

# God's Whispers

What I See When I Listen With My Heart

by Jorge Amaya



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Sometimes, when I am out  
taking pictures, I feel like  
I catch a glimpse of  
God's Whispers.





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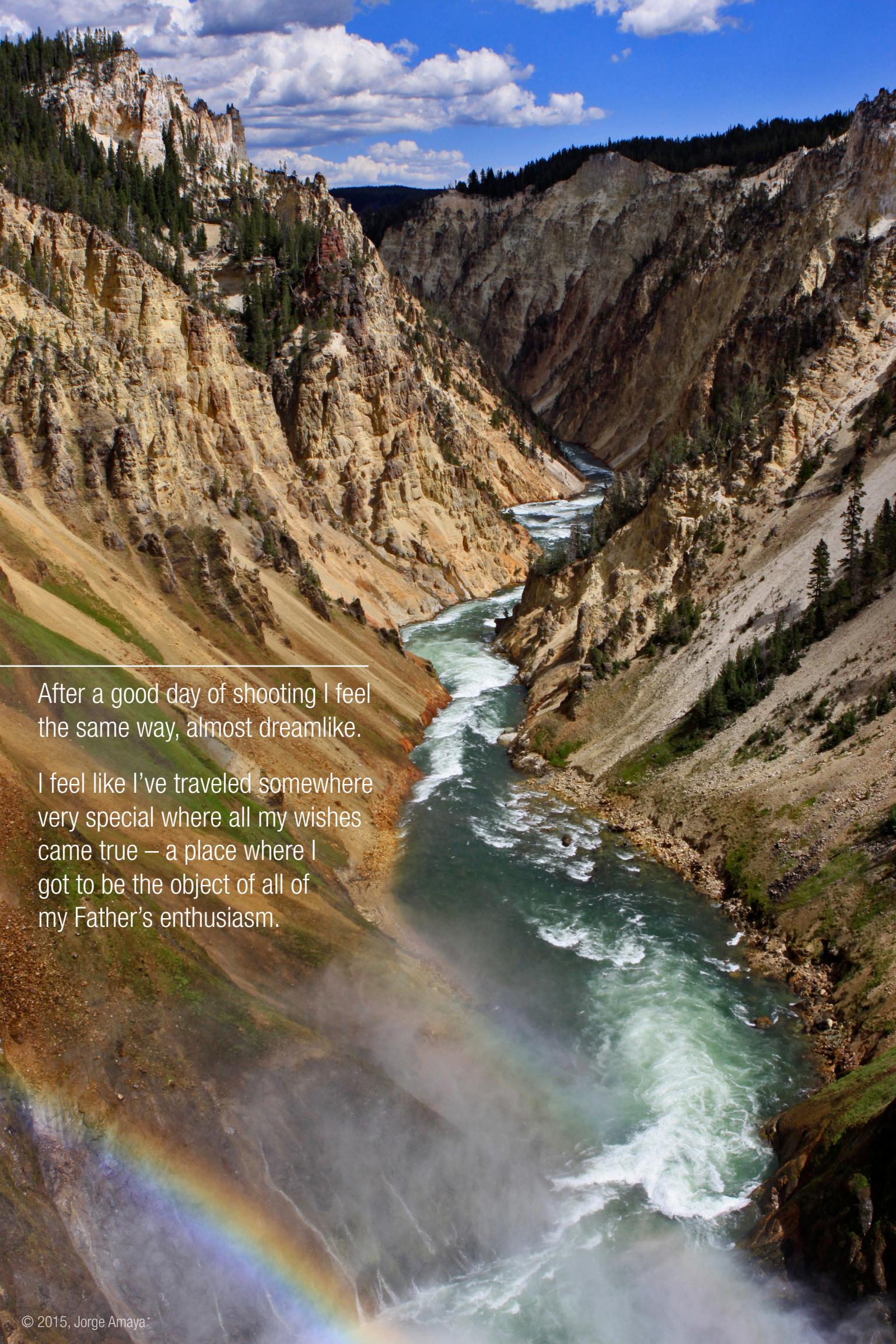
It sounds silly,  
I know.

