

Frederick Buechner

Quotes

*Jesus, Thinking, Heart, People, Believe, World, Mean, Giving, Way, Christian,
Eye, Prayer, Joy, Men, Needs, Running, Children, Hands, Book, Religious*

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

~Frederick Buechner

Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets the world's greatest need.

~Frederick Buechner

We find by losing. We hold fast by letting go. We become something new by ceasing to be something old.

~Frederick Buechner

Pay attention to the things that bring a tear to your eye or a lump in your throat because they are signs that the holy is drawing near.

~Frederick Buechner

Pay mind to your own life, your own health, and wholeness. A bleeding heart is of no help to anyone if it bleeds to death.

~Frederick Buechner

In his holy flirtation with the world, God occasionally drops a handkerchief. These handkerchiefs are called saints.

~Frederick Buechner

The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt.

~Frederick Buechner

The world says, The more you take, the more you have. Christ says, the more you give, the more you are.

~Frederick Buechner

Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be

afraid.

~Frederick Buechner

The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you.

~Frederick Buechner

Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.

~Frederick Buechner

A God in the hand is worth two in the bush.

~Frederick Buechner

Life is grace. Sleep is forgiveness. The night absolves. Darkness wipes the slate clean, not spotless to be sure, but clean enough for another day's chalking.

~Frederick Buechner

Wherever people love each other and are true to each other and take risks for each other, God is with them and for them and they are doing God's will.

~Frederick Buechner

Joy is a mystery because it can happen anywhere, anytime, even under the most unpromising circumstances, even in the midst of suffering, with tears in its eyes.

~Frederick Buechner

Even the saddest things can become, once we have made peace with them, a source of wisdom and strength.

~Frederick Buechner

What deadens us most to God's presence within us, I think, is the inner

dialogue that we are continually engaged in with ourselves, the endless chatter of human thought.

~Frederick Buechner

If you want to be holy, be kind.

~Frederick Buechner

Religion points to that area of human experience where in one way or another man comes upon mystery as a summons to pilgrimage.

~Frederick Buechner

It is not the objective proof of God's existence that we want but the experience of God's presence. That is the miracle we are really after, and that is also, I think, the miracle that we really get.

~Frederick Buechner

People are disturbed not by things but by the view they take of them. They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.

~Frederick Buechner

To confess your sins to God is not to tell [God] anything [God] doesn't already know. Until you confess them, however, they are the abyss between you. When you confess them, they become the bridge.

~Frederick Buechner

It is as impossible for man to demonstrate the existence of God as it would be for even Sherlock Holmes to demonstrate the existence of Arthur Conan Doyle.

~Frederick Buechner

Sin and grace, absence and presence, tragedy and comedy, they divide the world between them and where they meet head on, the Gospel happens.

~Frederick Buechner

Beneath our clothes, our reputations, our pretensions, beneath our religion or lack of it, we are all vulnerable both to the storm without and the storm within.

~Frederick Buechner

The birth of Jesus made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living it.

~Frederick Buechner

Jesus didn't come to merely speak words that were true, He is the Word that makes us true.

~Frederick Buechner

Faith is homesickness. Faith is a lump in the throat. Faith is less a position on than a movement toward, less a sure thing than a hunch. Faith is waiting.

~Frederick Buechner

God doesn't reveal his grand design. He reveals Himself.

~Frederick Buechner

The world needs people who save lives.

~Frederick Buechner

For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost.

~Frederick Buechner

Go where your best prayers take you.

~Frederick Buechner

the story of any one of us is in some measure the story of us all

~Frederick Buechner

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief' is the best any of us can do really, but thank God it is enough.

~Frederick Buechner

When someone we love suffers, we suffer with that person, and we would not have it otherwise, because the suffering and the love are one, just as it is with God's love for us.

~Frederick Buechner

The Jesus I follow is the peacemaker, is one who says forgive your enemies, who worries about the poor, who worries about the poorest of the poor instead of the richest of the rich.

~Frederick Buechner

Your calling is where your own greatest joy intersects with the needs of the world.

~Frederick Buechner

If you have never known the power of God's love, then maybe it is because you have never asked to know it - I mean really asked, expecting an answer.

~Frederick Buechner

Lust is the craving for salt of a man who is dying of thirst.

~Frederick Buechner

Faith is stepping out into the unknown with nothing to guide us but a hand just beyond our grasp.

~Frederick Buechner

Listen to your life. All moments are key moments.

~Frederick Buechner

Prayers out of, very often, not the most religious part of me, but the

most anxious part of me, the most desperately loving, fearing part of me.

~Frederick Buechner

Beneath the worst the world can do, there is always the glimmer of the best.

~Frederick Buechner

In other words to live Eternal Life in the full and final sense is to be with God as Christ is with him, and with each other as Christ is with us.

~Frederick Buechner

To remember the past is to see that we are here today by grace, that we have survived as a gift.

~Frederick Buechner

If the truth is worth telling, it is worth making a fool of yourself to tell it.

~Frederick Buechner

Five friends I had and two of them snakes.

~Frederick Buechner

Coincidences are God's way of getting our attention.

~Frederick Buechner

To be a saint is to be a little out of one's mind, which is a very good thing to be a little out of from time to time. It is to live a life that is always giving itself away and yet is always full.

~Frederick Buechner

Words spoken in deep love or deep hate set things in motion in the human heart that can never be reversed.

