

### Praying Where You Are

Do you realize that we “pray always”? We think of that expression as an admonition. But it may be descriptive, a sentence of fact. How could it be otherwise?

As people of faith we *know* that our every move, every friendship, every decision, every sorrow, every breath is IN GOD.

What breathes in us is prayer. What may seem like talking to ourselves is wound round inextricably in the Mystery of God. GOD is the ground, the identifying and defining-ness of our being--the heartbeat and pulse, the challenge, creativity, and love of our lives. To paraphrase the hymn, “How can we keep from praying?”

Many years ago, there was an interview of Mary Reed Newland in Praying magazine, a wonderful though no longer existing publication for Spirituality for Everyday Living. Mary was a mother of seven, social advocate, storyteller, gourmet cook, biographer of saints, and acclaimed author of many many religious books. In other words, she was an extraordinarily busy woman. The interview not surprisingly was titled “**Praying Where You Are.**”

#### Quotes from Mary Reed Newland

It [praying] is like living with someone...I think people ought to get to the point where prayer is like that. I think it is possible for anyone, especially for people like me who have had faith since they were young and who have always been curious about God.

Perhaps the best I can do is to say that God is a presence, a kind of knowingness, a kind of rhythm that you pick up. You try to listen and watch for it. I find that happening all the time.

I had a hunger for finding out more about God. I had the feeling I was on to something. And of course that was not the result of virtue. It was a gift. I have really come to believe in God’s mercy, and I’m just going to throw myself on it.

I love all kinds of music. When I am listening to some pieces something happens inside of me and I just want to say out loud, “I love you”—and I am talking to God, not somebody else

My prayer is not so much about words. The mystery is so big that you can’t describe it....You simply wake up and there’s the “presence” again.

If you care about the gospels you must act on the public, political and social things that seem relevant to the gospels...The problem is always, am I doing enough?

***You go back to what you believe about God: That God is all love, all good, and all present. You remember that you are in relationship to this presence. You sort of hold that in place and let the day happen.***

To share reflections on the above, or to suggest other topics, email:  
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