

# Gichin Funakoshi's Twenty Guiding Principles of Karate

空手道は礼に始まり  
礼に終わることを忘るな

#1 Never forget that karate begins and ends with respect.

空手に先手なし

#2 There is no first strike in karate.

空手は義の輔け

#3 Karate stands on the side of justice.

まず自己を知れ、しかして  
他を知れ

#4 First know yourself and then know others.

技術より心術

#5 Rather than physical technique, mental technique.

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心はは放たん事を要す

#6 The mind must be set free.

禍は懈怠に生ず

#7 Inattention and neglect causes misfortune.

道場のめの空手と思うな

#8 Karate goes beyond the dojo.

空手の授業は一生である

#9 Karate is a life-long pursuit.

凡ゆる物を空手化せよ、  
其処に妙味あり

#10 Apply the way of karate to all things. Therein lies its beauty.

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空手道は湯の如し、絶えず  
熱度を与えざれば元に水に戻る

#11 Karate is like boiling water: without heat, it returns to its tepid state.

活考えを待つな、負けぬ  
考えは必要

#12 Do not think of winning; rather, of not losing.

敵に因って転化せよ

#13 Respond in accordance to your opponent.

戦は虚実の操縦如何に在り

#14 Wage the battle with natural strategy.

人の手足を剣と思へ

#15 Think of the opponent's hands and feet as swords.

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男子門を出ずれば  
百万の敵あり

#16 Step out the door and you face 10,000 foes.

構は初心者には後は自然体

#17 Ready stance is for a beginner, but then rely on a natural stance.

型は正しく、実践は別物

#18 Perform kata exactly: real combat is another matter.

力の虚弱、体の伸縮、  
技の緩急を忘るな

#19 Never forget your own strengths and weakness, the limitations of your body, and the relative quality of your techniques.

常に思念工夫せよ

#20 Continuously polish your mind.