

Being With God Discussion Questions

Pre-amble Questions

1. Overall impressions of the book (rate 1-10)?
2. What were some of the things you most appreciated? Feel free to share a quote.
3. What was something you struggled or disagreed with? Feel free to share a quote.

Introduction

4. Had you considered the 4 types of prayer before? Do you agree or disagree with the list offered?

Chapter 1

5. In your Christian experience, has the value of contemplation been shared or exemplified? Why or why not?

Chapter 2

6. "Information consumes the attention of its recipients... and a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention" (43) Does this concept rung true for modern Christians? Why do you think we are so deeply drawn to technology/information/entertainment?

Chapter 3

8. What forms of "noise" are most present in your life? Modern life in general. Does church typically help or perpetuate the cycle of noise in your experience? Why or why not?

Chapter 4

9. I loved the concept of silence enhancing the ramen noodles. In what way can silence enhance our spiritual growth?

Chapter 5

10. Sherrill references Henri Nouwens proposal that disciplines as the efforts to create space. What do you think of this definition in contrast to teachings you previously have received regarding spiritual disciplines?
11. Sherrill states "It is tempting to rely on public worship services and neglect personal intimacy with God" . Would you agree that this is a common Christian experience? Why do we prioritize the public and not the private?

Chapter 6

12. "Pursuing habits of stillness in life is not in opposition to an active life but rather to a reactive life." In what ways are our spiritual lives often reactive? What did you take that to mean?

Chapter 7

13. What implications does joining the conversation with God have instead of starting one?

Chapter 8

14. Why do we struggle with the "monkey mind" when doing something so healthy for our spiritual lives?

Chapter 9

1.

2. praying life is not one of many functions in our relationship with God--it is our relationship with God. For many, this is a challenging idea. We much missionary projects, or theological knowledge." Do you find this statement to be accurate? Why or why not?

Chapter 10

16. What further implications do you see from the contrast of prayer and breath?

Chapter 11

17. What fact or connection stood out to you most in this chapter and why?

Chapter 12

18. Sherrill states "Sleep is spiritual. It is the daily practice of letting go; it is the daily reminder that we are human and not God. Sleep is a daily dying to one's self and the ego. Another term for sleep is "surrender." Do the other three types of prayer listed at the beginning of the book instill the level of surrender required for spiritual growth?