

## To Ponder: Iliā Delio, OSF "ten evenings with God"

God delights in creation and loves each of us with a personal love. Prayer, therefore, is God's desire to breathe in me, to be the spirit of my life, to draw me into the fullness of life. When I pray – when I breathe with God – I become part of the intimacy of God's life. The Franciscan theologian, Saint Bonaventure, wrote in his Soliloquy, "God is the One who is closer to you than you are to yourself." Prayer is recognizing the intimate in-dwelling of God in our lives, the One who remains faithful in love even when the world around us may fall apart. The author of the Second Letter to Timothy writes that "if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful-for he cannot deny himself."

(2 Timothy 2:12-13). . .

Life in God should be a daring adventure of love but often we settle for mediocrity. We follow the daily practice of prayer but we are unwilling or, for various reasons, unable to give ourselves totally to God. To settle on the plain of mediocrity is to settle for something less than God, which leaves our hearts restless and unfulfilled. We may seek the will of God as if trying to find a lost coin but we give up too easily. If we desire the will of God, then we must be willing to risk in love. Prayer is that dynamic, life-giving relationship with God by which we grow deep in God's word, strong in God's grace, and free in God's love to dream with God the unimaginable.

## Reading 1 Samuel 2: 1-6a

You make me strong and happy, Lord.  
You rescued me.  
Now I can be glad  
and laugh at my enemies.  
No other god is like you.  
We're safer with you  
than on a high mountain.  
I can tell those proud people,  
"Stop your boasting!  
Nothing is hidden from the Lord,  
and he judges what we do."  
Our Lord, you break the bows of warriors,  
but you give strength  
to everyone who stumbles.  
People who once had plenty to eat  
must now hire themselves out  
for only a piece of bread.  
But you give the hungry more  
than enough to eat.  
A woman did not have a child,  
and you gave her seven,  
but a woman who had many was left with none.  
You take away life, and you give life.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

## Breathe Johnny Diaz

Alarm clock screaming bare feet hit the floor  
It's off to the races everybody out the door  
I'm feeling like I'm falling behind, it's a crazy life  
Ninety miles an hour going fast as I can  
Trying to push a little harder trying to get the upper hand  
So much to do in so little time, it's a crazy life  
It's ready, set, go it's another wild day  
When the stress is on the rise in my heart I feel You say just

Breathe, just breathe  
Come and rest at My feet  
And be, just be  
Chaos calls but all you really need  
Is to just breathe

Third cup of joe just to get me through the day  
Wanna make the most of time but I feel it slip away  
I wonder if there's something more to this crazy life  
I'm busy, busy, busy, and it's no surprise to see  
That I only have time for me, me, me  
There's gotta be something more to this crazy life  
I'm hanging on tight to another wild day  
When it starts to fall apart in my heart I hear You say just

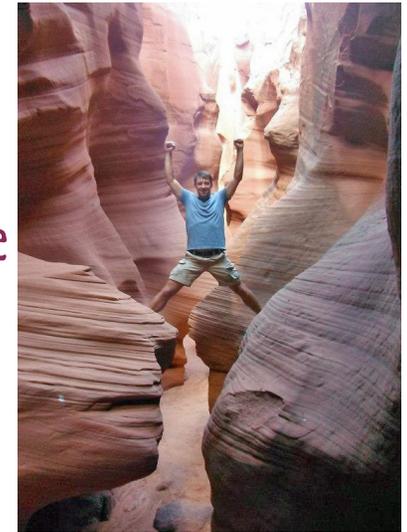
Is to take it in fill your lungs  
The Peace of God that overcomes  
Just breathe  
Let your weary spirit rest  
Lay down what's good and find what's best  
Just breathe

Thank You For Joining Us!

**Prayer Leader:** Peggy Gerovac  
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Our prayer is characterized  
by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.  
God is present in all our lives.  
God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.