Whenever I  
say it out loud  
I feel almost  
foolish.  
I feel like a  
child retelling  
a dream.

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I can almost hear my little boy retelling his dream: How there was candy and ice cream, and all the toys he ever wished for, and his Dad right next to him when his favorite player scored the winning run.





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After a good day of shooting I feel the same way, almost dreamlike.

I feel like I've traveled somewhere very special where all my wishes came true – a place where I got to be the object of all of my Father's enthusiasm.



I believe photography to be about  
what not to put into the picture.



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I also understand that to be  
God's lesson for us.

He created so much.

Not all of it pretty or good for us  
but He put it there anyway.



God created free choice as a gift.

It is a gift that only a parent would have invented for their children with full knowledge that their children will not always choose the parent's desired course or recommendation.

Not just between good and evil but also between blue and yellow, or engineer and mailman, or even between Christianity and Islam.



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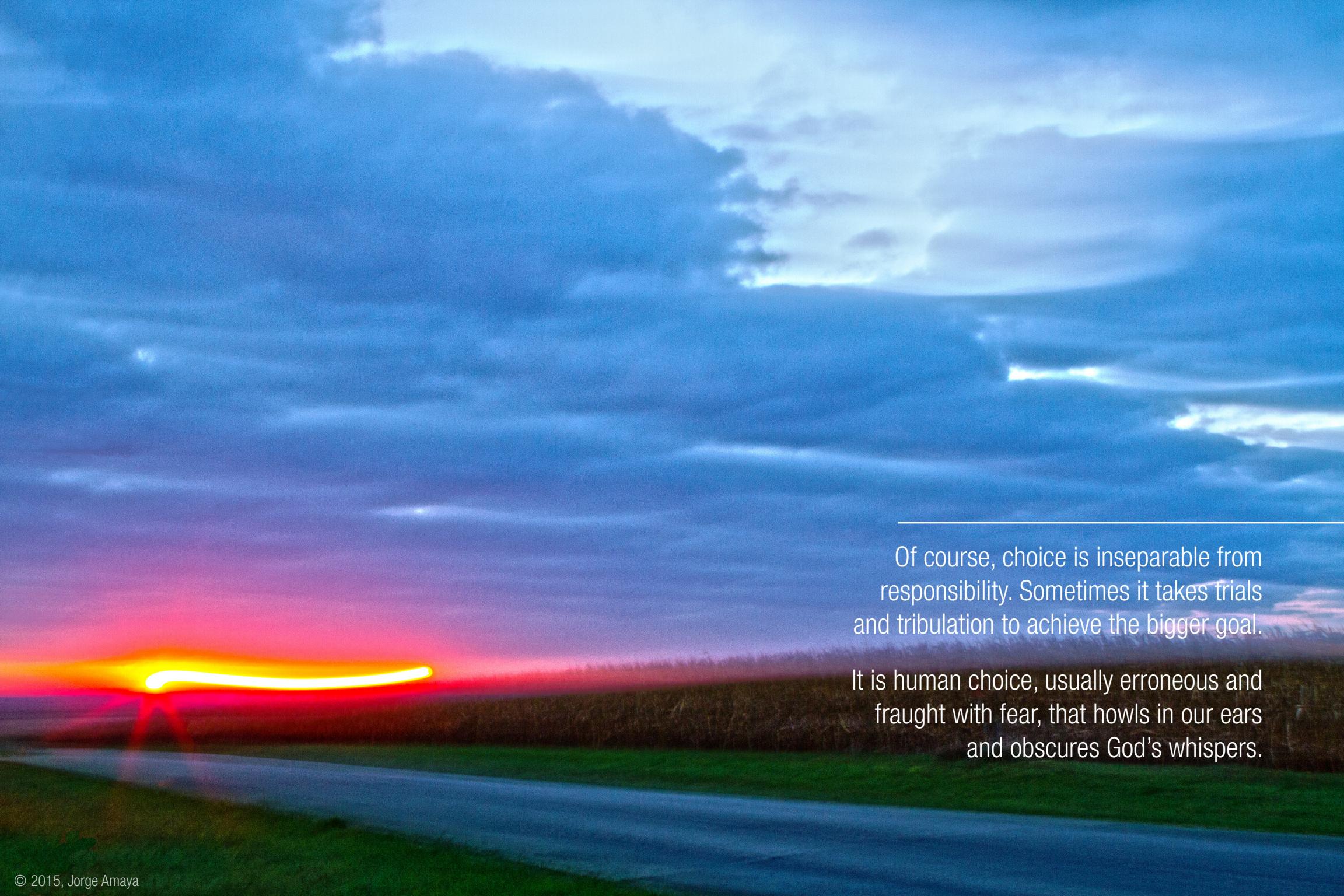
God gave us this gift of choice exactly so that we might learn for ourselves – to make us learn how to become better people all on our own.