~Frederick Buechner

You can survive on your own; you can grow strong on your own; you can prevail on your own; but you cannot become human on your own.

~Frederick Buechner

Without somehow destroying me in the process, how could God reveal himself in a way that would leave no room for doubt? If there were no room for doubt, there would be no room for me.

~Frederick Buechner

If it seems a childish thing to do, do it in remembrance that you are a child.

~Frederick Buechner

Faith is the assurance that the best and holiest dream is true after all.

~Frederick Buechner

Thus, when you wake up in the morning, called by God to be a self again, if you want to know who you are, watch your feet. Because where your feet take you, that is who you are.

~Frederick Buechner

...words are not only meaning but music and magic and power.

~Frederick Buechner

One of the blunders religious people are particularly fond of making is the attempt to be more spiritual than God

~Frederick Buechner

God himself does not give answers. He gives himself.

~Frederick Buechner

Justice is the grammar of things. Mercy is the poetry of things.

~Frederick Buechner

What makes you, in the deepest sense of the word, happy? That's what you should be doing, if the other part is also met - if it is something the world needs.

~Frederick Buechner

Your life and my life flow into each other as wave flows into wave, and unless there is peace and joy and freedom for you, there can be no real peace or joy or freedom for me.

~Frederick Buechner

Maybe at the heart of all our traveling is the dream of someday, somehow, getting Home.

~Frederick Buechner

To believe in God is to give your heart to God.

~Frederick Buechner

True faith, a simple life, a helping hand- the three things prized most in Heaven.

~Frederick Buechner

You can't be too careful what you tell a child because you never know what he'll take hold of and spend the rest of his life remembering you by.

~Frederick Buechner

Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.

~Frederick Buechner

If preachers decide to preach about hope, let them preach out of what they themselves hope for.

~Frederick Buechner

A miracle is when the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. A miracle is when one plus one equals a thousand.

~Frederick Buechner

The past is the place we view the present from as much as the other way around.

~Frederick Buechner

...words are in a way our godly sharing in the work of creation, and the speaking and writing of words is at once the most human and the most holy business we engage in.

~Frederick Buechner

Despair has been called the unforgivable sin-not presumably because God refuses to forgive it, but because it despairs of the possibility of being forgiven.

~Frederick Buechner

What's lost is nothing to what's found, and all the death that ever was, set next to life, would scarcely fill a cup.

~Frederick Buechner

My story is important not because it is mine, God knows, but because if I tell it anything like right, the chances are you will recognize that in many ways it is also yours.

~Frederick Buechner

Remember me not for the ill I've done but for the good I've dreamed.

~Frederick Buechner

To be wise is to be eternally curious.

~Frederick Buechner

If we are a people who pray, darkness is apt to be a lot of what our

prayers are about. If we are people who do not pray, it is apt to be darkness in one form or another that has stopped our mouths.

~Frederick Buechner

The sacred moments, the moments of miracle, are often the everyday moments.

~Frederick Buechner

Listen. Your life is happening. You are happening. Think back on your journey. The music of your life.

~Frederick Buechner

You can never be sure whether you are discovering the truth or inventing it.

~Frederick Buechner

The trouble with really seeing and really hearing is that then we really have to do something about what we have seen and heard.

~Frederick Buechner

Don't let your life just go in one eye and out the other.

~Frederick Buechner

Theology, like fiction, is largely autobiographical.

~Frederick Buechner

It's not as if I knew answers which I am going to set down in the form of a novel or a memoir or a sermon. It's, rather, I'm going to search myself for what I might have to say in this area.

~Frederick Buechner

All other days have either disappeared into darkness and oblivion or not yet emerged from it. Today is the only day there is.

~Frederick Buechner

if you don't have doubts you're either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants-in-the-pants of faith. They keep it alive and moving.

~Frederick Buechner

For some people, going to church is going home. In a very profound sense, I would say the same thing. Home is where Christ is.

~Frederick Buechner

Grace is something you can never get but only be given.

~Frederick Buechner

We learn to praise God not by paying compliments but by paying attention.

~Frederick Buechner

At the evening of our day, we shall be judged by our loving.

~Frederick Buechner

Faith is not being sure where you're going, but going anyway.

~Frederick Buechner

It's all so verbal in the Protestant church. You've heard these words a million times before. Maybe people are leaving the church because they find the church has nothing that they're looking for.

~Frederick Buechner

A Christian isn't necessarily any nicer than anybody else, just better informed.

~Frederick Buechner

Toleration is often just indifference in disguise.

~Frederick Buechner

Don't look down on them for looking down on us. Look at them, instead,

as friends we don't know yet and who don't yet know what they are missing in not knowing us.

~Frederick Buechner

Faith in God is less apt to proceed from miracles than miracles from faith in God.

~Frederick Buechner

We have God's joy in our blood.

~Frederick Buechner

I've written a lot of autobiography, which also involved listening.

~Frederick Buechner

I'm trying to listen to my past, listen to what's most deeply going on inside myself, my creative set of fictional characters, a fictional world - to listen to that world, to search.

~Frederick Buechner

You hear as many things as you would imagine. I hear voices of people I loved once. I hear moments that took place. I hear silences.

~Frederick Buechner

To believe in Christ is to give your heart to Christ, which means not to affirm things about Christ, but it's like what you mean when you say, "I believe in my friend."

~Frederick Buechner

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