dare to be different and to follow your own star

And don't be afraid to be happy

Enjoy what is beautiful

Love with all of your heart and soul

Believe that those you love, love you

Forget what you have done for your friends

and remember what they have done for you

Disregard what the world owes you and

concentrate on what you owe the world

When you are faced with a decision, make the decision

as wisely as possible—then forget it

The moment of absolute certainty never arrives

Blessed is the generation in which the old listen to the young

And double-blessed is the generation in which the young listen to the old.

– *The Talmud*