Better even, than how He created us.

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It is a fundamental  
dilemma of  
parenthood that we  
must empower our  
children with the  
free choice to make  
mistakes in their  
lives – sometimes  
even large, crippling  
mistakes –  
so that they can  
learn to become  
better people  
all on their own.





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Of course, choice is inseparable from responsibility. Sometimes it takes trials and tribulation to achieve the bigger goal.

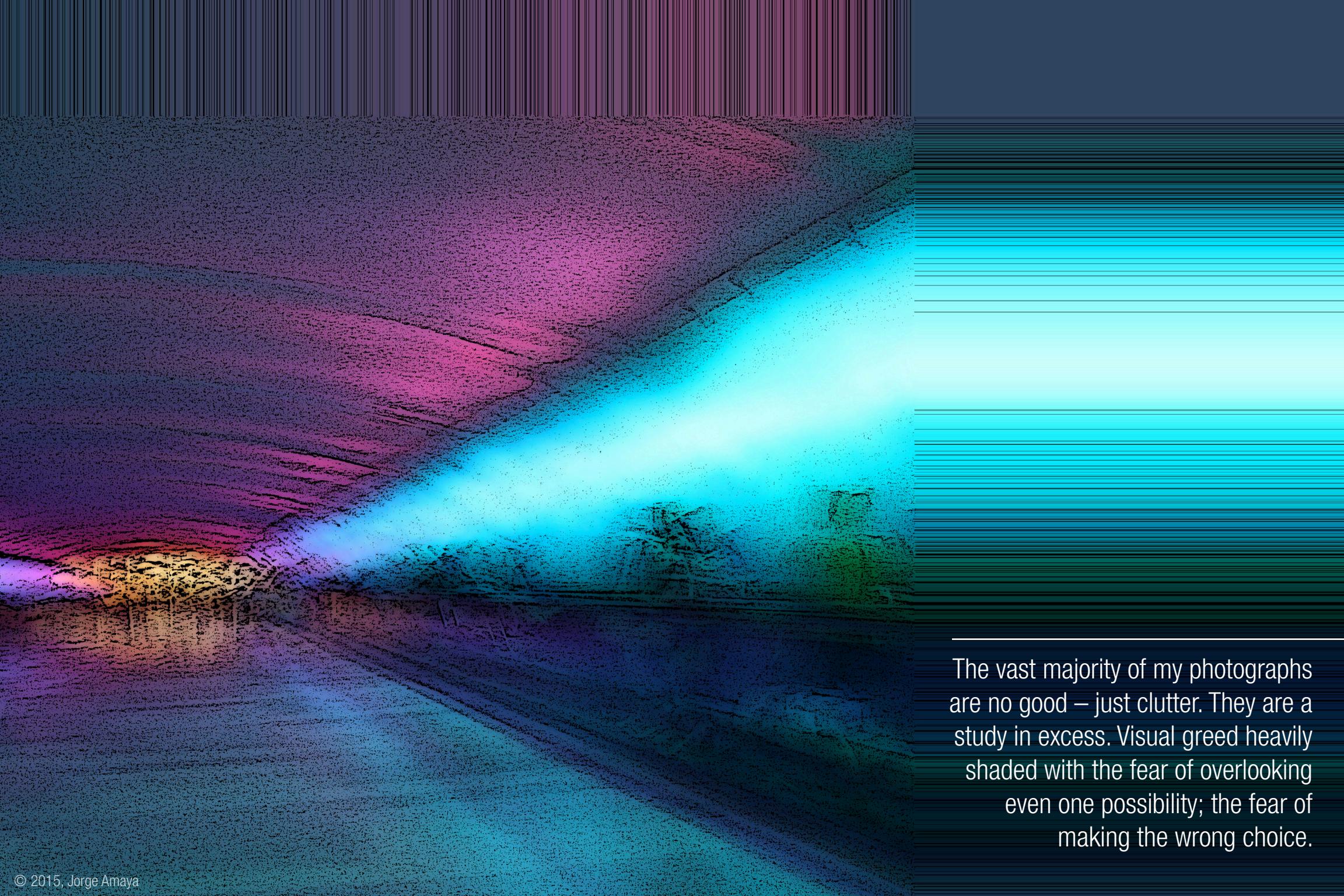
It is human choice, usually erroneous and fraught with fear, that howls in our ears and obscures God's whispers.



