**Living**

In his hand is the life of every living thing

**and the breath of every human being.**

***(Job 12:10)***

**Maybe life’s a kind of acting, and we just pretend to be alive, until the show's over. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**It’s happening again! I'm realizing that I'm alive, and don't know what to do about it. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**"Just living is not enough," said the butterfly. "One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower." *(Hans Christian Andersen)***

**Man is born to live, not to prepare for life. (Boris Pasternak, Russian author)**

**The business of living is not to get ahead of others, but to get ahead of ourselves. (Bits & Pieces)**

**Those who cannot live fully often become destroyers of life. (Anais Nin, American author)**

**To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else. *(Emily Dickinson)***

**Researchers looked at numerous disasters, man-made or natural, to learn why some people survived when others did not. They found only one common denominator among the survivors -- a fierce determination to stay alive. They suspect this “will to live” is also the only common denominator among extremely elderly people, but they say many oldsters won't reveal enough hard data to prove the point. They are stubborn, say the researchers. Aha! Common denominator is stubbornness! (L. M. Boyd)**

**Most things get easier, the longer you do them -- Why doesn't that apply to living? (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**There are only two ways to live your life: One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle. *(Albert Einstein)***

**I envy things on which a price tag cannot be put. I envy anyone who can do a backward somersault in midair from a standing position. I envy men who have fought a war and survived it. I envy people who speak foreign languages easily. I envy performing artists who have the power to move and amuse audiences to the point where the audience wants the performance never to end. I envy people who can travel abroad with a single piece of carry-on luggage. I envy people who have good posture. Above all, I envy those few people who truly understand that life is a fragile bargain, rescindable at any time by the other party, and live their lives accordingly. *(Joseph Epstein, in American Scholar)***

**I would like all of us to live as fully as we can. The only time I really feel awful is when people have not lived a life that expressed themselves. They lived with all their “shoulds” and “oughts” and their blaming and placating and all the rest of it, and I think, “How sad.” (Virginia Satir)**

**The goal of life is living in agreement with nature*. (Zeno, 3rd century Greek philosopher)***

**To live a good life, it is not enough to remove what is wrong with it. *(Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, psychology professor)***

**We load up on oat bran in the morning so we'll live forever. Then we spend the rest of the day living like there's no tomorrow. *(Lee Iacocca)***

**It is worth living long enough to outlast whatever sense of grievance you may acquire. *(Marilynne Robinson, author)***

**Live all you can: it’s a mistake not to. *(Henry James)***

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**Life has its own hidden forces which you can only discover by living. (Soren Kierkegaard)**

**Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards. *(Soren Kierkegaard)***

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**We are not here to make a living; we are here to make a life. (W. E. Russell)**

**The aim of life is to live, and to live means to be aware, joyously, drunkenly, serenely, divinely aware. (Henry Miller)**

**Life is never so bad at its worst that it is impossible to live; it is never so good at its best that it is easy to live. (Gabriel Heatter, American radio commentator)**

**Don't get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life. *(Dolly Parton)***

**If you can spend a perfectly useless afternoon in a perfectly useless manner, you have learned how to live. *(Lin Yutang, author)***

**Some time ago, noted research expert Daniel Starch asked a sizable sampling of people what were the most valuable guiding principles in living. Several hundred rules, principles, and maxims were submitted. Nine stood out above the rest. Here they are in the order they were most frequently mentioned:**

**1. Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you.**

**2. Know thyself.**

**3. Life is what you make it.**

**4. If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.**

**5. Anything that is worth doing at all is worth doing well.**

**6. The great essentials of happiness are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.**

**7. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.**

**8. Knowledge is power.**

**9. Be calm and self-possessed, know what you are about, be sure you are right, then go ahead and don’t be afraid. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**There are a thousand thousand reasons to live this life, every one of them sufficient. *(Marilynne Robinson, novelist)***

**The president and I were talking to guests at a fund-raiser, and they're holding their smartphone cameras up. And I said to the president, "You know, the oddest thing about what's happening right now is that we've stopped living our lives, and we're just recording them." *(George Clooney, actor, in Enquire magazine)***

**May you live all the days of your life. (Jonathan Swift)**

**Life has taught me to think, but thinking has not taught me how to live. (Alexander Herzen, Russian author)**

**Your whole life passes in front of your eyes before you die. This is called living. *(Terry Pratchett, author)***

**You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough. *(Mae West, in Good Housekeeping)***

**To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all. *(Oscar Wilde)***

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