

The Arts of Spiritual Conversations

Part 2: Listening & Asking Questions

If we want the story of what God has done in our lives to be heard by open hearts, we must first EARN the right to be heard. This starts with...

1. NOTICING those around us
2. PRAYING for them
3. LISTENING

A. Listening is interpreted as LOVE - I value the person/their perspective

B. God LISTENS to us—Psalm 107:19

When we listen to others we are simply MODELING what we have already received.

Everyone faces trials, and everyone needs someone to TALK to.

Lessons on Listening

- 1) Don't just listen for YOUR TURN to talk
- 2) Ask relevant questions that are focused on the speaker.
- 3) Don't interject your thoughts or self-referential comments.
- 4) Listen beyond the surface for DEEPER questions.

4. ASKING QUESTIONS—Genesis 3:8-11

When we ask meaningful questions we are communicating God's love.

4 Kinds of Questions

- 1) INFORMING Questions – Mark 8:5
- *What does God want us to know about this person?*
- 2) DISCERNING Questions – Matthew 16:15
- *“What do you think?” shows we genuinely care and their responses might reveal their thoughts, feelings, and concerns.*
- 3) TEACHING Questions - Matthew 6:27
- *Help people to come to understand their struggles.*
- 4) CHALLENGING Questions - Matthew 8:26
- *Help people recognize where they can grow.*

Good questions come from genuine interest in others and are open-ended, concise, connect with what's being discussed, and help people feel safe and understood—not attacked or like a “project.”

NEXT STEPS

1. I'm ready to become a follower of Jesus
2. People Watch
3. Ask & Listen
4. Memorize James 1:19