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It's very similar with my photography.

In God's landscape there are a multitude of shapes and colors and seasons and topography and tonal values that easily overwhelm my senses.

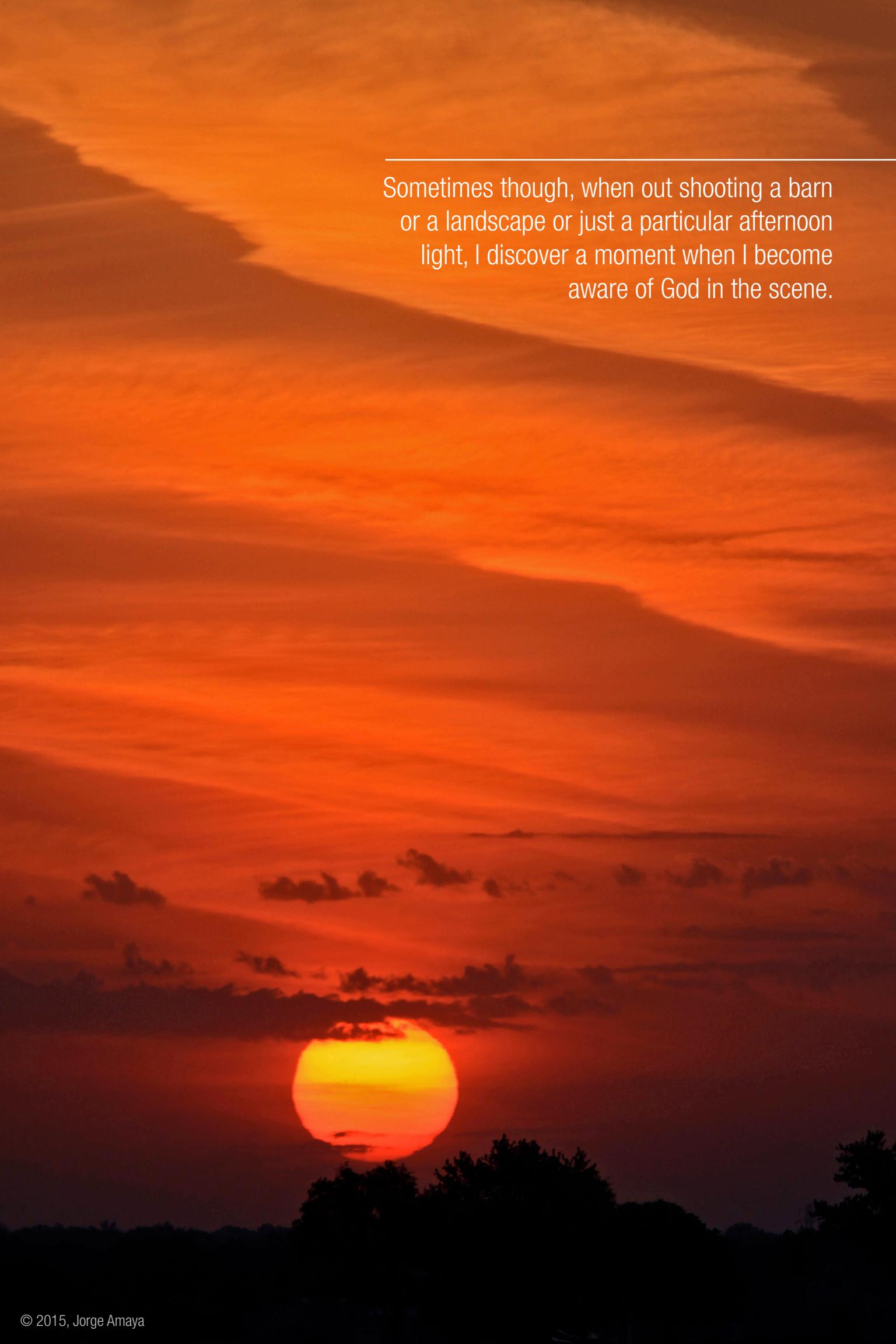


