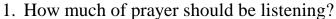
Intersections: Christianity & Today

Stan Schmidt

Listening—A Lost Art?



- ★ The question doesn't make sense. Isn't prayer just talking to God?
 - * It should be about 50-50. I know as much as He does.
 - ***** 90%
- 2. "The principal form that the work of love takes is attention. . . . By far the most common and important way in which we can exercise our attention is by listening."

 —M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*, p. 120
- 3. God gave us two ears and only one mouth.
- 4. Whom in your life have you listen to most intently?
- 5. When in your life have you listened to most intently?
- 6. Please share with the group the method you use to listen to God. Has God said anything to you in the last 12 months?
- 7. "When you fail at listening you are sending out an armada of negative messages. You're saying: I don't care about you. I don't understand you.
- ❖ You're wrong. ❖ You're stupid. ❖ You're wasting my time."
 - —Marshall Goldsmith, What Got You Here Won't Get Your There, pp. 86–87
- 8. Listening is <u>hard work</u>.
- 9. "We spent an enormous amount of time listening, most of which we waste, because on the whole, most of us listen very poorly." —M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*, p. 121
- 10. Here is what the call to grace sounds like if you are really listening:

We are accustomed to imagining the . . . sudden call to grace as an "Oh joy!" phenomenon. In my experience, more often than not, it is, at least partially, an "Oh shit" phenomenon. . . . For the call to grace . . . is a call to total adulthood.

—M. Scott Peck, *The Road Less Traveled*, p. 121