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### **DR. RALPH C. SMEDLEY QUOTES**

- The greatest speakers have usually been remarkable for the abundance of their ideas and their economy of words"
- "Learning to give a speech is important, but almost equally so is learning to listen critically, analytically, and then to give the speaker the benefit".
- "Sometimes it pays to make yourself ridiculous, just to prove that you can."
- "Fault-finding without suggestions for improvement is a waste of time."
- "Knowledge inspires self-confidence, and knowledge plus confidence will overcome fear of the audience."
- A speech without a specific purpose is like a journey without a destination.
- A story must pay its own way by contributing a thought.
- Added to these basic concepts is my conviction that the power to communicate is one of a person's greatest endowments. I believe that all civilized life grows out of that ability, and the uses made of it. I believe that the improvement of a person's ability to communicate his or her ideas is a means of improving life in all its phases, and that the progress of civilization depends on this improvement.
- All speech is for communication, and there is no possibility of communication unless people understand. Your Club can help you to find out whether you are making yourself understood.
- Circumstances always modify rules.

- Education is our business. It has been so from the beginning. I do not know just why or how I happened to hit upon the idea that adult education could be handled in a social atmosphere, entirely apart from the formal classroom and standard academic procedure; but in some way I got that notion, and I have lived to see it not only recognized, but actually used, in circles where it was frowned upon a generation ago. There was evident agreement in my mind with the thought which Shakespeare had expressed long before when he caused one of his characters to say: 'No profit grows where is no pleasure taken'.
- Faultfinding without suggestions for improvement is a waste of time. Fundamentally, I believe that the ability to communicate is a God-given talent, which ought to be used by all for the good of all. It is our privilege to help bring this talent into greater usefulness, so that it may be applied to the building of a better world, through the building of a better society made up of individuals who must act in groups. I believe that in bringing improvement in the way of "better thinking, better listening, better speaking" to individuals, we are contributing to the improvement of the society which is made up of these individuals. I like the way that Orison S. Marden phrased his conception of speech training, when he wrote; "The ability to talk well is to a man what cutting and polishing are to the rough diamond. The grinding does not add anything to the diamond. It merely reveals its wealth."
- Great is the power of the spoken word, when it is spoken in truth, by one whose life supports what he says.
- Here we are, with tremendous opportunity before us. I challenge you to get to work to bring us up to a higher level of service. Let us share with others the benefits we have gained for ourselves.
- The ability to approach an audience in [a] friendly style is partly a gift of nature, and partly a cultivated art. It is worth cultivating if you want to be as effective as possible in your speech.
- The destination determines the direction.
- The first result of speech training is self-discovery.
- The greatest speakers have usually been remarkable for the abundance of their ideas and their economy of words.
- The personal touch, in all levels of our work, is one of [Toastmasters?] distinguishing features. We are working together.
- The simple fact is that we grow or learn or work better when we enjoy what we are doing, and this is essentially the secret of success in Toastmasters. Our meetings are made enjoyable by a fine, helpful fellowship, in a pleasant, social atmosphere, with activities carefully planned.
- The Toastmasters Club which has the right sort of program does not lose its members.
- The Toastmasters Club, as I see it, is a voluntary association of people who desire to gain facility in the art of communication.

- The unprepared speaker has a right to be afraid.
- There are no absolutes in public speaking.
- These people can be encouraged to develop and use their own initiative and originality for their own improvement. It has been my privilege to share with all of them the results of my own experiences, and to try to stimulate them in using their resources.

- To the other values of Toastmasters training let us add this one, with emphasis - that it is the busy man's best chance to take a post graduate course in general information without inconvenience or loss of time.
- Toastmasters is a do-it-yourself activity? Don't be afraid to use your imagination and initiative? Listen to others and evaluate their thinking ? then form your own conclusions and speak for yourself.
- Toastmasters is based on belief in the individual? Many organizations ask the individual to subordinate himself to the group. Ours is the only organization I know that is dedicated to the individual.
- Toastmasters is learning through doing and improving through criticism.
- Understanding comes through communication, and through understanding we find the way to peace.
- We learn best in moments of enjoyment.
- We need fewer rules on detail and better understanding of general purposes.
- We realize that the two most important factors in Toastmasters is Mentoring and Evaluations, there is no doubt that if these two are done well and there is a good Mentoring program, your club will be filled with spark plugs ready to fire upon request. Mentoring and evaluations create enthusiasm, and once you light that fire the only thing it needs is some kindling.
- Whatever your grade or position, if you know how and when to speak, and when to remain silent, your chances of real success are proportionately increased.
- When you talk, you give yourself away. You reveal your true character in a picture which is more true and realistic than anything an artist can do for you.
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- You can profit by the wisdom of others, and you can give them full credit.
- Your Toastmasters club is your laboratory in which to try experiments in better communication. You can try anything once [in front of] this frank but sympathetic audience, and you can learn by listening to their comments.
- Leadership is the capacity to look ahead, think ahead, plan ahead, and then influence other people to go ahead on the plan.