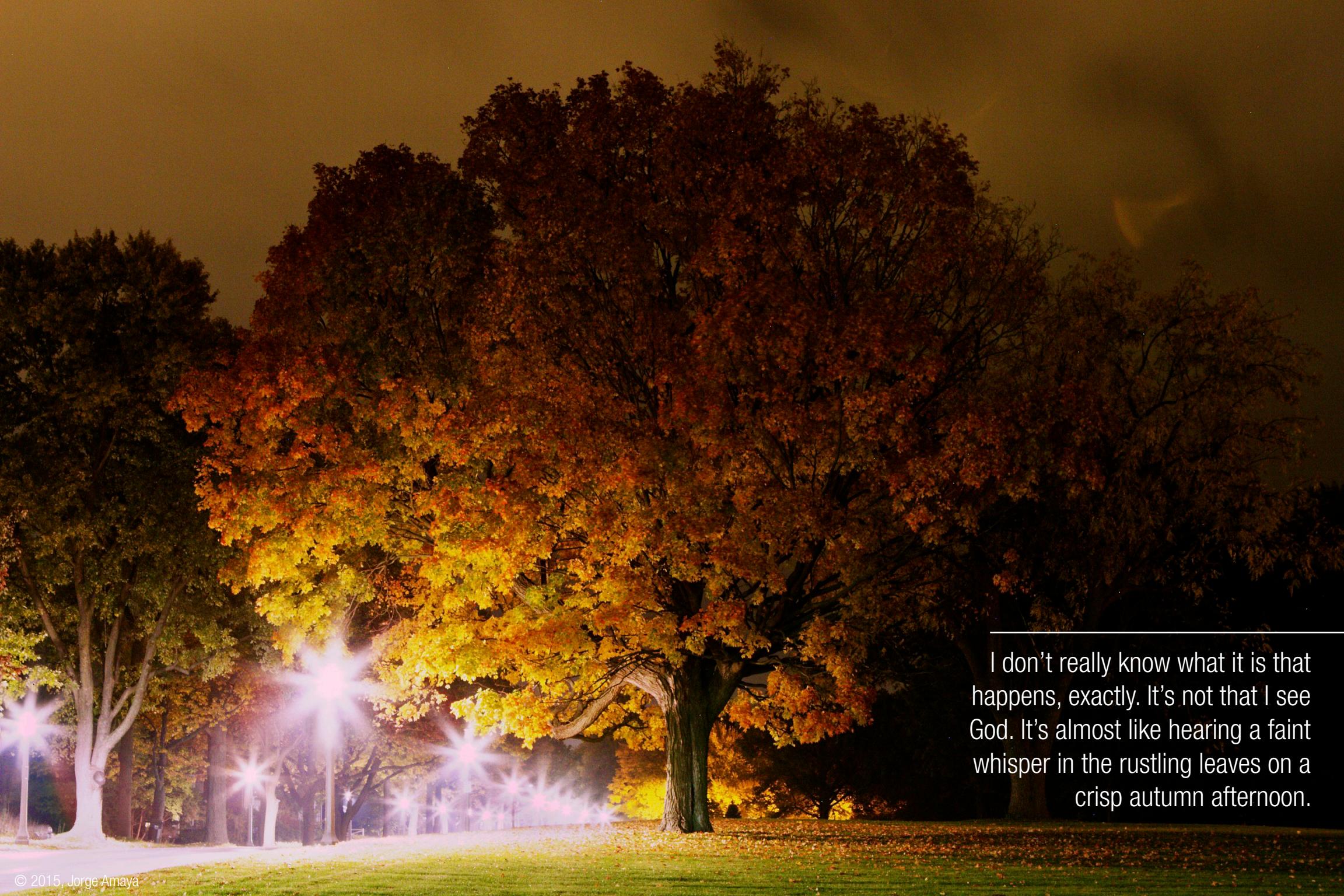
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The vast majority of my photographs are no good – just clutter. They are a study in excess. Visual greed heavily shaded with the fear of overlooking even one possibility; the fear of making the wrong choice.

