



PRAYER OF SILENCE

Prayer is primarily connecting with God.

“Listening to the Lord is the first thing, the second thing, and the third thing necessary for successful intercession. Soren Kierkegaard once observed: “A man prayed, and at first he thought that prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer was listening.””- Richard J. Foster

- Imagine the man who prayed so much that he eventually shut up and started listening. What would cause him to listen more and talk less?
- How does one “listen” to God?
- What keeps us from listening? What are the difficulties?
- How is it connected to intercession?

“Prayer is never the first word; it is always the second word. God has the first word. Prayer is answering speech; it is not primarily “address” but “response.” . . . Prayer is a human word and is never the first word, never the primary word, never the initiating and shaping word simply because we are never first, never primary . . . the first word is everywhere and always God’s word to us, not ours to him.”

- Eugene Peterson

Read Genesis 1: 1-5 - How is the creation accomplished?

Read John 1: 1-5 - What has always been there, from the beginning?

Read Hebrews 1: 1-2 - God has always spoken to us . . . today he speaks to us thru His Son.

How do these scriptures reinforce silence during prayer?

“During these active forms of work in the silence (prayer) . . . if we were sensitive and listening, there come clear insights of things to be done . . . These insights are precious and to be heeded if we are to live in response to that which we felt in prayer.”- Douglas V. Steere

- Why listen according to Mr. Steere?
- Do you perceive silent prayer as “active forms of work in the silence”?

- If something that needs to be done for God’s glory comes to you in prayer, is it wrong to get up from prayer and go do it?

“When . . . we learn to listen, our lives become obedient lives. The word obedient comes from the Latin word audire, which means “listening.” A spiritual discipline is necessary in order to move slowly from an absurd to an obedient life, from a life filled with noisy worries to a life in which there is some free inner space where we can listen to our God and follow his guidance.”

- Henri J. M. Nouwen

- What is the absurd life? Why is it absurd?

- Connect the absurd life to the need for silent listening . . .why are our lives absurd if we never stop to listen to God?
- How does listening increase the possibility and “inner space” for obedience?

“St. Benedict recognized the inextricable connection between silence and listening. Silence is not merely an absence of noise, but also a receptive posture which waits with patience . . . Peace, humility, stability, love, service and prayer were all wrapped up in attentive listening of the whole person to the living God.” Doris Donnelly.

“So then faith cometh by **hearing**” – Romans 10: 17

“The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to **wait quietly** for the salvation of the LORD.

It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young.

Let him **sit alone in silence**, for the LORD has laid it on him. Let him bury his face in the dust there may yet be hope.”

Lamentations 3: 25-29

This week, Keep a journal of what goes on during the 5 minutes of listening to God?

