

## **C. S. Lewis**

C. S. Lewis - writer, poet, scholar, Christian apologist, Oxford professor, and theologian – continues to be remembered as one of the most quoted and well-known authors of all time. Let's go back to look at his life and faith that inspired his writing.

### **A Life of Hardship**

Born in Belfast Ireland on Nov. 29, 1898, Clive Staples Lewis (nicknamed Jack) grew up with a deep love for reading books. Some of his favorites were Beatrix Potter stories; he had a fascination for writing and illustrating his own animal stories.

Losing his mother at an early age had a deep impact on Lewis' spiritual life. Without her wisdom and godly influence, under agnostic and atheistic education later as a teen, he eventually walked away from his faith becoming an atheist.

Through the years, he faced hardship and pain after being injured in World War One and continued his search for meaning in life. Lewis finally came back to God at age 32, greatly influenced by the inspiring writings of George MacDonald and other colleagues and friends, such as J. R. R. Tolkien, and G. K Chesterton.

As Lewis' faith grew stronger over time, his writings and work deeply touched millions of lives during World War II and the years that followed. It was then that some of his greatest work was published. It was also when, in his later years, that Lewis unexpectedly met the love of his life: American writer, Joy Davidman. The two married, yet just 4 years afterward, he lost his dear wife to cancer. She was only 45. Their love story was told through the award-winning movie *Shadowlands*.

### **Words that Bring Hope and Light**

His struggles and search for answers to life's deeper spiritual questions infused predominant themes into Lewis' writings. Many of his works center around topics such as good and evil, moral awareness, the existence of God, creation and the fall of man, grief,

purpose, and the person and gift of Jesus Christ Himself, the most important message for all of life.

Lewis authored over 30 books. Some of his greatest works include *The Chronicles of Narnia* (which introduced the famous *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*), *Mere Christianity*, *The Great Divorce*, and *The Screwtape Letters*. Even after all these years, the books of C.S. Lewis still remain in print and are more popular than ever. His ability to write in so many different genres and connect with readers of all types, ages, and religious backgrounds, reveal how much of a literary genius he really was. From children's books to science fiction, from apologetics to poetry, Lewis' skilled and inspiring words continue to bring hope and light to a dark world.

### **Inspiring Quotes of C.S. Lewis**

*"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen - not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."*

*"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."*

*"Affliction is often that thing which prepares an ordinary person for some sort of an extraordinary destiny."*

*"Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching."*

*"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."*

*"When Christ died, he died for you individually just as much as if you had been the only person in the world."*

*"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you."*

*“Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive.”*

*“Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another: 'What! You too? I thought I was the only one.'”*

*“A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell.”*

*“Prosperity knits a man to the world. He feels that he is finding his place in it, while really it is finding its place in him.”*

*“You cannot love a fellow creature fully till you love God.”*

*“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”*

*“There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”*

*“God can't give us peace and happiness apart from Himself because there is no such thing.”*

*“No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good.”*

*“Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that through you others can see Him.”*

*“Look for Christ and you will find Him. And with Him, everything else.”*

*“But, first, remember, remember the signs. Say them to yourself when you wake in the morning and when you lie down at night, and when you wake in the middle of the night. And whatever strange things may happen to you, let nothing turn your mind from following the signs.”*

And secondly, I give you a warning. Here on the mountain I have spoken to you clearly: I will not often do so down in Narnia. Here on the mountain, the air is clear and your mind is clear; as you drop down into Narnia, the air will thicken. Take great care that it does not confuse your mind. And the signs which you have learned here will not look at all as you expect them to look when you meet them there. That is why it is so important to know them by heart and pay no attention to appearances. Remember the signs and believe the signs. Nothing else matters.”