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Sometimes though, when out shooting a barn or a landscape or just a particular afternoon light, I discover a moment when I become aware of God in the scene.





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I don't really know what it is that happens, exactly. It's not that I see God. It's almost like hearing a faint whisper in the rustling leaves on a crisp autumn afternoon.

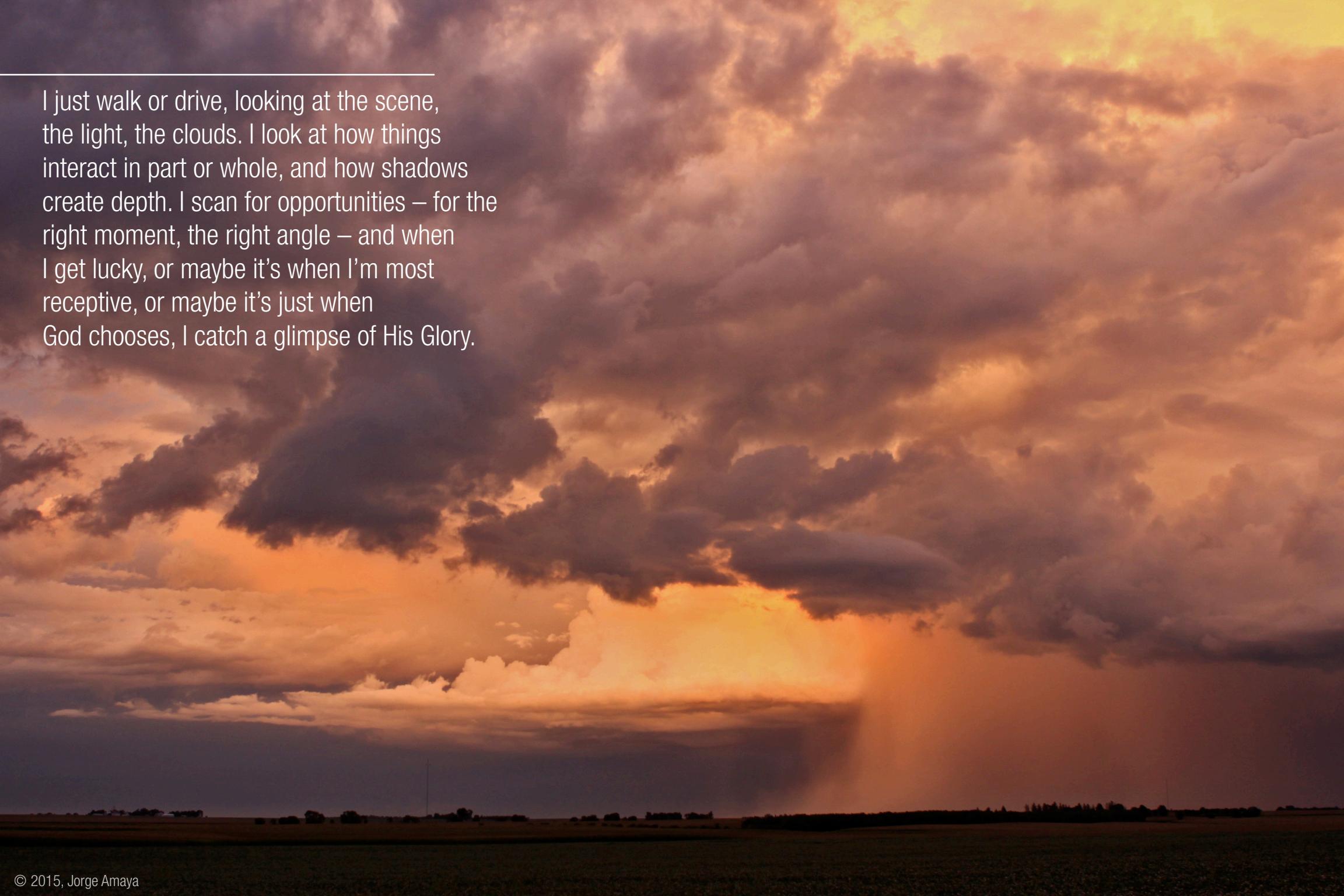


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I can't recreate it at will and I certainly can't teach it. Maybe it's more like those funny cell phone commercials where the guy walks around the area saying "Can you hear me now?"

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I just walk or drive, looking at the scene,  
the light, the clouds. I look at how things  
interact in part or whole, and how shadows  
create depth. I scan for opportunities – for the  
right moment, the right angle – and when  
I get lucky, or maybe it's when I'm most  
receptive, or maybe it's just when  
God chooses, I catch a glimpse of His Glory.





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In those moments when I'm connected to God, He let's me see very special things. He clears for me the clutter that obscures His Glory.

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I believe that He reveals to me the Wonder of His Creation:  
the simple things that we all pass by every day without  
understanding what we're missing.



