

August 23, 2025

Daily Reflections



A SACRED UNFOLDING

By Lucy Dominguez

A Quote

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

PETER BUECHNER

Reflection

This quote by Frederick Buechner has stayed with me since I first read it because it captures a universal longing: the desire to discover our purpose. We each ask, “Why am I here? Where do I belong? How am I called to serve?” Buechner points us to where our deepest joy and the world’s greatest need meet. He suggests that our purpose and where God calls us lie in that intersection.

Recently, I began meeting with a small group of moms from my son's school. We're reading *The Boy Crisis* by Warren Farrell and John Gray. Together, we've created a space to share openly our values, fears, and hopes for our sons as we long to raise them with love and purpose in a world that often feels fractured. There's a long section in the book that speaks directly about purpose, which I sat with for days. I also started asking people around me how they define purpose.

One definition that has stayed with me is from Jay Shetty, author of *Think Like a Monk*. He writes:

"Your passion is what brings you joy. Your purpose is when you use your passion in the service of others."

That made sense to me. But then I returned to Buechner and realized his definition takes us even deeper. It reminds us that there is a Caller, the living God. God's call is an invitation to listen to our lives, our stories, our experiences. Not just in the exciting peaks, but in the deep, dark valleys. And perhaps even more radically, in the quiet, monotonous days that don't feel like much of anything. God is there too.

Buechner invites us to look inward, yes, but not to stop there. We must also look outward. Look at the world in its most honest moments. Not the filtered version. But the raw one. The one on the evening news when the sound is turned off. The stories of hunger, injustice, displacement, and heartbreak.

Then ask: Where does my deep gladness touch this?

For me, purpose takes root in presence, with my son, my husband, in spiritual direction, and in creating safe spaces for honest dialogue. It is rarely tidy, but always holy. That, I believe, is how purpose unfolds: not as a perfect plan, but as a sacred unfolding.



Photo by Deva Darshan

For Pondering

Ask yourself:

- Where do I experience deep gladness in my life right now? What activities, relationships, or moments make me feel most alive and connected to God?
 - When I look honestly at the world around me—its pain, needs, and hunger—what stirs my heart? Where do I feel a nudge to respond?
 - How might God be calling me to bring my deep gladness into service of the world's deep hunger—in my family, community, or beyond?
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For Prayer

Prayer to Know God's Will

*May it please the supreme and divine Goodness
to give us all abundant grace
ever to know his most holy will
and perfectly to fulfil it.*

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

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