

GOD'S GIFTS!

*"Earth's crammed with heaven.
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes,
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.
And daub their natural faces unaware."-----Elizabeth Barrett Browning
from "Aurora Leigh"*

This is one of my favorite verses! I know I've quoted it in articles before but it has been several years. I like to read it, and say it out loud, whenever I feel my life has become too hectic or too focused on some of the little bumps in the road that happen occasionally.

It seems all too easy from time to time to forget that the wonder and beauty of God is all around us. From the beautiful sun rise in the morning, to the blue skies above, to the trees, birds, animals--the frost in the winters and the glistening dew in the summers. All parts of God's vast creation ever changing and, yet--constant.

Yes, the beauty of "heaven" constantly surrounds us in many forms. Yet, many of us, myself included, fail to notice it because we are "too busy" or too absorbed in "doing" rather than in "being". Of course, there are times when we must take action on events which have occurred in our lives--or take precautionary actions to prevent negative situations from arising. BUT--what we don't realize is that when we allow our "human selves" to take control we can easily "edge God out" (EGO) and wind up missing the most beautiful, joyous and peaceful times of our lives!

If my mind is "right" I have a feeling of wonderment when I see the geese peacefully swimming on the pond near my condo on my way to the studio. When I am focused on God, I see the beauty in the stranger I smile at or who smiles at me when I stop by the grocery store. When my thoughts are positive and I have my "life is good" attitude going, I "see God" in every aspect of my life--the place I live, the food I am blessed with to eat, the clean water I am supplied with to drink--clean clothes to wear, money to pay my monthly mortgage and other expenses. In my mind and

thoughts, I should "take off my shoes" every time I think of any of these!

I have a wonderful, loving and healthy family, wonderful loving and healthy friends and a great place to come to every week day morning to--"work"--and I use the term loosely! I am blessed to work with some of the most wonderful and talented people in the music business--some of whom "just happen" to drop by some mornings for a visit because they're early for an appointment somewhere else.

When we take our blessings for granted is when we "sit around (the bush) picking blackberries"--the God presence in the bush simply goes unnoticed because all we focus on is the reward of the blackberries! When we are thankful for the blackberries we can see "the bush afire with God" and know the blackberries are God's gift to all of us!

All my best--

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