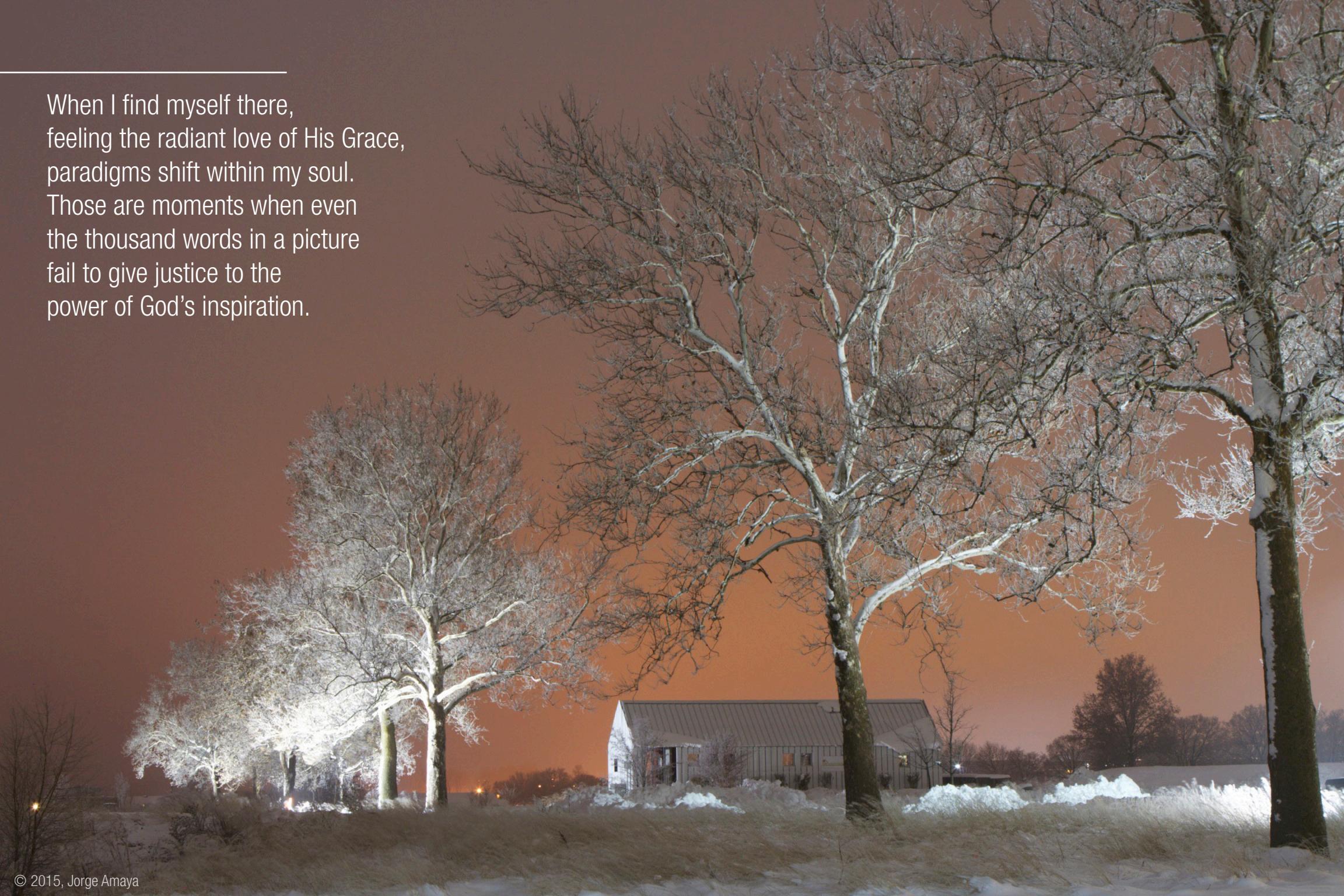
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At other times, when  
my soul is really in  
tune, or maybe when  
he whispers a little  
louder, He brings me  
even closer to his heart.



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When I find myself there,  
feeling the radiant love of His Grace,  
paradigms shift within my soul.  
Those are moments when even  
the thousand words in a picture  
fail to give justice to the  
power of God's inspiration.





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It is God's inspiration,  
I believe, manifest in  
human thought that  
required the creation  
of photography...



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And mathematics and abstract expressionism  
and democracy and the Hubble telescope  
to truly witness the beauty and majesty of His Grace.

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## Photographs

1. God's Whispers	9. Lace & Old Glory	16. Windmill & Crib
2. Rainbow rays.1	10. Moon Fire	17. Sunset Storm.7
3. Wet Web	11. Morning Streak.2	18. Field Clouds.2
4. Santa	12. Red Hills/Gros	19. Leaf Crystals
5. YNP/YR canyon.1	Ventre.3	20. Limited Power.2
6. Leaves-a-Fire	13. Light at the End of	21. Frosted Sycamore.1
7. Old Paint	the Diner	22. GTNP/Bar BC Dude Ranch
8. Wrong Way	14. Cemetery Sunrise	23. God's Wake Up Call
	15. Florida Street Tree	24. GTNP/Shadow Mt.1