

Hab Barton

From: Barton Advisory Services, LLC <hab@bartonllc.org>
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To: Hab Barton
Subject: 2024 Quotes



Recap

The year-end newsletter is primarily just a compilation of quotes and a video of my girls. The quotes don't have to be from 2024. Neither you nor I need to agree with the quotes. These are just statements that stuck in my head for whatever reason. There is a fair amount of nepotism and even a humble brag within the list. Some quotes need some added context, so I've provided it.

Before getting to the quotes, I feel the urge to express my sense of gratitude for the prior year. I love my family more than anything, and they are healthy. That alone makes me feel like the luckiest person and makes me want to freeze time.

I love the work I get to do. Not everyone does. It's something I am thankful for every day.

Watching my girls interact with their grandparents has been a greater source of joy than I could have imagined. Annie will walk into my parent's house and scream for my mom at the top of her lungs. If you know Annie, you know she can *scream*. This is really quite rude behavior, but my parents think it's the greatest thing.

I'll never forget the look my dad gave me when I said Alice couldn't have a *third* serving of ice cream. He was in complete shock. Whoever heard of not giving a granddaughter every single thing she asks for??

My wife's parents, Honey and Bob, have taken our girls on more adventures than I can count. Some big ones, some little. Whatever it is, the kids love every minute.

One other thing I must highlight that makes me feel so grateful: my Dad and I still play tennis together. How lucky are we? It's not a given to have your Dad around much less get to work with him and play tennis with him.

And we're not just playing tennis, we are winning most of our matches. (Please by all means consider that an open challenge). When we get down in a match, one of us will say, "it's just nice to be out here." It is nice, but we both know the underlying message is, "how are we losing to *them*?? Let's go."

The list of gratitude could honestly go on forever. For now, let's get to the quotes.

2024 Quotes

Being joyful is a choice. If you have joy in your heart, be sure to let your face know.

- John Schexnaildre

Walk away.

- Paul Griffith
- Context: Paul and I were playing doubles tennis together. He hit a serve that looked to be an ace, but it was close. Rather than waiting for the opponent's call, Paul just whispered to me "walk away." In other words, if the call is close just assume it went your way and move on to the next point.
- If you want to learn tennis tactics, play with people that learned on wooden racquets. Their wisdom is endless.

People become paralyzed by fear of failure. They're constantly afraid of what others will think if they don't do a great job and as a result take no risks. My father taught me to define failure as not trying something I want to instead of not achieving the right outcome.

- Sara Blakey

You are only as happy as your least happy kid.

- Cliff Asness
- Context: extra context isn't really needed, but I find this more interesting knowing Cliff Asness is a billionaire. Sometimes we fantasize that having a certain amount of money will clear up all our problems. That is never the case, and it can often exacerbate the problems.

You can make excuses or you can live your finest life. You can't do both.

- Robin Sharma

Stocks pay a fortune in the long run yet seek punitive damages on anyone that tries to shorten the time-horizon.

- Morgan Housel

Gold flees the man who would force it to impossible earnings.

- The Richest Man in Babylon

Test the self-awareness of a finances person. Ask "will there be a recession in 2025?" Any answer that isn't a version of "I don't know" is incorrect.

- Allen Mueller

The first minute of action is worth more than a year of planning.

- James Clear

More money is lost to tax inefficiency than to market volatility.

- Harry Barton

Daddy, you got really close...but you didn't win.

- My daughter Alice Rose
- Context: I raced a 5K in October for [Maddie's Footprints](#). I finished 4th out of 550 people, missing first overall by about 15 seconds. I was thrilled with this outcome. My daughter was not. It didn't matter that she saw 545 people finish the race behind me. She wanted to know why I let 3 people finish the race ahead of me. Bartons, man.....geez!

Whenever we're not in a recession, we're heading toward one.

- Howard Marks

Clarity comes through engagement, not just reflection.

- Admired Leadership

Would I be happy with this result if no one other than me and my family could see it and if I didn't compare the results to the appearance of other people's success?

- Morgan Housel

Finish the story.

- Cody Rhodes

Daddy, you are such a great Dad!

- My daughter Annie, followed by a really tight hug

Your only fighting chance is too stubborn to quit.

- Zach Bryan

Video of the Year: Rock you like a hurricane

I thought of using a mash-up video that the iPhone can create in about 5 seconds. However, I went with a single moment captured back in February. Alice sings while Annie dances.

[Rock you like a hurricane](#)

A few more

Why are we here, reading this newsletter? It's to look at pictures of my sweet girls. Here are a few more to close out the year.





Barton Advisory Services, LLC | 341 Doucet Road | Lafayette, LA 70503 US

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